

**STATISTICAL
ANALYSIS
CENTER**

**1996
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
IN ALABAMA**

**STATE OF ALABAMA
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION CENTER
LARRY WRIGHT
Director**

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Domestic Violence

This report was produced by the Statistical Analysis Center of the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center. Data presented in this report was provided by the Uniform Crime Reporting Division of ACJIC for the calendar year of 1996. For purposes of this report, domestic violence is indicated when the relationship of the victim and offender is husband, wife, common-law spouse, ex-husband, ex-wife, girlfriend, boy-friend, ex-girlfriend, or ex-boyfriend. Statistics contained within this report include adult and juvenile victims.

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Domestic Violence

- Of the 24,583 violent offenses* reported in 1996, 18% were domestic violence incidents. Domestic violence was indicated in 4,377 offenses reported: in 56 homicides; 169 rapes; 69 robberies; and in 4,083 aggravated assaults. 2,432 incidents of domestic violence were cleared for a 56% clearance rate. 39% of the clearances were exceptional, i.e...lack of prosecution.
- There were 22,402 domestic simple assaults, which represents 41% of the simple assaults reported in 1996. 13,024 domestic simple assaults were cleared for a 58% clearance rate. 47% of the clearances were exceptional.
- 84% of the victims were females, and 16% were males. 54% of the victims were black, and 46% were white. In 57% of the offenses, the offender was black, and in 84% the offender was male.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 4% of the offenses; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 83%; a knife was the weapon used in 4%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 9%.
- 42% of the victims suffered injuries: 3% were injured with a firearm; 6% were injured with a knife; 81% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 10% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- In 34% of domestic violence offenses the victim was the wife of the offender; in 23% the victim was the girlfriend of the offender.

*Excluding simple assaults

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	29%
Common-law wife	5%
Ex-wife	7%
Husband	7%
Common-law husband	1%
Ex-husband	2%
Girlfriend	23%
Ex-girlfriend	17%
Boyfriend	5%
Ex-boyfriend	4%

Domestic Violence - Homicide

- There were 56 domestic homicides reported in 1996, representing 13% of the 432 homicides reported in Alabama for that year. 39 domestic homicides were cleared for a 70% clearance rate. 21% of the clearances were exceptional.
- 39% of the victims were males, and 61% were females. 57% of the victims were black, and 43% were white.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 61% of the homicides; a knife was the weapon used 29%; hands, fists or feet were used as a weapon in 2%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 8%.
- In 39% of the homicides the victim was the wife or ex-wife of the offender; in 23% the victim was the husband; in 27% the victim was the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend; and in 11% of the homicides the victim was the boyfriend or ex-boyfriend of the offender.
- 88% of the homicides occurred at a residence; 4% occurred in a street, alley, or parking lot; and 8% occurred in other locations.
- In 59% of the homicides the offender was black; and in 63% the offender was a male. 54% of the homicides had black victims and black offenders; 32% had white victims and white offenders; 5% had white victims and black offenders; 0% had black victims and white offenders; and in 9% of the homicides the offender's race was not reported.

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	25%
Common-law wife	7%
Ex-wife	7%
Husband	19%
Common-law husband	4%
Ex-husband	0%
Girlfriend/Ex-girlfriend	27%
Boyfriend/Ex-boyfriend	11%

Domestic Violence - Rape

- There were 169 domestic violence rapes in 1996, representing 13% of the 1,329 rapes reported in Alabama for that year. 102 domestic rapes were cleared for a 60% clearance rate. 65% of the clearances were exceptional.
- 51% of the victims were black females and 49% were white females.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 9% of the rapes; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 81%; a knife was the weapon used in 5%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 5%.
- 20% of the victims suffered injuries: 18% were injured with a firearm; 12% were injured with a knife; 70% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 0% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- 67% of the victims were the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender, and 33% of the victims were the wife or ex-wife of the offender.
- 75% of the offenses occurred at a residence; 4% occurred in a street or alley; and 21% occurred in other locations.
- In 55% of the rapes the offender was black; in 42% the offender was white; and in 3% of the rapes the offender was of another race.
- 20% of domestic rape victims were juveniles, but only 5% of the offenders were juveniles.

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	19%
Common-law wife	3%
Ex-wife	11%
Girlfriend	28%
Ex-girlfriend	39%

Domestic Violence - Robbery

- There were 69 robberies in 1996 that indicated domestic violence. This represents 1% of the 6,868 robberies reported for Alabama in that year. 47 domestic robberies were cleared for a 68% clearance rate. 81% of the clearances were exceptional.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 27% of the robberies; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 61%; a knife was the weapon used in 6%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 6%.
- 26% of the victims suffered injuries: 13% were injured with a firearm; 0% were injured with a knife; 80% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 7% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- 58% of the victims were the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender; 20% of the victims were the wife or ex-wife of the offender.
- 52% of the offenses occurred at a residence; 20% occurred in a street or alley; and 28% occurred in other locations.
- In 83% of the robberies, the offender was black and in 92% the offender was a male.

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	9%
Common-law wife	3%
Ex-wife	8%
Husband	0%
Common law-husband	0%
Ex-husband	3%
Girlfriend	19%
Ex-girlfriend	39%
Boyfriend	3%
Ex-boyfriend	16%

Domestic Violence - Assault

Aggravated

- Of the 15,954 aggravated assaults reported in 1996, 4,083 were domestic aggravated assaults - or 26% of all aggravated assaults reported in Alabama for that year. 2,244 incidents of domestic aggravated assault were cleared for a 55% clearance rate. 37% of the clearances were exceptional.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 17% of the assaults; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 30%; a knife was the weapon used in 21%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 32%.
- 64% of the victims were injured: 8% with a firearm; 23% with a knife; 33% with fists, feet or hands; and 36% with other dangerous weapons
- 37% of the victims were a wife or ex-wife of the offender; 33% of the victims were a girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender; and 15% of the victims were a husband or ex-husband of the offender. 66% of the offenders were black, and 73% were males.

Simple

- There were 22,402 domestic simple assaults reported in 1996, or 41% of all simple assaults for that year. 13,024 incidents of domestic simple assaults were cleared for a 58% clearance rate. 47% of the clearances were exceptional, i.e...lack of prosecution.
- Hands, fists or feet were used as a weapon in 94% of these assaults, however, 45% of the victims still reported injuries.
- 43% of the victims were a wife or ex-wife to the offender; 41% were a girlfriend or ex-girlfriend.

Domestic Violence - Aggravated Assault

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	27%
Common-law wife	6%
Ex-wife	4%
Husband	11%
Common-law husband	3%
Ex-husband	1%
Girlfriend	22%
Ex-girlfriend	11%
Boyfriend	10%
Ex-boyfriend	5%

Domestic Violence - Simple Assault

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	32%
Common-law wife	5%
Ex-wife	6%
Husband	6%
Common-law husband	1%
Ex-husband	2%
Girlfriend	24%
Ex-girlfriend	17%
Boyfriend	4%
Ex-boyfriend	3%