



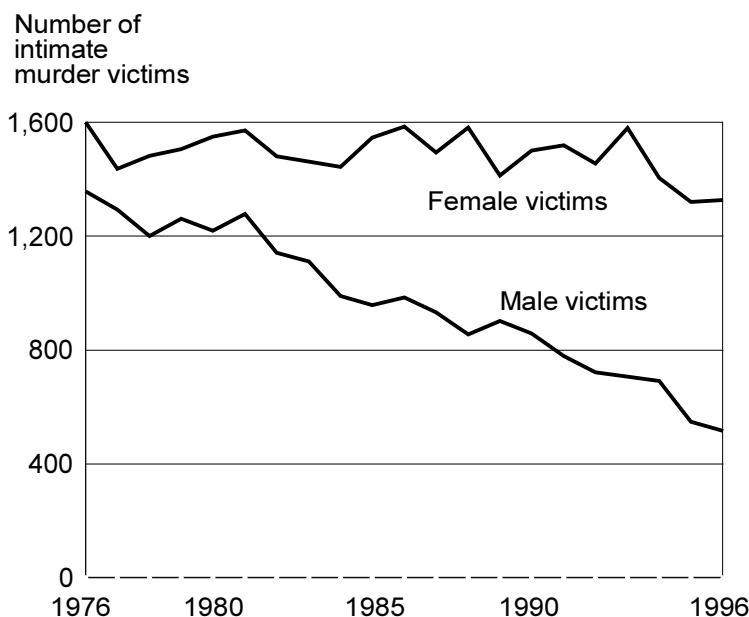
Bureau of Justice Statistics Factbook

Violence by Intimates

Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends

Intimates committed fewer murders in 1995 and 1996 than in any other year since 1976.

Between 1976 and 1996, for persons murdered by intimates, the number of male victims fell an average 5% per year, and the number of female victims went down an average 1%.



Note: Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends.



Violence by Intimates

Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends

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Members of the Department of Justice Working Group on Domestic Violence Statistics led by Deputy Assistant Attorney General Noël Brennan

Dr. Mark Rosenberg, Director, and staff of the National Center for Injury Prevention in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In addition, Professor Michael Maltz, Ph.D., a BJS Visiting Fellow from the University of Illinois, gave helpful guidance.

This report and other reports and data are available from the BJS Internet Web site:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

All of the data analyzed in this report may be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. Access to the archive may be achieved through the BJS Web site or directly at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/archive.html>

Foreword

In a joint effort by the Justice Department and the Department of Health and Human Services, a comprehensive review is under way of the information available to Federal decisionmakers about domestic violence and possible needs for the government to undertake enhanced or improved surveillance for statistical data about violence between intimates.

At the Department of Justice this effort is being coordinated by Noël Brennan, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, by Dr. Mark Rosenberg, Director, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

This report prepared by the Bureau of Justice Statistics presents a summary of the statistical information about violence committed against intimates that is currently available and is based on information gathered from victims, law enforcement agencies, hospital emergency departments, and those convicted of crimes against intimates. For the purposes of this study, intimates were defined as those with whom the offender had a relationship as a current or former spouse or boyfriend or girlfriend. The kinds of violent crimes examined ranged from murder to simple assault.

I am particularly pleased that this valuable report represents the efforts of both BJS staff and Professor James Alan Fox of Northeastern University, a BJS Visiting Fellow. In addition, the FBI provided valuable support to this effort by supplying updated Supplementary Homicide Report data in a very timely fashion.

Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D.
Director

Highlights

This report is a compilation of statistical data maintained by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on violence between people who have an intimate relationship — spouses, exspouses, boyfriends, girlfriends, and former boyfriends and girlfriends.

The violent offenses encompass crimes such as murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Intimate violence predominantly affects women as victims. Violence by an intimate accounts for about 21% of the violent crime experienced by women and about 2% of the violence sustained by males.

Lethal

- In 1996 just over 1,800 murders were attributable to intimates; nearly 3 out of 4 of these had a female victim. In 1976 there were nearly 3,000 victims of intimate murder.
- The decline over the past two decades was larger for spouse killings, compared to the killings of other intimates.
- The percentage of female murder victims killed by intimates has remained at about 30% since 1976.
- There has been a sharp decrease in the rate of intimate murder of men, especially black men.
- The number of intimate murders with guns has declined. However, in 1996, 65% of all intimate murders were committed with a firearm.
- There is some evidence of a slight increase in the rate of white females killed by a boyfriend.

Nonlethal

- The number of female victims of intimate violence has been declining. In 1996 women experienced an estimated 840,000 rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault victimizations at the hands of an intimate, down from 1.1 million in 1993.

- Intimate violence against men did not vary significantly from 1992 to 1996. In 1996 men were victims of about 150,000 violent crimes committed by an intimate.
- Women age 16-24 experience the highest per capita rates of intimate violence.

Reporting to the police About half of the incidents of intimate violence experienced by women are reported to the police; black women are more likely than women of other races to report such victimizations to the police.

- The most common reasons given by victims for not contacting the police were that they considered the incident a private or personal matter, they feared retaliation, or they felt the police would not be able to do anything about the incident.

Police response According to victims, about 1 in 5 incidents reported to the police resulted in an arrest at the scene.

Presence of children Slightly more than half of female victims of intimate violence live in households with children under the age of 12. About 40% of imprisoned intimate offenders report that one or more children under age 18 resided with them at some time before the offenders entered prison.

Treatment of injuries About 1 in 10 women victimized by a violent intimate sought professional medical treatment.

- About half of victims of intimate violence report a physical injury; about 1 in 5 *injured* female victims of intimate violence sought professional medical treatment.
- Hospital emergency department data show women are about 84% of those seeking hospital treatment for an intentional injury caused by an intimate assailant.
- About half these injured intimate victims were treated for bruises or similar trauma.

-
- About half of those treated had sustained injuries to the head and face.

Incarcerated offenders Those who committed a violent crime against an intimate represent about 25% of convicted violent offenders in local jails and about 7% of violent offenders in State prisons.

- 3 in 4 offenders serving time in local jails for intimate violence had been convicted of assault; just over 40% of such offenders in State prisons had been convicted of murder.
- The criminal justice system has extensive prior contact with those convicted of intimate violence. Among those in jail 78% have a prior conviction history, though not necessarily for intimate violence.

- 4 in 10 jail inmates convicted of a violent crime against an intimate had a criminal justice status at the time of the crime: about 20% were on probation, 9% were under a restraining order, and just under 10% were on parole, pretrial release, or other status.

- More than half of both prison and jail inmates serving time for violence against an intimate had been using drugs or alcohol or both at the time of the incident for which they were incarcerated.
- The average prison sentence for those who victimized a spouse or other intimate appears similar to the average sentences for victimizing strangers or acquaintances. Prisoners who had assaulted their spouse, however, received longer sentences than offenders convicted of assault against other categories of victims.

Introduction

How we measure the incidence of intimate violence

Estimates from the National Crime Victimization Survey indicate that in 1996 there were about a million rapes, sexual assaults, robberies, aggravated assaults, and simple assaults in which the victim and offender had an intimate relationship. Intimate relationships include spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, girlfriends, and former boyfriends and girlfriends. More than 8 in 10 of these violent crimes involved a female victim.

National Crime Victimization Survey

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is one of two statistical series maintained by the Department of Justice to learn about the extent to which crime is occurring. The NCVS, which gathers data on criminal victimization from a national sample of household respondents, provides annual estimates of crimes experienced by the public without regard to whether a law enforcement agency was called about the crime. Initiated in 1972, the NCVS was designed to complement what is known about crimes reported to local law enforcement agencies under the FBI's annual compilation known as the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR).

The NCVS gathers information about crime and its consequences from a nationally representative sample of U.S. residents age 12 or older about any crimes they may have experienced. For personal contact crimes the survey determines who the perpetrator was. Asking the victim about his/her relationship to the offender is critical to determining whether the crime occurred between intimates.

In the latter half of the 1980's, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), together with the Committee on Law and Justice of the American Statistical Association, sought to improve the NCVS components to enhance the measurement of crimes including rape, sexual assault, and intimate and family violence. The new questions and revised procedures were phased in from January 1992 through June 1993

in half the sampled households. Since July 1993 the redesigned methods have been used for the entire national sample.

Based on the half-sample, BJS determined that the new questionnaire would produce substantially higher estimated counts of incidents of intimate violence than the old questionnaire. The old questionnaire resulted in estimates of a half million incidents of intimate violence, compared to an estimate of nearly a million incidents with the new questionnaire. Such a difference demonstrated the increased ability of the NCVS to capture information on hard-to-measure crimes.

Uniform Crime Reporting Program

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) of the FBI provides another opportunity to examine the issue of intimate violence. The summary-based component of the UCR, launched 70 years ago, gathers aggregate data on eight categories of crime from law enforcement agencies nationwide. The UCR does not, however, provide the detail necessary to identify violent crimes involving intimates. Two other incident-based components of the UCR, the National Incident-Based Reporting Program (NIBRS) and the Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), provide rich detail on the victim-offender relationship in violent crimes recorded by police agencies.

National Incident-Based Reporting Program

NIBRS represents the next generation of crime data from law enforcement agencies. Rather than being restricted to a group of 8 Index crimes that the summary-based program uses, NIBRS obtains information on 57 types of crimes. The information collected on each violent crime incident includes victim-offender demographics, victim-offender relationship, time and place of occurrence, weapon use, and victim injuries. As of the end of 1997, jurisdictions certified by the FBI as capable of reporting incident-based data in the required format account for just over 7% of the U.S. population (about 19

million Americans) and just over 6% of all Index crimes (murders, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies, and motor vehicle thefts). In those States with certified NIBRS systems, about 50% of the population is now covered by NIBRS reporting to the FBI. BJS is currently funding preliminary studies of NIBRS data and their utility for improving our knowledge of violence with special regard for such concerns as intimate violence, family violence, and domestic violence.

Supplementary Homicide Reports

The SHR is another component of the UCR program. Under SHR, incident-level homicide data from local law enforcement agencies have been collected annually since 1961. On average, the SHR obtains detailed information on about 92% of the homicides in the United States, including victim and offender demographics, victim-offender relationship, weapon use, and circumstances surrounding the homicide. The SHR reports received from law enforcement agencies describe the characteristics of perpetrators in an average of about 70% of all cases compiled at the national level. However, individual jurisdictions vary in the percentage of cases in which the perpetrator is either unknown or not described.

Study of Injured Victims of Violence

Another source for information on intimate violence is a special collection of hospital emergency department data during 1994. The BJS Study of Injured Victims of Violence obtained data on intentional injuries brought to the attention of hospital personnel. These data are part of a larger program carried out by the Consumer Product Safety Commission known as the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), which involves a national sample of hospitals where emergency department staff are asked to record information on patients. The BJS study sought information on intentional injury victims, including victim demographics, type of injury, type of weapon, place of occurrence, victim-offender relationship, and case disposition. The

NEISS data reveal that a quarter of the 1.4 million intentional injuries treated in emergency departments resulted from violence between intimates.

Surveys of jail and prison inmates

BJS also conducts national surveys of persons confined in local jails and State and Federal prisons. These nationally representative surveys are the principal source of information on those serving time following a conviction: their backgrounds, their prior criminal histories, and the circumstances surrounding the offense for which they had been incarcerated. Both jail and prison surveys obtain from violent offenders details about the offender's relationship to the victim and how the crime was carried out.

How we count violent victimizations of intimates

Variations in reported numbers

Sometimes estimates in the annual National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) reports differ from those in BJS topical reports based on special analyses of data. A major reason for these differences is the treatment of "series" victimizations.

Variations in defining the victim-offender relationship

The data series used in this report share the objective of measuring the extent to which victims and offenders know each other prior to the criminal incident. This is an important distinction not simply for law enforcement purposes but, more significantly, for considering the types of interventions most likely to help reduce the incidence of the problem and its consequences for victims.

Generally, all of the data collection programs used in this study obtain information on those violent offenses which affect spouses, ex-spouses, boy-friends, and girlfriends. While victimizations arising in same sex relationships are explicitly recognized in the FBI collection programs, none of the series excludes such criminal incidents, which are

categorized as crimes against boyfriends or girlfriends. Crimes committed against former boyfriends and girlfriends are not separately reported in any of the series but are combined with those victims with current relationships of this type, probably because of the difficulty of establishing whether such a relationship had been terminated prior to the incident.

Appendix 1 (pages 34-36) offers the details of how the relationship variables in each data series were classified in this study to create the general category of *intimate violence*.

Series victimizations

These victimizations in the NCVS are six or more incidents similar in nature and for which the victim is unable to furnish details of each incident separately. Information on only the most recent incident in the series is collected by the survey.

These crimes are problematic because it remains unclear how or whether these victimizations should be combined with the majority of crime incidents that are separately reported. BJS continues to study how these types of victimizations should be handled in our published estimates. As a result, series victimizations are excluded from the victimization estimates published in the annual BJS reports on the NCVS.

However, series victimizations are included for some special analyses, counted as "1" victimization to represent all the incidents in the series. This is done when repeat victimization is an important aspect of the subject being analyzed, as it is, for example, in domestic violence. For this reason, estimates published in reports on domestic violence have included series victimizations, and therefore differ from estimates published in the annual NCVS reports.

Generally, series victimizations represent about 6-7% of all violent victimizations measured by the NCVS, although variation exists across types of crime and characteristics of victims:

Average annual 1992-96

	Nonseries	Series	Total
Violent crime victimizations			
Number	10,137,384	680,604	10,817,989
Percent	93.7%	6.3%	100%
Rape/Sexual assault			
Number	434,566	27,191	461,757
Percent	93.1%	6.9%	100%
Robbery			
Number	1,227,550	36,845	1,264,395
Percent	97.5%	2.5%	100%
Aggravated assault			
Number	2,230,174	117,167	2,347,341
Percent	93.1%	5.1%	100%
Simple assault			
Number	6,245,095	499,402	6,744,496
Percent	93.1%	6.9%	100%
Intimate violence, 1992-96			
	Non-series	Series	Total
Female victims	88.5%	11.5%	100%
Male victims	90.2	9.8	100

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Trends in violence against intimates

More than 960,000 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend occur each year, and about 85% of the victims are women. The number of female victims has been declining in recent years.

Source: **National Crime Victimization Survey, 1992-96**

In 1996 there were about 2,000 murders attributable to intimates, down substantially from the nearly 3,000 murders recorded two decades ago.

Decreases in intimate murders have occurred among men, among blacks (both male and female), and for murders involving firearms.

White females murdered by a nonmarital intimate represent the only category of victims to have experienced a small increase between 1976 and 1996.

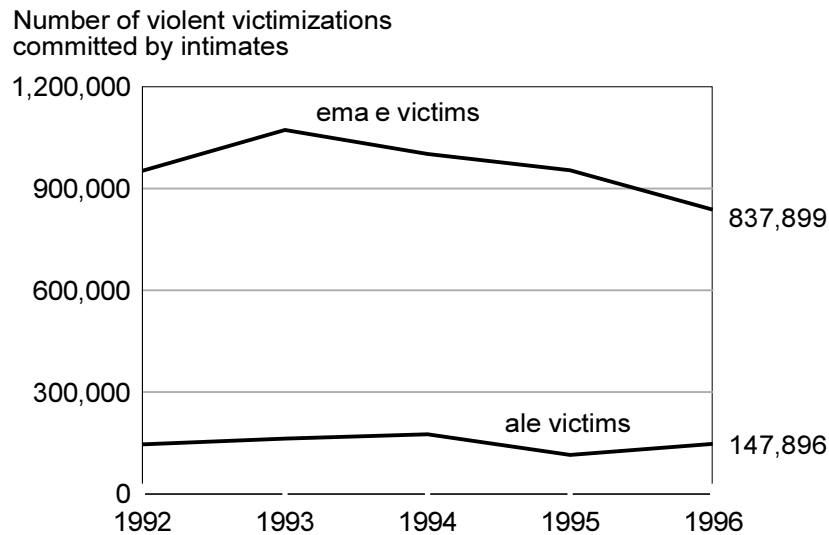
Intimate murder now accounts for about 9% of the murders which occur nationwide.

Source: **Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-96**

Trends in violence against intimates

On average each year from 1992 to 1996, there were more than 960,000 violent victimizations of women age 12 or older by an intimate (a current or former spouse, girlfriend, or boyfriend).

- The estimated number of violent victimizations of women by intimates declined from 1993 to 1996; the number of such victimizations of men did not vary significantly from 1992 to 1996.



Note: Violent victimizations include murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

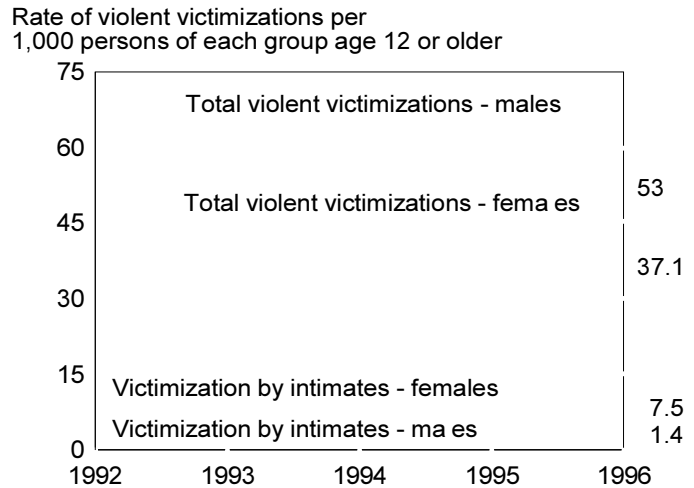
On average each year from 1992 to 1996, about 8 in 1,000 women and 1 in 1,000 men age 12 or older experienced a violent victimization inflicted by a current or former spouse, girlfriend, or boyfriend.

- The rate of violent victimization of women by an intimate declined from 1993 to 1996.



Although less likely than males to experience violent crime overall, females are 5 to 8 times more likely than males to be victimized by an intimate.

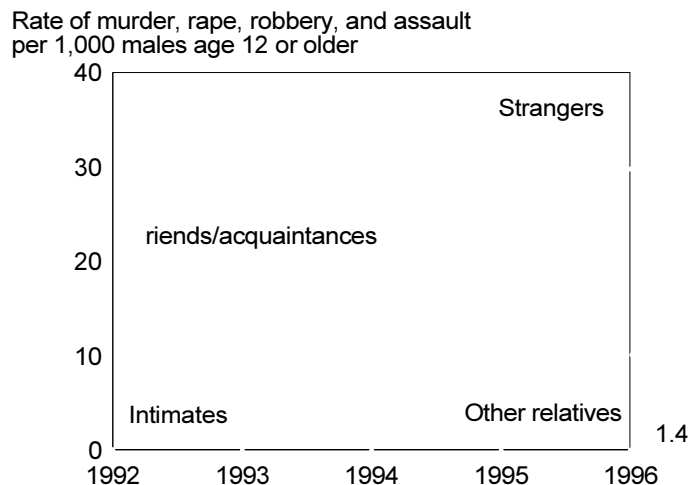
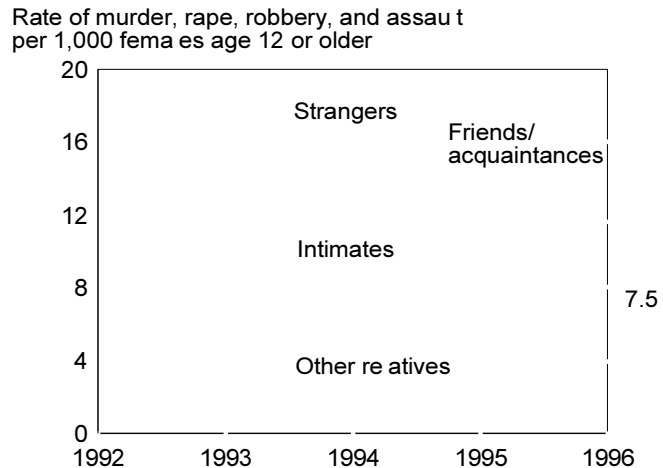
- From 1992 to 1996 victimization by an intimate accounted for about 21% of the violence experienced by females. It accounted for about 2% of the violent crime sustained by males.
- Overall violent victimization rates of both women and men declined from 1993 to 1996.



Note: Violent victimizations include murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

For female victims of violence, strangers and friends or acquaintances rather than intimates were responsible for the highest rates of crime.

- Intimate violence accounts for about a fifth of all violence against females. The two categories of violence by friends and acquaintances and violence by strangers are each over a third of the victimizations. Violence by relatives other than intimates are less than a 10th of all violence that women, age 12 or older, experience.



Analysis of trends in intimate murder, 1976-96

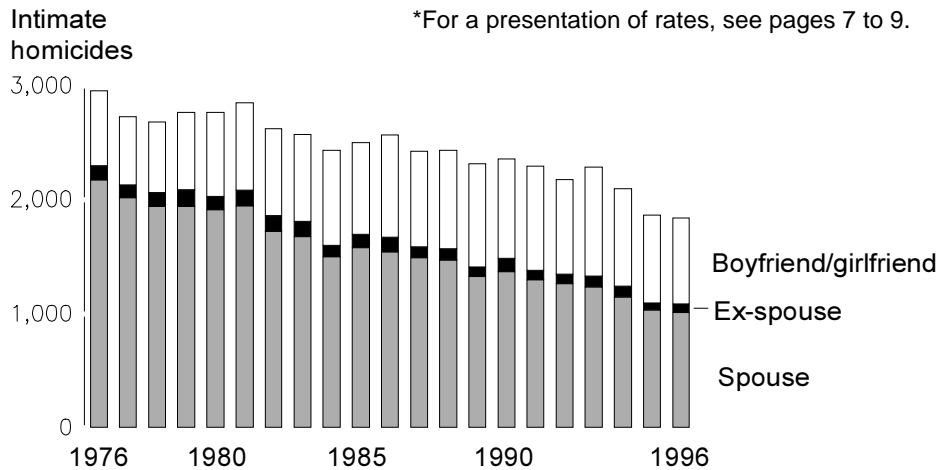
by James Alan Fox, Ph.D., BJS Visiting Fellow

The number, percentage, and per capita rate* of murders involving spouses, ex-spouses, or other intimates have declined over the past two decades.

The number of intimates killed has dropped from nearly 3,000 per year and 13.6% of all homicides in 1976 to fewer than 2,000 and 8.8% of all homicides in 1996.

In 1996 the number of intimate murders was 36% lower than in 1976. The number of spouse murders, the largest component of intimate murder, fell 52%.

*For a presentation of rates, see pages 7 to 9.

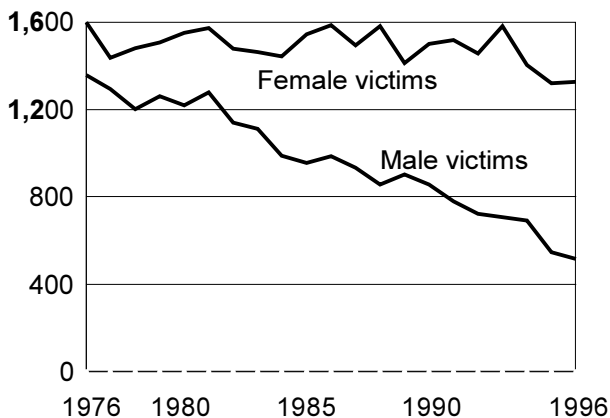


Female murder victims are substantially more likely than male murder victims to have been killed by an intimate.

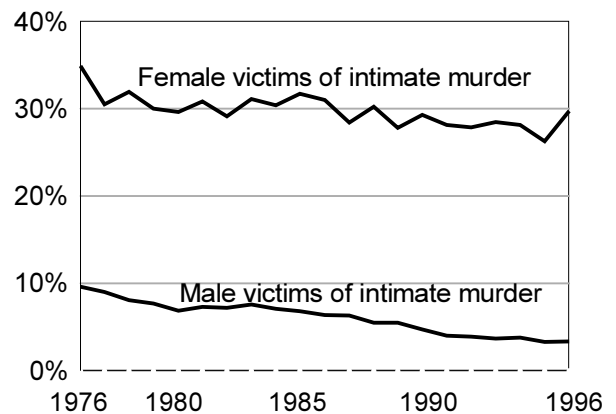
For 1976-96, 18.9% of women victims were murdered by husbands, 1.4% by ex-husbands, and 9.4%

by nonmarital partners (with an undetermined victim-offender relationship in 27.7% of the cases). Over the same period, 3.7% of male victims were killed by wives, 0.2% by ex-wives, and 2.0% by nonmarital partners (with an undetermined victim-offender relationship in 34.3% of the cases).

Number of intimate murder victims



Percent of all murders of each sex



Note: Analysis in this section is based on murders and nonnegligent manslaughters included in the Supplementary Homicide Reports. All percentages are based on the total number of murders, regardless of whether the perpetrator was known or unknown. Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, common law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Since 1976 nearly 52,000 men and women have been murdered by those with whom they shared an intimate relationship.

Intimate murders accounted for 30% of all female murders and 6% of all male murders. Of the 32,580 spouses who were murder victims between 1976 and 1996, about 6 in 10 were women.

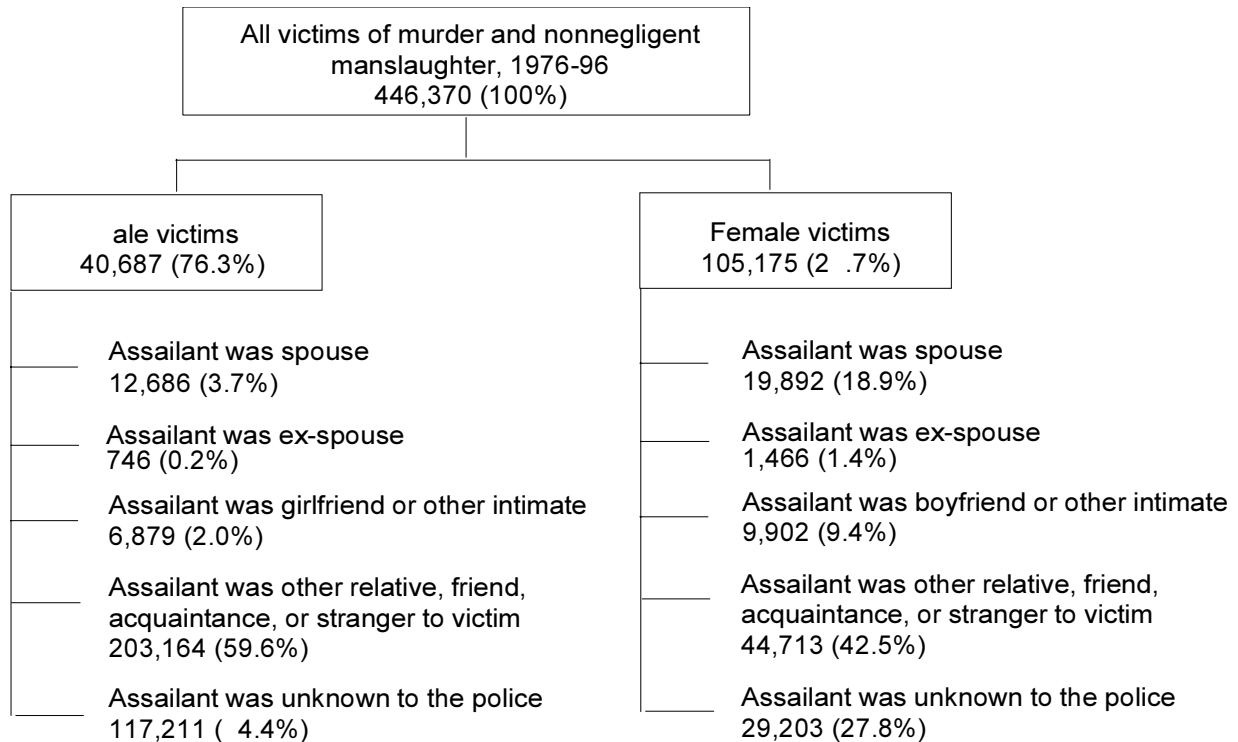
Murders of ex-spouses accounted for about 1 out of every 200 murders that occurred nationwide during the two decades. About 1 out of every 25 intimate murder victims were ex-spouses. About two-thirds of the ex-spouse murder victims were women.

A third of all intimate murders involved boyfriends and girlfriends. As with murders of spouses and ex-spouses, about two-thirds of these victims were women.

The distribution of categories of murderers was similar for the male and female victims of intimate murder between 1976 and 1996:

During the two decades 20,311 men were intimate murder victims —
 62% killed by wives,
 4% by ex-wives, and
 34% by nonmarital partners such as girlfriends.

During the two decades 31,260 women were intimate murder victims —
 64% killed by husbands,
 5% by ex-husbands, and
 32% by nonmarital partners such as boyfriends.



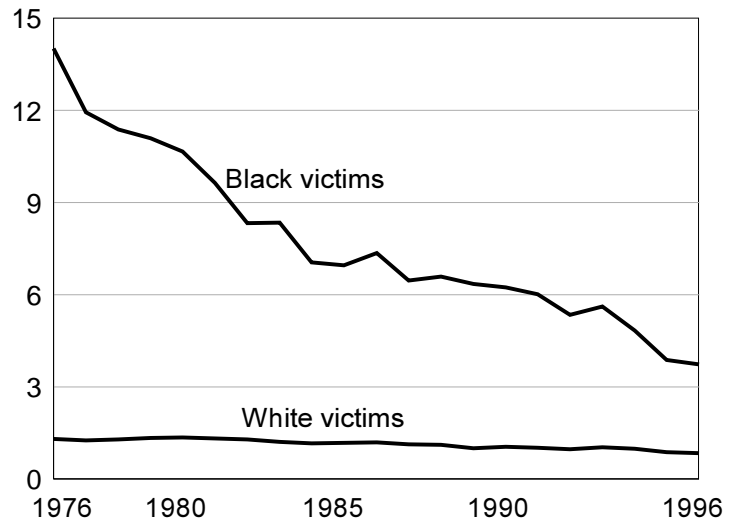
Over the last two decades intimate murder rates dropped far more rapidly among blacks than among whites.

In 1976 the per capita rate of intimate murders among blacks was nearly 11 times that among whites; in 1996 the black rate was just over 4 times higher than the white rate.

From 1976 to 1996 the number of murders of black spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends decreased from 14 per 100,000 blacks age 20-44 to just under 4 per 100,000. The murder rate decreased an average of 6% each year.

Intimate murder rates for whites during the same years decreased by an annual average of 2%. The rate declined from about 1.3 intimate murders per 100,000 whites age 20-44 to 0.85 murders per 100,000.

Rate of intimate murder per 100,000 persons age 20-44 in each group

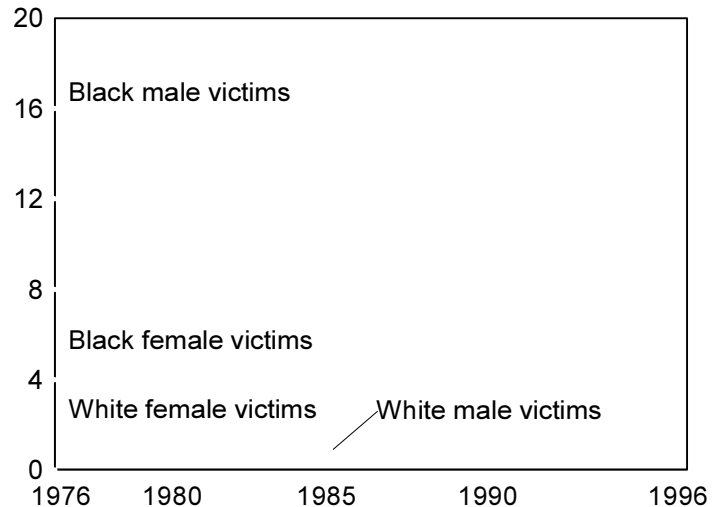


Since 1976 the sharpest decrease in per capita rates of intimate murder has been among black male victims.

In 1976 the per capita rate of intimate murder of black men was nearly 19 times higher than that of white men. The rate among black females that year was 7 times higher than the rate among white females. In 1996 the black male rate was 8 times that of white males, and the black female rate was 3 times higher than the white female rate.

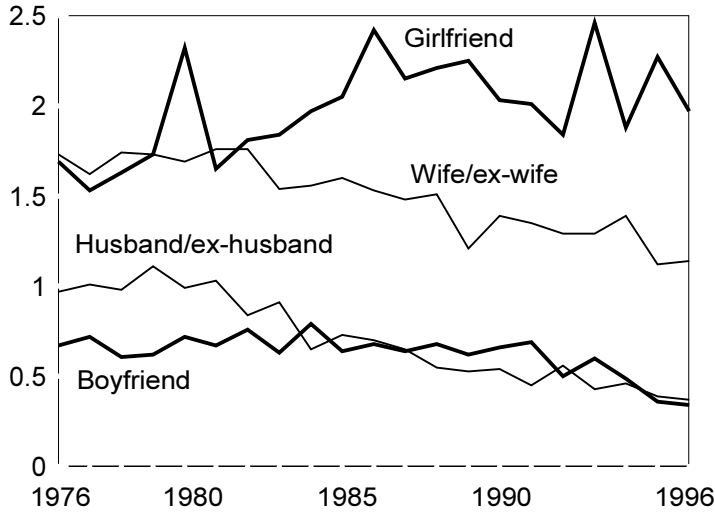
During the 20-year period after 1976, per capita rates of intimate murder declined an annual average of 8% among black males, 5% among black females, 4% among white males, and 1% among white females.

Rate of intimate murder per 100,000 persons age 20-44 in each group



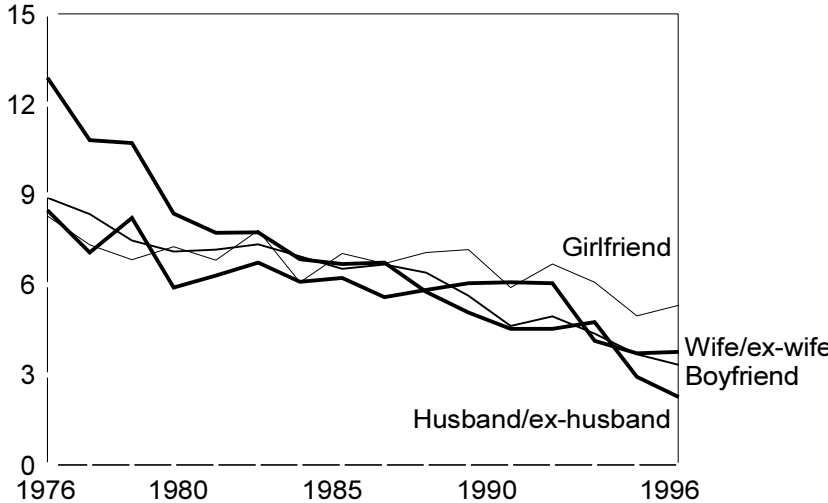
White victims of murder by an intimate

Rate per 100,000 persons
age 20-44*



Black victims of murder by an intimate

Rate per 100,000 persons
age 20-44*



*Rates are based on the following segments of the population for each race: married and divorced for spouse/ex-spouse rates and never married and widowed for boyfriend/girlfriend rates.

The decline in the rate of intimate murder among black husbands/ex-husbands has been greater than for any other category of intimate murder victims.

From 1976 to 1996 the per capita murder rate of black husbands and former husbands declined an average of 10% a year.

Between 1976 and 1989 more black men were killed by their wives than black women were killed by their husbands. After 1990 the order was reversed, and the murder rate among black wives and ex-wives was higher than that among black husbands and ex-husbands.

Only one category of intimate murder victims, white girlfriends, has increased over the past two decades.

In 1976 there were 1.69 murders of white women (shown as *girlfriends*) killed by their boyfriends or other non-marital intimates per 100,000 unmarried white women age 20-44 in the U.S. resident population. In 1996 the intimate murder rate for white girlfriends was 1.97 per 100,000.

The average annual percentage changes in the rates of intimate murder between 1976 and 1996, classified by victim-offender relationship, were as follows:

	Victims	
	White	Black
Husbands/ ex-husbands	-5%	-10%
Boyfriends	-3	-7
Wives/ex-wives	-2	-6
Girlfriends	+1	-3

The number of intimate murders has declined or remained fairly stable for all sex/race relationship groups except for white females murdered by non-marital partners. The incidence of intimate murder of white women by their boyfriend or other nonmarital intimate has increased.

Over 1976-96 the number of never-married white women ages 20-44 nearly doubled. Over the same period the number of intimate murders of victims of this age, race, sex, and marital background slightly more than doubled, resulting in a small increase in the per capita rate of murder. That is, while the number of such victims increased, unlike the case for other victim groups, the rate of murder has not changed greatly.

Year	Murders of white females (ages 20-44) by boyfriends or other nonmarital intimates	Population of never married or widowed white women, ages 20-44	Rate of murder per 100,000 white women
1976	90	5,329,000	1.7
1977	89	5,821,000	1.5
1978	102	6,239,000	1.6
1979	116	6,712,000	1.7
1980	163	7,014,000	2.3
1981	124	7,507,000	1.7
1982	145	7,999,000	1.8
1983	155	8,415,000	1.8
1984	173	8,782,000	2.0
1985	182	8,862,000	2.1
1986	219	9,056,000	2.4
1987	200	9,294,000	2.2
1988	209	9,442,000	2.2
1989	216	9,610,000	2.2
1990	198	9,742,000	2.0
1991	202	10,051,000	2.0
1992	187	10,174,000	1.8
1993	250	10,161,000	2.5
1994	195	10,361,000	1.9
1995	230	10,133,000	2.3
1996	199	10,133,000	2.0

Among murder victims for every age group, females are much more likely than males to have been murdered by an intimate.

For victims from age 30 to 49, intimates had committed over 4 in every 10 murders of women. About 1 in 10 murders of men of similar age were by intimates.

The difference between men and women was the largest in the 18-to-24 age bracket: Intimate offenders were responsible for the deaths of 2.5% of the male murder victims but 28.5% of the female victims.

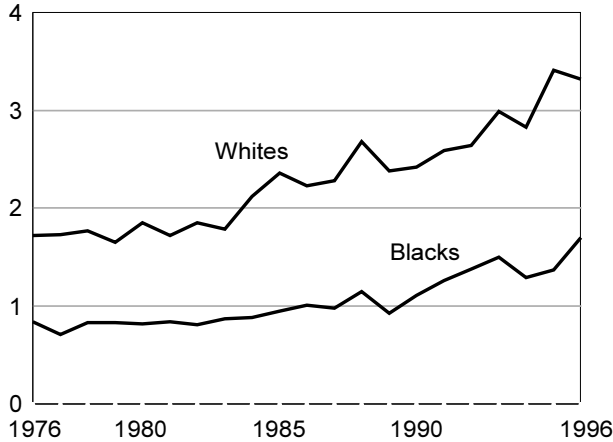
Percent of murder victims killed by intimates



The female-to-male gender ratio has been climbing for both white and black victims of intimate murder. When intimate murder occurs, increasingly it is the female rather than the male who is the victim.

Because rates of intimate murder have declined faster among male than female victims, the ratio of female-to-male victims of intimate murder has risen among both whites and blacks. Prior to the mid-1980's, fewer than two white females were murdered by intimate partners for every white male; by the mid-1990's, this ratio surpassed three white females for every white male.

Ratio of females to males as victims of intimate murder



Among blacks the gender ratio was below 1.0 prior to the mid-1980's, as fewer black females than black males were murdered by intimate partners; by the mid-1990's, the ratio reached 1.5 black female victims for every black male.

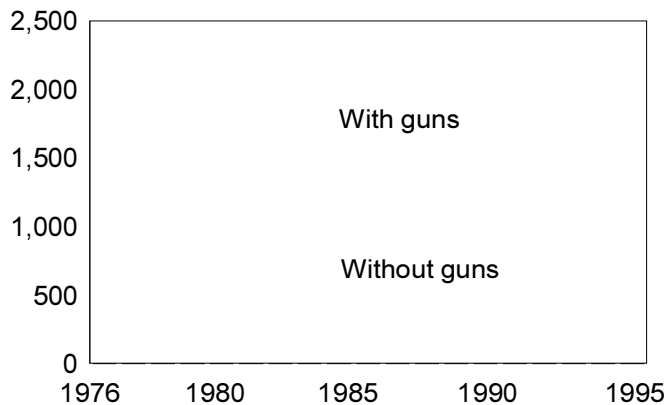
Race-specific trends in the gender ratio have remained parallel over the past two decades, both having doubled over this period.

Among the nearly 52,000 men and women murdered by an intimate between 1976 and 1996, 65% were killed with a firearm. However, firearms accounted for a smaller share of intimate murders in 1996, about 61%, than they did in 1976 (71%).

The decrease in the number of intimate murders between 1976 and 1996 is primarily attributable to the substantial drop in the number of such murders committed with a firearm — an average decline of 3% annually. The number of intimate murders committed by means other than a firearm, by contrast, has remained nearly constant over the period.

Over the two decades more than 33,500 persons were murdered by a current or former spouse or by a current boyfriend, girlfriend, or other intimate using a firearm. In 1996 just over 1,100 people were murdered by intimates wielding a firearm, a thousand fewer than in 1976.

Intimate murders



Characteristics of victims and of incidents of intimate violence

Rates of nonlethal intimate violence are highest among black women, women age 16 to 24, women in households in the lowest incomes categories, and women residing in urban areas.

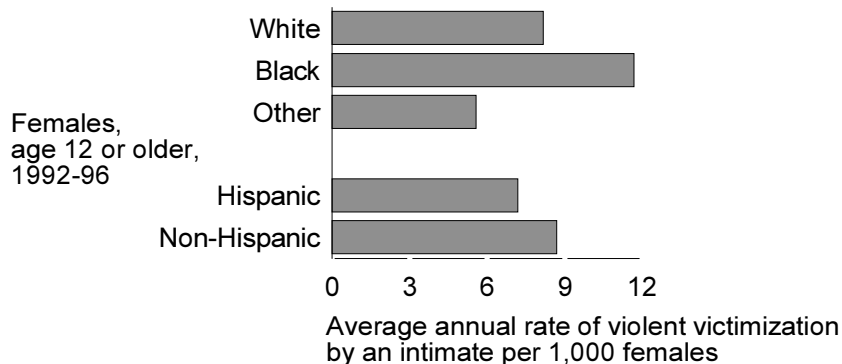
About 3 out of 4 women experiencing violence at the hands of an intimate report the offense occurred at or near their own home. Half report that it occurred between 6 pm and midnight.

About a third of female victims of intimate violence experienced such violence more than once during the 6 months preceding their interview.

Source: **National Crime Victimization Survey,
1992-96
National Incident-Based Reporting
System, 1995**

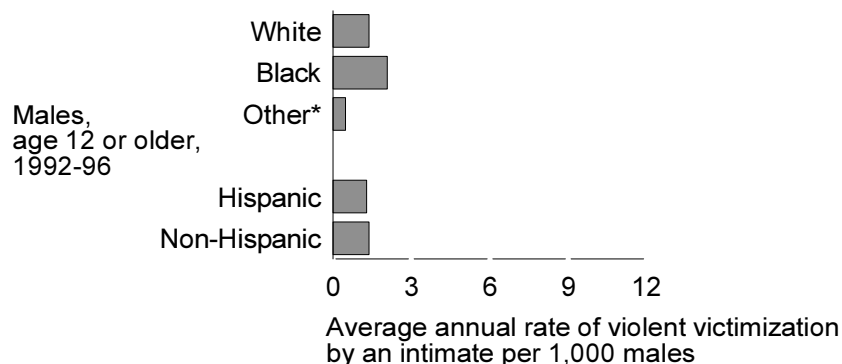
Characteristics of victims of violence by intimates

Among female victims of nonlethal intimate violence, blacks experienced higher rates than whites. White and black males experienced the same rates of intimate violence.



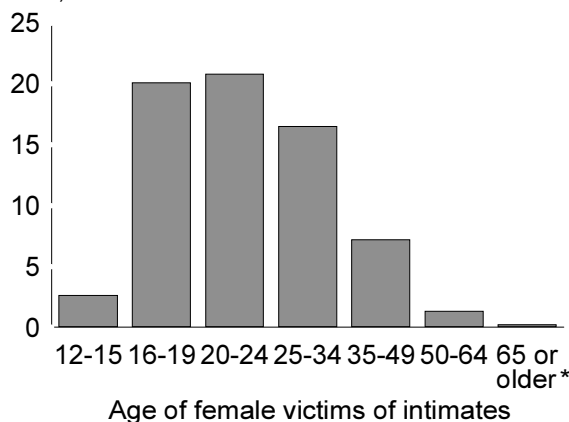
- On average each year between 1992 and 1996 about 12 per 1,000 black women experienced violence by an intimate, compared to about 8 per 1,000 white women.

- For men the rate of victimization by an intimate was about a fifth of the rate for women.



Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.
*Fewer than 10 sample cases.

Average annual rate of violent victimization per 1,000 females, 1992-96



The highest rates of intimate violence affected women ages 16 to 24.

- Women age 16 to 19 and women age 20 to 24 had nearly identical rates of intimate victimization — about 1 violent victimization for every 50 women.

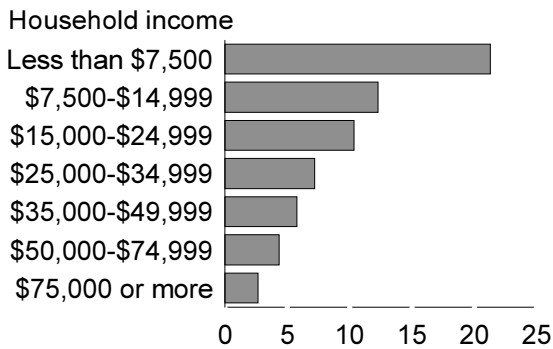
- Annual rates of intimate violence by age of female victims showed little change from 1992 to 1996.

Note: Violent victimizations include murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assaults. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.
*Fewer than 10 sample cases.

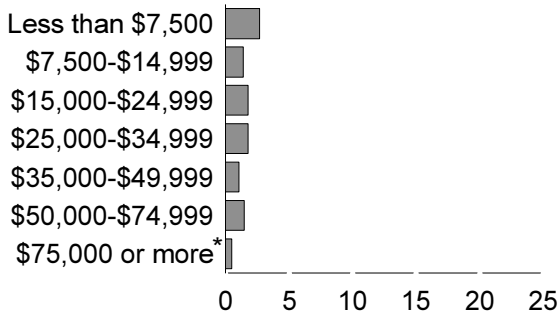
Women in low-income households experienced a higher rate of nonlethal violence by an intimate than did women in households with larger incomes.

- The rate of intimate violence against women generally decreased as household income levels increased.

Females, 1992-96



Males, 1992-96



Average annual rate of violent victimization by an intimate per 1,000 persons of each sex

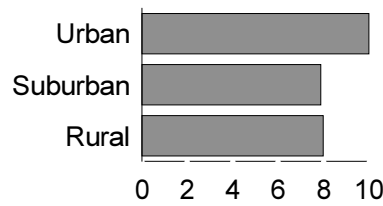
Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations are rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

*Fewer than 10 sample cases.

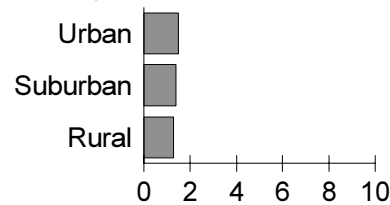
Urban women experienced a higher rate of nonlethal violence from an intimate than suburban and rural women.

- The rates of intimate violence experienced by urban, suburban, and rural men had little variation.

Females, 1996



Males, 1992-96



Rate of violent victimization by an intimate per 100,000 persons of each sex

Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates are current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

About 7 in 10 female victims of intimate violence reported that they were physically attacked.

For the remainder, the attack was attempted or threatened — nearly a third of these victims saying that the offender threatened to kill them.

Victim hit, knocked down, or attacked 70%
 Attempted or threatened attack* 29

Offender —	
Threatened to kill	31%
Threatened to rape	1
Threatened other attack	53
Threatened with weapon	17
Threw object at victim	3
Followed/surrounded victim	5
Tried to hit, slap, or knock down victim	13

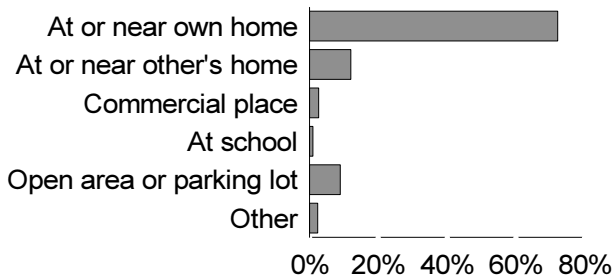
*Victims may report more than one type of threat.

Characteristics of violent victimizations by intimates

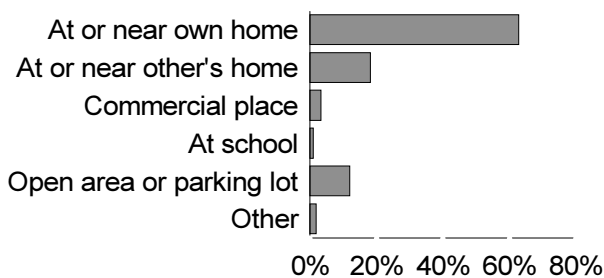
Three-quarters of the incidents of nonlethal intimate violence against women occur at or near the victim's home.

- The patterns are similar for men and women.

Female victims of violence by intimates



Male victims of violence by intimates



Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

For both male and female victims, nonlethal intimate violence is most likely to occur between 6 pm and midnight.

Percent of incidents of intimate violence against—
Female victims Male victims

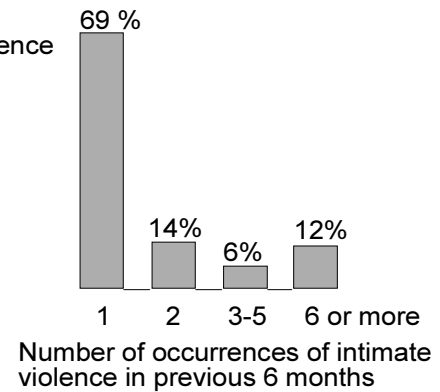
Time Period	Female victims	Male victims
6 am - noon	11%	8%
Noon - 6 pm	24	30
6 pm - midnight	46	50
Midnight - 6 am	16	11
Don't know	4	2*

Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

*Fewer than 10 sample cases, 1992-96.

Nearly a third of female victims of nonlethal intimate violence were victimized at least twice during the previous 6 months.

Percent of female victims of intimate violence



Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Series victimizations involve 6 or more occurrences in one 6-month reporting period. See page 6.

A larger percentage of female than male victims of nonlethal intimate violence live in households with children under age 12.

Women: Slightly more than half of the female victims live in households with children under age 12. There is no information on whether the children witnessed any of the violence against these women.

Men: About 22% of the male victims of intimate violence live in households with young children.

About 4 in 10 violent offenders in State prisons for crimes against intimates were residing with their children (natural, adopted, or step-children) under age 18 prior to entering prison.

- The prisoners who were convicted of intimate violence and who had children under age 18 had an average of 2.2 young children.

Percent of State prisoners convicted of crimes against intimates

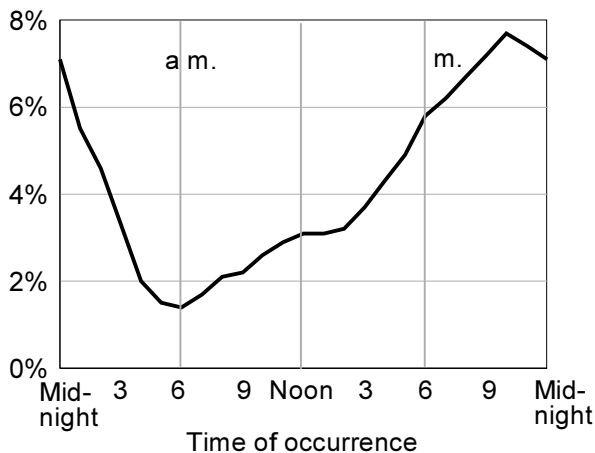
No children under age 18	36%
Children under age 18	64
Living with offender before prison	40%
Not living with offender	25

Incident-based data, from jurisdictions which maintained such records of crime in 1995, provide details on intimate violence not available from most law enforcement agencies —

- **3 in 4 intimate violence victims are between ages 20 and 39**
- **8 in 10 incidents occur in the home**
- **4 in 10 incidents occur on weekends**
- **1 in 4 incidents involved an offender who had been drinking**
- **3 in 10 incidents occur between 9 p.m. and midnight.**

The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) represents the next generation of crime data from law enforcement agencies. It is designed to replace the nearly 70-year-old summary Uniform Crime Reporting Program of the FBI that compiles aggregate data on eight crimes. NIBRS utilizes information from individual crime reports recorded by police officers at the time of the incident. Rather than relying on a group of eight Index offenses to convey the overall crime situation, NIBRS collects information on 57 types of crimes.

Percent of intimate violence incidents



In addition, NIBRS provides the opportunity to analyze a wide array of contingencies of crime: who the victim was, the relationship of the victim to the offender, age of both victim and offender, where and when the incident occurred, and the consequences of the crime for the victim such as injuries and property loss.

A significant benefit of NIBRS is that it makes possible the ability to evaluate and monitor the incidence and prevalence of domestic violence, both family violence and intimate violence, nationally and at the jurisdiction level.

	Percent of incidents of intimate violence			
	All intimate assaults*	Aggravated assault	Simple assault	Intimidation
Victim/offender relationship				
Spouse	53.1%	52.5%	54.8%	41.0%
Ex-spouse	4.9	3.3	3.8	16.4
Other intimate	42.0	44.2	41.4	42.6
Age of victim				
Under 20	8.8%	7.1%	9.1%	9.1%
20-29	40.2	37.0	41.3	38.2
30-39	35.7	37.0	35.5	35.5
40 or older	15.2	18.9	14.2	17.2
Circumstances				
Argument	81.0%	81.2%	84.7%	76.4%
Lovers' quarrel	14.4	14.3	11.0	13.9
Other	4.6	4.5	4.3	9.7
Location				
Home	80.0%	78.2%	81.0%	75.6%
Bar/club	1.2	1.1	1.3	.7
Hotel	1.2	1.2	1.2	.7
Road/garage	8.1	10.6	7.5	7.5
Other	9.5	8.9	9.0	15.3
Day of the week				
Sunday	18.6%	18.9%	19.0%	14.8%
Monday	12.1	11.8	12.0	13.4
Tuesday	12.4	12.1	12.2	15.0
Wednesday	12.0	11.7	11.9	14.0
Thursday	12.2	12.0	12.0	13.6
Friday	13.9	14.0	13.7	14.9
Saturday	18.8	19.4	19.2	14.3
Alcohol use				
Evidence of offender drinking	24.9%	28.0%	25.8%	12.7%

Note: These data were obtained from law enforcement agencies in 9 States. Coverage for these data is estimated to be about 2% of murders, 4% of reported aggravated assaults, and an unknown percentage of simple assaults and intimidation offenses.

*All intimate assaults includes murder but excludes violent sex crimes.

Responses to nonlethal intimate violence

About 3 out of 4 female victims of intimate violence defended themselves during the incident.

About half the female victims reported the incident to law enforcement authorities — black female victims being more likely than others to call the police. Most victims reported that the police responded to their call for assistance and for a majority of those, within 10 minutes of the call. In about 20% of these cases, the victim reported that the offender was immediately arrested.

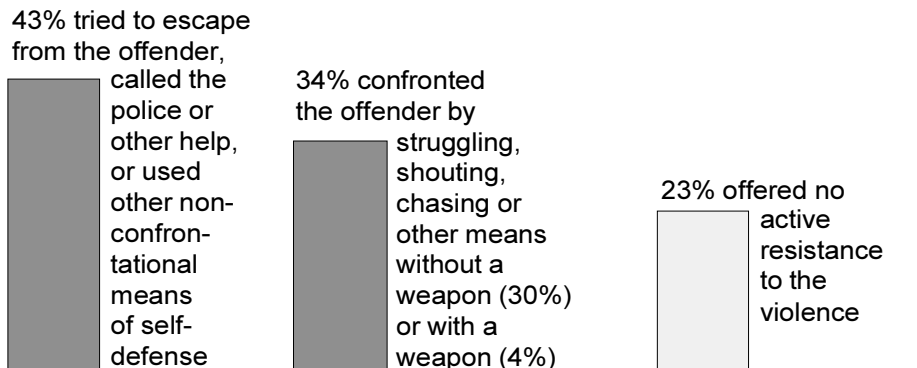
About 160,800 female victims of violence are estimated to receive services from a victim service agency each year.

About half of all female victims of intimate violence report an injury of some type, and about 20% of these seek medical assistance. In 1994 hospitals recorded nearly a quarter million hospital visits resulting from intimate violence. Female victims of intimate violence suffer medical expenses and other costs of crime which total about \$150 million annually.

Sources: **National Crime Victimization Survey, 1992-96**
Study of Injured Victims of Violence, 1994

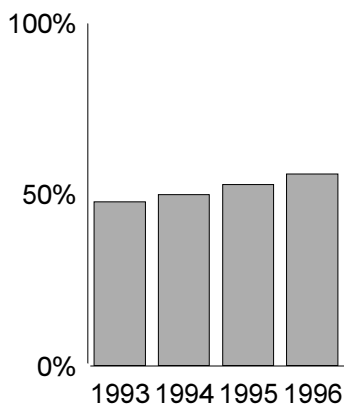
Responses to nonlethal intimate violence

About three-fourths of female victims of nonlethal intimate violence actively defended themselves against the offender.



About half the women victimized by an intimate reported the violence to law enforcement.

Percent of female victims of intimate violence reporting the crime to the police



- For female victims of intimate violence, the likelihood of reporting an incident to the police did not change significantly between 1993 and 1996.

- 1 in 3 of the female victims of intimate violence who did not report their crime to the police (and 1 in 6 of all female victims of intimate violence) said that they had considered the victimization a "private or personal matter."

Female victims of intimate violence, 1992-96

Violent crime against an intimate reported to the police	52.1%
Violent crime against an intimate not reported to the police	47.8%

Among women victimized by a violent intimate, about two-thirds of the black women but about half of the white women report the crime to the police.

Percent of female victims of intimate violence

White	49%
Black	68
Other	44

Most important reasons given for not reporting

Private or personal matter	15.4%
Afraid of offender retaliation	7.3
Police would do nothing	4.4
Incident was not important enough	3.5
No one reason most important	1.7
Reported to another official	1.1
Don't know	.7*
Other	13.6

*Fewer than 10 cases.

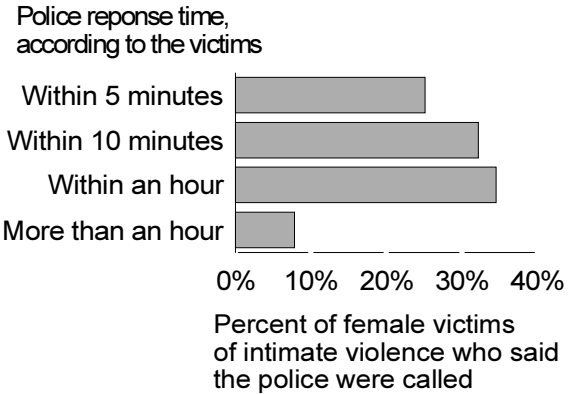
When notified of the incident, the police responded to about 90% of the calls for assistance from intimate violence victims, according to the victims themselves.

Female victims of intimate violence, 1992-96

Violent crime against an intimate reported to the police 51%		Violent crime against an intimate not reported to the police 49%
Police responded or victim went to the police 88%	Police did not respond 11%	
Actions taken by the police		
Took an official report	70%	
Questioned witness/suspect	29	
Arrested the offender	20	
Searched for/collected evidence	6	
Promised surveillance/investigation	4	

Ultimately, about 1 in 3 offenders identified by the victim were eventually arrested or charged for the victimization between the time of the incident and the interview with the victim.

Among female victims of intimate violence reporting that the police were called for assistance, nearly 6 in 10 said the police arrived within 10 minutes.



Between 1992 and 1996 an estimated 800,000 female victims of intimate violence received assistance from a victim service agency shortly after the crime.

- An annual average of 160,800 women victimized by an intimate got help from victim service agencies — about half of which were governmental and half private. This average translates to about 1 in 6 of all female victims of intimate violence.

The estimate of the number of women receiving assistance from a victim service agency is probably too low. The NCVS obtains information only on a brief period following the incident.

- During or after an intimate victimization an annual average of nearly 500,300 female victims reported the victimization to a law enforcement agency.

More than half of female victims of intimate violence reported the incident to the police or had contact with a victim assistance agency shortly after the crime.

Annual average number of female victims of intimate violence
960,400

Female victims who reported the victimization to --	
51,000	A victim service agency (governmental or private)
390,500	The police or another law enforcement agency
109,800	Both a victim service agency and the police
411,000	Neither a victim service agency nor the police

Injuries and losses reported by victims of intimate violence

About half of the female victims of violence by an intimate were injured.

Female victims of intimate violence, 1992-96

Injured 51%				Not injured 49%
Rape or sexual assault 6%	Gun, knife or stab wound 0.5%	Other serious injury* 4%	Other injury* 41%	

*Categories of injuries: Serious injuries include broken bones, internal injuries, being knocked unconscious, and any injuries requiring 2 or more days in a hospital. Other injuries include bruises, black eyes, cuts, swelling, chipped teeth, and unspecified injuries requiring less than 2 days' hospitalization.

Among female victims of intimates, 1 in 10 sought treatment at a medical care facility for physical injury; among those injured 1 in 5 sought treatment.

Female victims of intimate violence, 1992-96

Physically injured 51%				No reported physical injury 49%	
Not treated 32%	Cared for at the scene or at home 9%	Treated at doctor's office or clinic 3%	Treated at an emergency room 7%	Hospitalized <1%*	

Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

*Fewer than 10 sample cases in the source data from the NCVS.

Based on the reports of female victims of nonlethal intimate violence, medical expenses from the physical trauma, broken or stolen property, and lost pay cost these victims nearly \$150 million a year.

Female victims of intimate violence, 1992-96

Type of expense or loss	Percent of victims experiencing an expense or loss	Average expense or loss per victim reporting a loss	Estimated total loss annually
Medical expenses	6.0%	\$1,075	\$61,800,000
Cash loss	1.1	455	4,900,000
Property			
Loss	4.3	734	30,300,000
Repair	5.8	189	10,500,000
Replacement	5.3	478	24,300,000
Lost pay from —			
Injury	4.3	261	10,800,000
Other causes	2.8	255	6,900,000

- Each year, on average, an estimated 57,500 female victims of intimate violence incurred over \$61 million in medical expenses. Medical expenses represented nearly 40% of all costs associated with incidents of intimate violence against a woman.

Medical expenses, however, may be substantially underestimated in the NCVS, based on findings from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (see page 27).

- On average, each year, female victims of intimate violence spent nearly \$35 million to replace or repair property that was stolen or broken during the violent incident.

- Property losses accounted for about 44% of all costs women face as a consequence of violence by an intimate.

Study of Injured Victims of Violence: Intimate violence and its health consequences

The National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, a data collection program in a national sample of hospital emergency departments, provides another source of information on intimate violence.

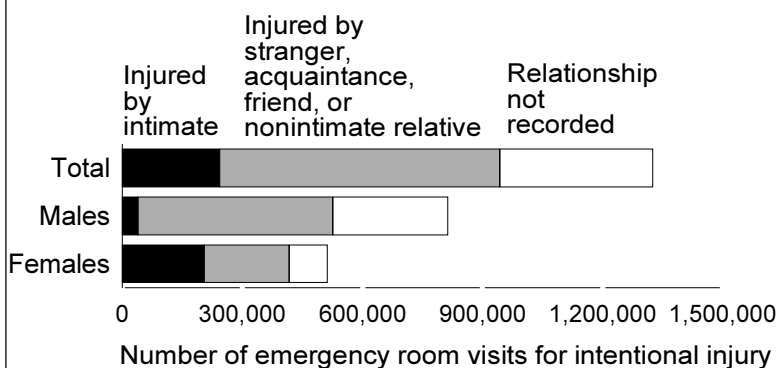
In 1994 about 1.4 million people, injured as a result of intentional violence, were examined in the emergency departments. About a quarter of all these intentional injuries had resulted from violence by an intimate. Intimates include current or former spouses and current boyfriends and girlfriends.

- About half of all persons treated for intimate violence were treated for bruises or similar injuries. About a fourth were treated for cuts, stab wounds or internal injuries.
- About half of the persons treated for intimate violence related injuries had head or facial injuries.

Patients treated in hospital emergency departments

	Victims of intimate violence	Victims of violence by nonintimate
Victim's age		
13-19	9.7%	29.7%
20-29	42.2	32.4
30-45	41.6	29.2
46 or older	6.5	8.7
Weapons used to injure victim		
No weapon used	73.5%	61.9%
Weapon used	21.0	32.0
Firearm	1.1	3.5
Knife/sharp object	7.4	6.6
Bat, or object used to hit	9.6	15.9
Other	2.9	6.0
Not recorded	5.6	6.1
Diagnosis of injury		
Bruise	48.6%	32.7%
Cut/stab wound/internal injury	24.1	31.3
Muscular/skeletal injury	16.9	20.6
Concussion/head injury	.9	1.4
Rape/sexual assault	2.2	4.1
Gunshot wound	1.0	3.4
All other	6.4	6.3
Part of body injured		
Head/face	51.1%	57.4%
Upper trunk	9.6	9.9
Lower trunk	4.8	3.5
Hands/arms	18.1	14.5
Feet/legs	4.5	5.1
Other	2.1	3.5
25%-50% of body	6.4	3.6
All parts of the body	2.5	2.2
Not recorded	.9	.3
Number	243,000	701,000

Note: The table excludes 384,000 patients who either could not or did not report the victim-offender relationship. Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.



Females accounted for 39% of the hospital emergency department visits for violence-related injuries in 1994 but 84% of the persons treated for injuries inflicted by intimates.

- Among those treated for violence-related injuries and with a known relationship to the offender, about 50% of the women and 8% of the men had been injured by an intimate.

Profile of convicted intimate offenders

About 24% of convicted violent offenders in local jails and 7% of violent offenders in State prisons nationwide committed their crime against an intimate.

Nearly 40% of convicted violent offenders in local jails who committed their crime against an intimate had a criminal justice status at the time of the offense: on probation or parole or under a restraining order.

More than half of prison and jail inmates with an intimate victim had been drinking or using drugs when they committed the violent crime. Among those drinking, half had been drinking for more than 6 hours before the violence and had consumed about 10 drinks.

Nearly 30% of State prisoners with intimate victims were armed with a firearm at the time of the incident.

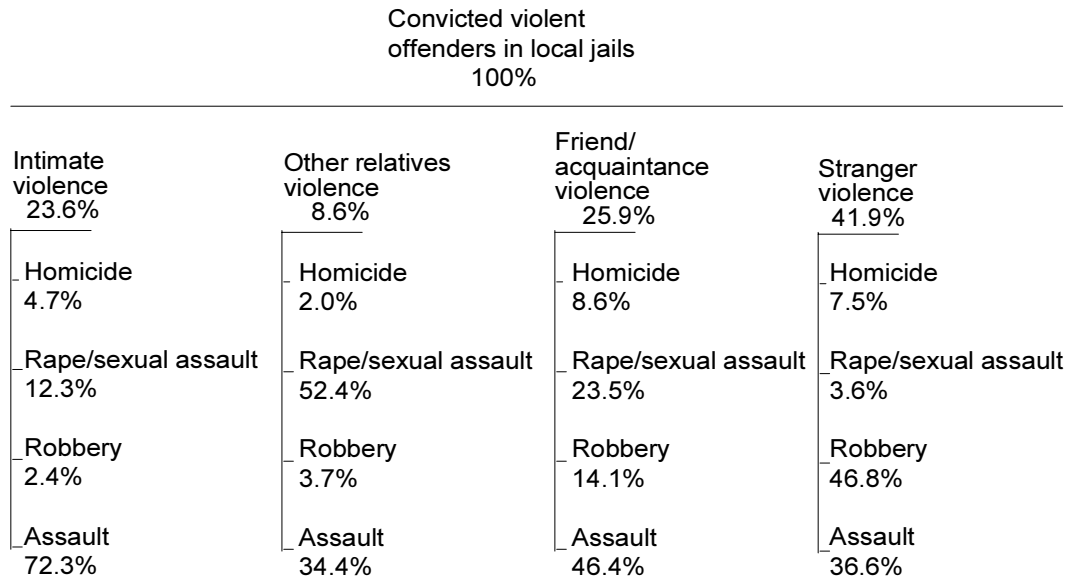
Sentences received by intimate offenders did not differ substantially from other offenders for the same crimes.

Sources: **Survey of Inmates of State Correctional Facilities, 1991**
Survey of Inmates in Local Jails, 1995

Profile of convicted intimate offenders

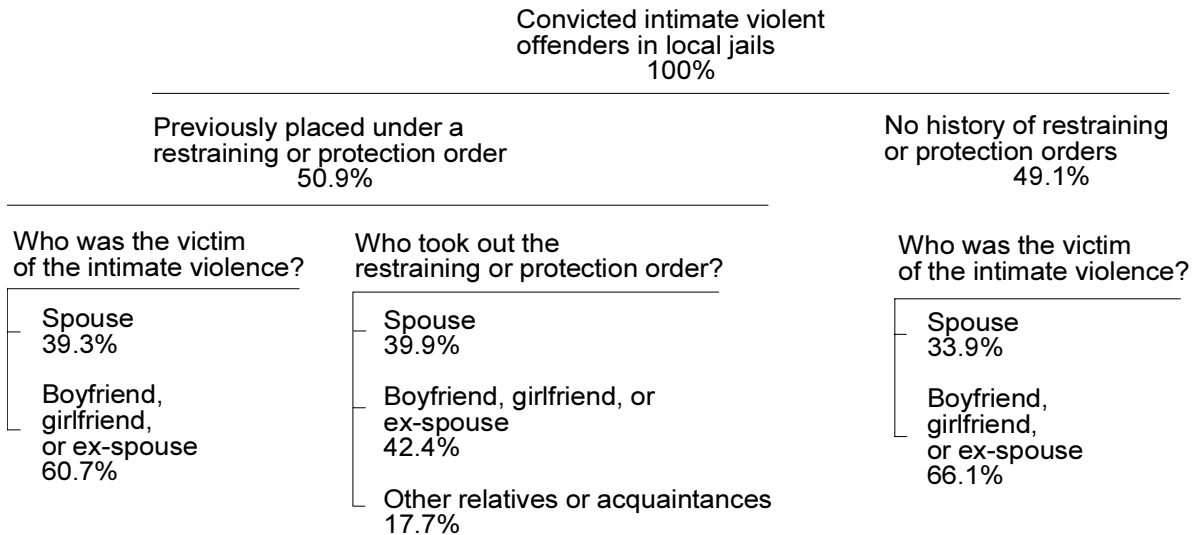
About 1 in 4 convicted violent offenders in local jails said they had committed their offense against an intimate.

- For 3 in 4 jailed violent offenders whose victim was a current or former spouse, girlfriend, or boyfriend, the conviction offense was assault. Other crimes included murder, manslaughter, rape, sexual assault, kidnaping, robbery, and other violent offenses.
- Violent offenders with an intimate victim were about twice as likely as those who had committed their crime against a stranger to have been convicted of assault.

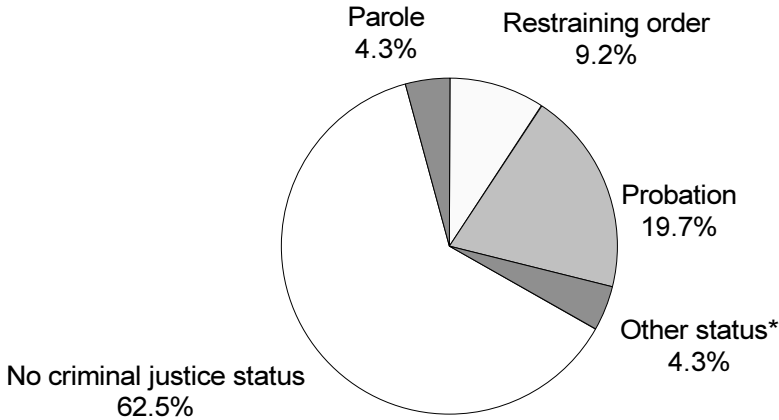


Note: Intimate violence includes violent offenses committed against current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

About half of all convicted inmates in local jails serving time for violence against an intimate had a history of having been placed under a restraining or protection order.



Nearly 4 in 10 offenders sentenced to jail for violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend had a criminal justice status or a restraining order against them when they committed their crime.



- Among those who were in jail for violence against an intimate and who had been on probation or parole when they committed their crime, about 1 in 4 also had a restraining order against them.

Note: Intimate violence includes violent offenses committed against current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

*"Other status" includes programs such as electronic monitoring, alcohol/drug diversion, and weekend sentences.

More than half of both prison and jail inmates convicted of a violent crime against an intimate were drinking or using drugs at the time of the offense.

- Less than a quarter of the State prisoners or jail inmates were using drugs, alone or in combination with alcohol.

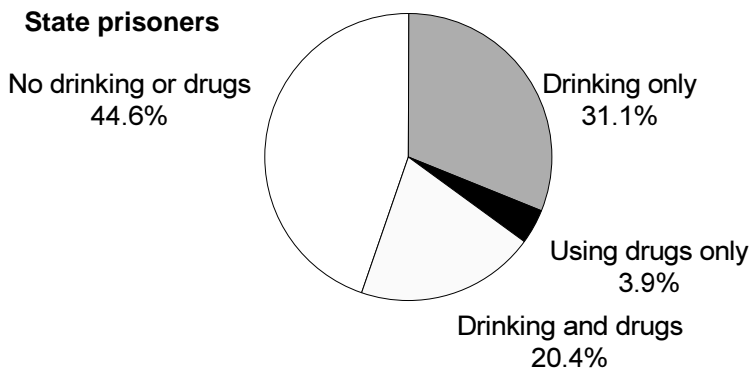
An estimated three-fourths of local jail inmates convicted of intimate violence had prior convictions, and most of these had a history of convictions for violence.

Criminal history	Inmates convicted of violence against an intimate	
	State prison	Local jail
Total	100%	100%
First conviction	33.4	21.8
Recidivist —		
Prior violence	33.2	58.0
No prior violence	33.4	20.2

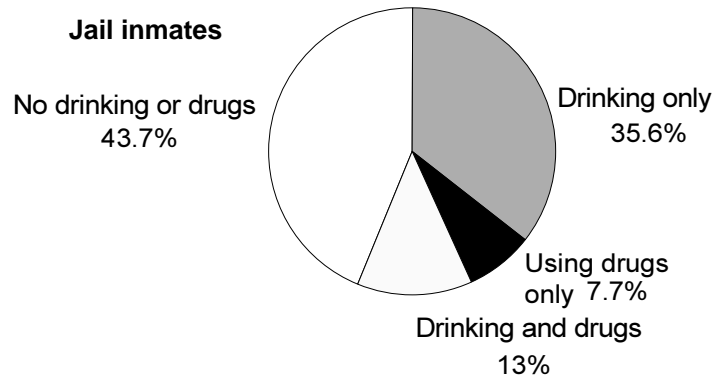
- Among State prisoners serving time for intimate violence, about 2 out of 3 had a prior conviction history.

- Chronic violent offenders accounted for 3 in 10 of State prisoners serving time for violence against an intimate and nearly 6 in 10 local jail inmates convicted of intimate violence.

State prisoners



Jail inmates



Among prisoners who had been drinking before they committed a crime against an intimate, about half of State prison inmates and a third of convicted jail inmates had been drinking for 6 or more hours.

Hours spent drinking before the offender committed the crime against an intimate	State prisoners	Convicted jail inmates
1 hour	9.4%	19.7%
2	14.4	21.2
3	11.1	4.5
4	7.3	11.6
5	8.9	9.1
6-12	20.9	24.5
More than 12 hours	28.1	9.4

Jail inmates who committed a violent crime against an intimate and who reported that they had been drinking at the time had consumed an average (median) of about 5 ounces of ethanol — equivalent to about 10 beers or mixed drinks.

Of jail inmates who were convicted of a violent crime against an intimate and who were drinking before the offense —

- about 4 in 10 reported consuming the equivalent of about one six-pack of beer before their crime.
- about 1 in 5 reported drinking the equivalent of two dozen or more beers before their crime.

Number of ounces of ethanol reported to have been consumed	Cumulative percentage of jail inmates who were drinking when they committed a violent crime against an intimate	Approximate number of drinks to equal the amount of ethanol consumed
1 oz. or less	25.5%	2 drinks
2 ozs. or less	35.6	4
3 ozs. or less	42.3	6
4 ozs. or less	44.4	8
5 ozs. or less	52.9	10
6 ozs. or less	56.6	12
7 ozs. or less	69.2	14
11 ozs. or less	79.6	22
15 ozs. or less	100	30

About half of prison and jail inmates were drinking beer or liquor when they committed a violent crime against an intimate companion.

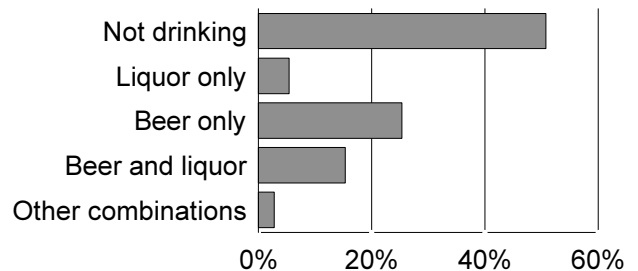
State prisoners

What they were drinking



Jail inmates

What they were drinking



Percent of inmates who had been convicted of a violent crime against an intimate

Victim and inmate surveys report similar estimates of offender alcohol and drug use in intimate violence.

Nearly half the female victims of intimate violence report that the offender was drinking or using illegal drugs at the time of the crime. This is about the same pattern of alcohol and drug use reported from surveys of jail and prison inmates.

Offenders in State prisons convicted of a violent offense against an intimate were more likely than violent offenders with other types of victims to be serving a sentence for homicide.

Violent offenders
in State prisons
100%

• About 4 in 10 violent offenders in State prison who had intimate victims had killed their victim.

	Intimate violence 7.3%	Other relative violence 9.8%	Friend/ acquaintance violence 26.9%	Stranger violence 56.0%
Homicide	41.6%	16.7%	33.8%	24.0%
Rape/sexual assault	21.0%	66.0%	30.1%	8.2%
Robbery	2.8%	1.9%	13.5%	48.5%
Assault	29.6%	10.0%	19.3%	16.1%

Note: Intimate violence includes violent offenses committed against current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Among violent offenders in State prisons, women were about 3 times as likely as men to have committed their crime against an intimate.

Who was the victim?	Violent offenders in State prison	
	Male	Female
Intimate*	6.8%	20.1%
Not an intimate	93.2	79.9

*Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

State inmates serving time for violence against an intimate were somewhat more likely to be white and less likely to be black or Hispanic.

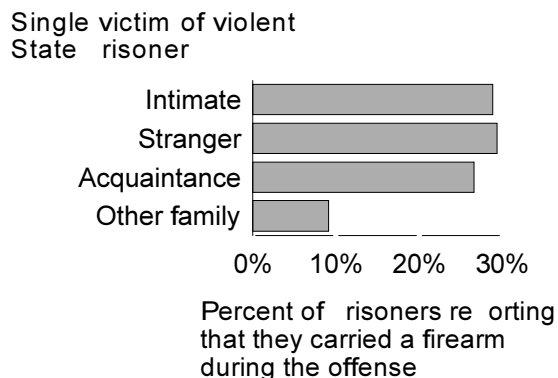
• Offenders with intimate victims were also likely to be somewhat older than other violent offenders.

Characteristic of violent offenders in State prisons	When the victim was an intimate*	When the victim was not an intimate
Male	89.6%	96.8%
Female	10.4	3.2
White	46.8%	36.9%
Black	40.8	46.5
Hispanic	9.5	13.9
Other	2.9	2.6
Age 24 or younger	9.8%	19.5%
25-34	41.1	44.9
35 or older	49.1	35.6
8th grade or less	14.6%	14.3%
9th-11th grade	24.3	24.9
High school graduate	45.2	49.3
Some college	15.9	11.4

*Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

An estimated 29% of State prisoners who committed a violent crime against an intimate — a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend — were armed at the time with a gun.

- Whether against an intimate, an acquaintance, or a stranger — about the same percentage of State prison inmates convicted of a violent crime used a firearm in their crime.



Among victims of intimate violence, 17% of the female victims and 29% of the males reported that the offender had used a weapon.

- For those men who had faced an intimate wielding a weapon, the weapon was more likely to have been a sharp or blunt object rather than a knife or firearm.
- Among the women reporting violence by an armed intimate, firearms, knives, and objects used as weapons were mentioned with about the same frequency.

8 in 10 inmates serving time in State prison for violence against an intimate killed or injured their victim.

Victim injury	Victim's relation to the prisoner			
	Intimate ^a	Other relative	Acquaintance	Stranger
Any	79.2%	47.8%	69.8%	51.5%
Death	47.3	18.4	38.7	28.6
Rape/sexual assault	12.6	19.3	11.6	6.4
Stab wound	5.0	1.4	3.9	4.0
Gunshot wound	2.2	2.4	6.9	3.7
Severe internal injuries ^b	1.9	1.6	2.7	3.0
Bruises or cuts	7.9	2.5	5.0	4.8
Other	2.3	2.2	1.1	1.0

- Among all victims of violent crime committed by State prisoners, the rate of death or injury was higher for intimates than for any other category.

^aIntimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.
^bInjuries include broken bones, lost teeth, and being knocked unconscious.

The median sentence of State prisoners for assault was 4 years longer if the victim was the offender's spouse rather than a stranger.

Offense	All violent offenders	Victim's relation to the prisoner				
		Spouse	Ex-spouse, nonmarital intimate	Other relative	Friend/acquaintance	Stranger
Median sentence						
All violent offenses	180 mo	180 mo	180 mo	144 mo	180 mo	168 mo
Homicide	264	300	240	240	264	300
Assault	120	168	120	108	108	120
Percent of prisoners						
With a life sentence	16.6%	32.5%	14.9%	10.3%	18.4%	18.3%
Having a life sentence, were convicted of homicide	46.8%	47.9%	29.7%	35.4%	41.2%	52.5%

Appendix 1: Defining the victim-offender relationship

Defining the victim-offender relationship

The various sources used in this report obtain data on the relationship between victims and the offenders who committed the violent crimes against them. While the series have slight differences in the level of specificity, they are generally quite similar in the types of relationships described. These relationship categories, when aggregated to more general groupings, result in a category of intimates which includes current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Each data series provides an option for coding an unknown relationship between the victim and offender.

The **NCVS** queries victims of personal contact crimes about their relationship to the offender, if any. The sequence of questions is similar for both those victims who report a single offender and attacked them and those who report multiple offenders attacked them. For purposes of this report, the victim/offender relationship categories contained in the questionnaire were grouped into the following:

Offender's relation to the victim was—			
Stranger	Acquaintance	Intimate	Other family
Known by sight only	Spouse	Parent/	
Casual	Ex-spouse	step-parent	
Friend/ex-friend	Boyfriend/	Own child/	
Roommate/boarder	girlfriend/	stepchild	
Schoolmate	ex-boyfriend/	Brother/sister	
Neighbor	ex-girlfriend	Other relative	
Someone at work/ customer			
Other nonrelative			

The sex of offenders coded as intimates may be the same as or different from the victim's sex.

The Supplementary Homicide Reports of the FBI (**SHR**), which gathers data from local police departments on each homicide, provides 28 categories for the victim-offender relationship. These relationships were recoded to more general categories paralleling those used for the NCVS:

Victim's relation to the offender was—			
Stranger	Acquaintance	Intimate	Other family
	Acquaintance	Husband	Mother
	Friend	Common-law husband	Father
	Neighbor	Ex-husband	Son
	Employee	Wife	Daughter
	Employer	Common-law wife	Brother
	Other known	Ex-wife	Sister
		Boyfriend	In-law
		Girlfriend	Stepfather
		Homosexual relationship	Stepmother
			Stepson
			Stepdaughter
			Other family

The victim segment of the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (**NIBRS**) is much like the victim/offender component of the SHR. NIBRS relationship codes were recoded in this study as shown below:

Victim's relation to the offender was—			
Stranger	Acquaintance	Intimate	Other family
	Acquaintance	Spouse	Parent
	Friend	Common-law spouse	Step-parent
	Neighbor	Ex-spouse	Own child
	Babysitree (the child)	Boyfriend/	Stepchild
	Child of boyfriend/	girlfriend	Sibling
	girlfriend	Homosexual relationship	Stepsibling
	Employee		Grandparent
	Employer		Grandchild
	Other known		In-law
			Other family

This report also presents data gathered from hospital emergency departments under the Survey of Injured Victims of Violence (**SIIV**). Codes used in this collection to represent these relationships were as follows:

Offender's relation to the victim was—			
Stranger	Acquaintance	Intimate	Other family
	Friend	Spouse	Parent
	Inmate/patient	Ex-spouse	Child
	Other known	Boyfriend/	Sibling
		girlfriend	Other relative

The BJS Survey of Inmates in Local Jails and the Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities provide for the collection of detailed victim information from convicted violent offenders. These data were recoded to the same four general categories of victim/offender relationship:

Offender's relation to the victim was—

Stranger	Acquaintance	Intimate	Other family
Known by sight only	Casual acquaintance	Spouse	Parent/step-parent
Well-known	Friend/ex-friend	Ex-spouse	Own child/stepchild
Other nonrelative		Boyfriend/ex-boyfriend	Sibling/step sibling
		Girlfriend/ex-girlfriend	Other relative

Appendix 2: Data for graphical figures

Cover and page 5. Intimates committed fewer murders in 1995 and 1996 than in any year since 1976

Year	Murders of an intimate	
	Male victims	Female victims
1976	1,357	1,600
1977	1,294	1,437
1978	1,202	1,482
1979	1,262	1,506
1980	1,220	1,550
1981	1,278	1,572
1982	1,141	1,480
1983	1,112	1,462
1984	989	1,443
1985	957	1,546
1986	985	1,586
1987	933	1,494
1988	855	1,582
1989	903	1,414
1990	858	1,500
1991	779	1,518
1992	722	1,456
1993	708	1,581
1994	692	1,405
1995	547	1,320
1996	516	1,326

Note: Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Murder includes nonnegligent manslaughter. Data are for all ages of victims.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

Page 3. Each year from 1992 to 1996 there were more than 960,000 victimizations of women by an intimate

	Number of violent victimizations committed by intimates				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Male	145,650	163,558	176,168	115,483	147,896
Female	952,188	1,072,072	1,003,167	953,683	837,899

Note: Intimates for the NCVS include current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Intimates for the SHR include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault, as measured by the NCVS, and murder as reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI. Data are for victims age 12 or older.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96, and FBI, Supplementary Homicide

Page 3. Each year from 1992 to 1996 about 8 in 1,000 women and 1 in 1,000 men experienced a violent victimization by an intimate

	Rate of violent victimization by intimates per 1,000 persons				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Male	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.4
Female	8.8	9.8	9.1	8.6	7.5

Note: Intimates for the NCVS include current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Intimates for the SHR include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault, as measured by the NCVS, and murder as reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI. Data are for victims age 12 or older.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96, and FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1992-96.

Page 4. Among female victims of violence, strangers and friends or acquaintances rather than intimates were responsible for the highest rates of crime

Victim-offender relationship	Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 women				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Intimates	8.8	9.8	9.1	8.6	7.5
Other relatives	2.7	3.3	2.9	2.2	2.8
Friend/acquaintances	14.1	15.9	15.3	14.2	13.7
Stranger	14.8	15.4	16.8	13.2	11.8

Note: Intimates for the NCVS include current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Intimates for the SHR include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault, as measured by the NCVS, and murder as reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI. Data are for victims age 12 or older.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96, and FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1992-96.

Page 4. Among male victims of violence, strangers and friends or acquaintances accounted for the highest rates of victimization

Victim-offender relationship	Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 men				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Intimates	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.4
Other relatives	1.1	1.6	2.2	2.0	1.6
Friend/acquaintances	20.2	20.3	18.5	17.3	16.7
Stranger	39.6	38.8	38.2	33.8	30.8

Note: Intimates for the NCVS include current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Intimates for the SHR include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault, as measured by the NCVS, and murder as reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI. Data are for victims age 12 or older.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96, and FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1992-96.

Page 4. Though less likely than males to experience violent crime overall, females are 5 to 8 times more likely than males to be victimized by an intimate

Victim	Rate of violent victimization per 1,000 persons				
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total violent victimization					
Males	64.2	65.2	63.6	56.4	53.0
Females	41.2	45.7	45.5	39.2	37.1
Victimization by intimates					
Males	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.4
Females	8.8	9.8	9.1	8.6	7.5

Note: Intimates for the NCVS include current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Intimates for the SHR include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault, as measured by the NCVS, and murder as reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI. Data are for victims age 12 or older.

Sources: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96, and FBI, Supplementary Homicide

Page 5. The number of intimate murders declined 36% from 1976 to 1996 as the number of spouse murders went down 52%

Year	Number of intimate murder victims		
	Spouse	Ex-spouse	Boy/girlfriend
1976	2,174	123	662
1977	2,017	110	603
1978	1,940	116	629
1979	1,940	146	683
1980	1,911	115	744
1981	1,946	136	768
1982	1,722	136	763
1983	1,676	128	770
1984	1,501	97	833
1985	1,581	111	811
1986	1,542	127	901
1987	1,489	96	841
1988	1,467	100	869
1989	1,326	78	913
1990	1,371	110	879
1991	1,297	82	918
1992	1,262	81	834
1993	1,232	94	964
1994	1,145	91	861
1995	1,030	60	776
1996	987	73	749

Note: Murder includes nonnegligent manslaughter. Data are for all ages of victims.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

Page 5. Declines in the percentage of murders that are attributed to an intimate have been greater among male victims

Year	Percent of homicide victims killed by an intimate	
	Male	Female
1976	11.2%	31.3%
1977	11.0	29.3
1978	10.5	30.3
1979	10.8	30.3
1980	9.8	30.2
1981	9.5	29.7
1982	9.1	28.5
1983	9.7	29.4
1984	8.9	28.2
1985	8.6	29.5
1986	8.4	29.7
1987	8.3	28.1
1988	7.8	29.2
1989	7.7	28.0
1990	6.9	28.8
1991	6.3	28.7
1992	6.2	28.8
1993	6.1	28.6
1994	6.2	28.5
1995	5.4	27.8
1996	5.4	29.0

Note: Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Murder includes nonnegligent manslaughter. Data are for all ages of victims.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

Page 7. Over the last two decades intimate murder rates dropped far more rapidly among blacks than among whites, with the sharpest decreases among black male victims

Rate of murder by an intimate per 100,000 persons age 20-44

Year	White			Black		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1976	1.31	0.89	1.72	14.01	16.51	12.01
1977	1.27	0.93	1.61	11.94	14.97	9.49
1978	1.30	0.88	1.72	11.38	13.32	9.83
1979	1.35	0.97	1.73	11.10	13.34	9.33
1980	1.37	0.91	1.81	10.66	12.36	9.30
1981	1.33	0.92	1.73	9.64	11.14	8.40
1982	1.30	0.82	1.77	8.33	9.72	7.17
1983	1.22	0.82	1.61	8.35	9.20	7.65
1984	1.17	0.69	1.65	7.06	7.75	6.47
1985	1.20	0.70	1.70	6.95	7.46	6.53
1986	1.21	0.70	1.73	7.36	7.55	7.19
1987	1.14	0.65	1.63	6.46	6.90	6.10
1988	1.13	0.59	1.68	6.60	6.62	6.58
1989	1.01	0.56	1.45	6.36	6.70	6.07
1990	1.06	0.58	1.54	6.24	6.08	6.39
1991	1.02	0.53	1.51	6.02	5.36	6.58
1992	0.98	0.54	1.42	5.35	4.59	6.00
1993	1.03	0.49	1.57	5.62	4.75	6.36
1994	0.99	0.47	1.51	4.84	4.55	5.09
1995	0.89	0.38	1.40	3.87	3.33	4.32
1996	0.85	0.36	1.34	3.74	2.83	4.51

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

Page 8. The decline in the rate of intimate murder per 100,000 has been greater among black victims, especially black men killed by their spouses

Year	Rate of murder by an intimate per 100,000 persons in each population category							
	White				Black			
	Husband Ex-husband	Boyfriend	Wife/ Ex-wife	Girlfriend	Wife/ Exwife	Girlfriend	Husband Ex-husband	Boyfriend
1976	0.97	0.67	1.73	1.69	12.62	10.68	18.44	12.93
1977	1.01	0.72	1.62	1.53	10.26	7.81	16.92	11.67
1978	0.98	0.61	1.74	1.63	11.19	7.43	14.99	10.66
1979	1.11	0.62	1.73	1.73	9.74	8.64	15.90	9.62
1980	0.99	0.72	0.17	2.32	10.04	8.03	14.35	9.61
1981	1.03	0.67	1.76	1.65	8.47	8.29	12.89	8.89
1982	0.84	0.76	1.76	1.81	7.07	7.32	10.80	8.34
1983	0.91	0.63	1.54	1.84	8.23	6.83	10.71	7.47
1984	0.65	0.79	1.56	1.97	5.90	7.27	8.37	7.11
1985	0.73	0.64	1.60	2.05	6.31	6.81	7.73	7.18
1986	0.70	0.68	1.53	2.42	6.74	7.80	7.74	7.35
1987	0.65	0.64	1.48	2.15	6.10	6.09	6.86	6.95
1988	0.55	0.68	1.51	2.21	6.23	7.04	6.69	6.54
1989	0.53	0.62	1.21	2.25	5.58	6.71	6.73	6.67
1990	0.54	0.66	1.39	2.03	5.83	7.07	5.77	6.40
1991	0.45	0.69	1.35	2.01	6.04	7.16	5.08	5.63
1992	0.56	0.50	1.29	1.84	6.08	5.90	4.53	4.64
1993	0.43	0.60	1.29	2.46	6.05	6.70	4.53	4.94
1994	0.46	0.49	1.39	1.88	4.13	6.08	4.75	4.37
1995	0.39	0.39	1.12	2.27	3.72	4.97	2.93	3.69
1996	0.37	0.37	1.10	1.90	3.63	5.19	2.28	3.21

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

Page 9. Females at every age are much more likely than males to be murdered by an intimate

Age of victim	Percent of murder victims killed by intimates	
	Male	Female
17 or younger	0.8%	5.8%
18-24	2.5	28.5
25-29	5.5	36.3
30-34	7.6	41.3
35--39	9.3	44.3
40-44	10.6	41.4
45-49	11.7	40.2
50-59	10.8	31.8
60 or older	6.9	19.3

Note: Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Murder includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

Page 10. For both whites and blacks, when intimate murder occurs, increasingly the woman, not the man, is the victim

Year	Number of women who died for each male victim of intimate murder	
	White victims	Black victims
1976	1.72	0.84
1977	1.73	0.71
1978	1.77	0.83
1979	1.65	0.83
1980	1.85	0.82
1981	1.72	0.84
1982	1.85	0.81
1983	1.79	0.87
1984	2.12	0.88
1985	2.36	0.95
1986	2.23	1.01
1987	2.28	0.98
1988	2.68	1.15
1989	2.38	0.93
1990	2.42	1.11
1991	2.59	1.26
1992	2.64	1.38
1993	2.99	1.50
1994	2.83	1.29
1995	3.41	1.37
1996	3.32	1.70

Note: Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Murder includes nonnegligent manslaughter. Data are for all ages of victims.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

Page 10. In 1976 guns were used in about 71% of intimate murders; in 1996, in about 61%

Year	Murders of an intimate	
	With guns	Without guns
1976	2,113	846
1977	1,916	814
1978	1,863	822
1979	2,008	761
1980	1,939	831
1981	1,929	921
1982	1,738	883
1983	1,663	911
1984	1,578	853
1985	1,642	861
1986	1,673	897
1987	1,574	852
1988	1,515	921
1989	1,441	876
1990	1,477	883
1991	1,397	900
1992	1,378	799
1993	1,498	792
1994	1,342	755
1995	1,163	703
1996	1,168	640

Note: Intimates include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Data are for all ages of victims.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 1976-96.

Page 13. Among female victims of intimate violence, blacks experienced higher rates than whites in 1994, 1995, and 1996

Victim characteristic	Average annual rate of nonlethal violent victimization by an intimate per 1,000	
	Male	Female
White	1.4	8.2
Black	2.1	11.7
Other ^a	.5	5.6
Hispanic ^b	1.3	7.2
Non-Hispanic	1.4	8.7

Note: Nonlethal intimate violence includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Because it is based on interviews with victims, the NCVS does not include murder. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

^aDenotes Asians, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, Alaska Natives, and American Indians.

^bHispanic or Latino persons could be of any race.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96.

Page 13. The highest rates of intimate violence affect women ages 16 to 24

Age of female victim	Average annual rate of nonlethal violent victimization by an intimate per 1,000 females
12-15	2.6
16-19	20.1
20-24	20.7
25-34	16.5
35-49	7.2
50-64	1.3
65 or older	.2

Note: Nonlethal intimate violence includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Because it is based on interviews with victims, the NCVS does not include murder. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96.

Page 14. Women in low-income households experience a higher rate of nonlethal violence from an intimate than do women in households with larger incomes

Household income	Average annual rate of nonlethal intimate violence per 1,000 persons	
	Male	Female
Less than \$7,500	2.7	21.3
\$7,500-\$14,999	1.4	12.3
\$15,000-\$24,999	1.8	10.4
\$25,000-\$34,999	1.8	7.2
\$35,000-\$49,999	1.1	5.8
\$50,000-\$74,999	1.5	4.4
\$75,000 or more	0.5	2.7

Note: Nonlethal intimate violence includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Because it is based on interviews with victims, the NCVS does not include murder. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96.

Page 14. Urban women experience a higher rate of nonlethal violence by an intimate than suburban and rural women

Average annual rate of nonlethal violence by an intimate per 1,000 persons

	Male	Female
Urban	1.5	10.0
Suburban	1.4	7.9
Rural	1.3	8.0

Note: Nonlethal intimate violence includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Because it is based on interviews with victims, the NCVS does not include murder. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. "Urban" denotes central cities in Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's). "Suburban" denotes the population outside the central cities in MSA's. "Rural" denotes non-metropolitan areas.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96.

Page 15. Most intimate violence occurs in or near the victim's home

Percent of nonlethal violence by intimates

	Male	Female
At or near own home	63.0%	72.2%
At or near other's home	18.3	12.2
Commercial place	3.4	2.8
At school	1.1	1.2
Open area of parking lot	12.2	9.1
Other	2.0	2.5

Note: Nonlethal intimate violence includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Because it is based on interviews with victims, the NCVS does not include murder. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96.

Page 16. Almost 30% of intimate violence occurs from 9 in the evening till midnight

Time	Percent of intimate violence reported to the police
Midnight	7.1%
1	5.5
2	4.6
3	3.3
4	2.0
5	1.5
6	1.4
7	1.7
8	2.1
9	2.2
10	2.6
11	2.9
Noon	3.1
1	3.1
2	3.2
3	3.7
4	4.3
5	4.9
6	5.8
7	6.2
8	6.7
9	7.2
10	7.7
11	7.4

Note: Intimates for NIBRS include spouses, ex-spouses, common-law spouses, same sex partners, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Violent crimes include murder, rape, sexual assault, kidnaping, robbery, assault, and other violence.

Source: FBI, National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), 1995.

Page 19. About half the women who are victimized by an intimate report the violence to law enforcement

Year	Percent of female victims of intimate violence who reported to the police
1993	48%
1994	50
1995	53
1996	56

Note: Intimates include current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1993-96.

Page 20. Nearly 6 in 10 women who called the police when victimized by an intimate said that the police arrived within 10 minutes

Police arrived within —	Percent of female victims of intimate violence who reported to the police
5 minutes	25.2%
10 minutes	32.2
1 hour	34.6
More than 1 hour	7.9

Note: Intimates include current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Nonlethal violent victimizations include rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992-96.

Page 22. Women injured by intimates accounted for about 1 in 5 visits to hospital emergency departments for injuries arising from intentional violence

	Number of injury cases treated in hospital emergency departments		
	Intimate violence	Other types of violence	Unrecorded relationship
Total	243,316	700,777	383,633
Males	38,958	487,814	287,233
Females	204,358	212,963	96,400

Note: Intimates for SIVV include current and former spouses and current boyfriends and girlfriends.

Source: BJS, Study of Injured Victims of Violence (SIVV), 1994.

Page 27. About half of prison and jail inmates were drinking beer or liquor when they committed a violent crime against an intimate companion

	Percent of inmates serving a sentence for a violent crime against an intimate	
	State prison	Local jail
Not drinking	53.1%	50.9%
Liquor only	12.1	5.5
Beer only	14.8	25.4
Beer and liquor	11.7	15.4
Other combinations	8.3	2.8

Note: Violent crimes for the surveys of inmates include murder, rape, sexual assault, kidnaping, robbery, assault, and other violence. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Sources: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991, and Survey of Inmates in Local Jails, 1995

Page 29. Among State prisoners in prison for committing a violent crime against an intimate, 29% reported carrying a firearm at the time

Victim's relation to violent prisoner	Percent of prisoners who reported carrying a firearm during the offense
Intimate	28.9%
Stranger	29.4
Acquaintance	26.7
Other family member	9.2

Note: Violent crimes for the survey of inmates include murder, rape, sexual assault, kidnaping, robbery, assault, and other violence. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Source: BJS, Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991.