

ALABAMA CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION CENTER

1998
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
IN ALABAMA

ALABAMA CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION CENTER
LARRY WRIGHT
Director

**STATISTICAL
ANALYSIS
CENTER**

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 ~~2004~~²⁰⁰⁵. 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.

**STATE OF ALABAMA
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION CENTER
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Domestic Violence

- Of the 22,798 violent offenses* reported in 1998, 20% were domestic violence incidents. Domestic violence was indicated in 4,609 offenses reported: in 47 homicides; 180 rapes; 54 robberies; and in 4,328 aggravated assaults. 2,566 incidents of domestic violence were cleared for a 56% clearance rate. 34% of the clearances were exceptional, i.e...lack of prosecution.
- There were 27,211 domestic simple assaults, which represent 37% of all simple assaults reported in 1998. 16,267 domestic simple assaults were cleared for a 60% clearance rate. 39% of the clearances were exceptional.
- 83% of the victims were females, and 17% 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 3% 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 10%.
- 41% of the victims suffered injuries: 2% were injured with a firearm; 6% were injured with a knife; 83% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 9% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- In 36% of domestic violence offenses the victim was the wife of the offender; in 25% the victim was the girlfriend of the offender.

*Excluding simple assaults

Domestic Violence - Aggravated Assault

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	28%
Common-law wife	6%
Ex-wife	5%
Husband	10%
Common-law husband	2%
Ex-husband	1%
Girlfriend	21%
Ex-girlfriend	12%
Boyfriend	10%
Ex-boyfriend	5%

Domestic Violence - Simple Assault

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	33%
Common-law wife	5%
Ex-wife	5%
Husband	6%
Common-law husband	1%
Ex-husband	1%
Girlfriend	26%
Ex-girlfriend	16%
Boyfriend	4%
Ex-boyfriend	3%

Domestic Violence - Homicide

- There were 47 domestic homicides reported in 1998, representing 14% of the 343 homicides reported in Alabama for that year. 38 domestic homicides were cleared for an 81% clearance rate. 16% of the clearances were exceptional.
- 38% of the victims were males, and 62% were females. 55% of the victims were black, and 45% were white.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 72% of the homicides; a knife was the weapon used 19%; hands, fists or feet were used as a weapon in 2%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 7%.
- In 45% of the homicides the victim was the wife or ex-wife of the offender; in 17% the victim was the husband; in 21% the victim was the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend; and in 17% of the homicides the victim was the boyfriend or ex-boyfriend of the offender.
- 80% of the homicides occurred at a residence; 13% occurred in a street, alley, or parking lot; and 7% occurred in other locations.
- In 51% of the homicides the offender was black; and in 62% the offender was a male. 50% of the homicides had black victims and black offenders; 45% had white victims and white offenders; 0% had white victims and black offenders; 2% had black victims and white offenders; and in 3% of the homicides the offender's race was not reported.

Domestic Violence - Homicide

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	28%
Common-law wife	6%
Ex-wife	11%
Husband	15%
Common-law husband	0%
Ex-husband	2%
Girlfriend/Ex-girlfriend	21%
Boyfriend/Ex-boyfriend	17%

Domestic Violence - Rape

- There were 180 domestic violence rapes in 1998, representing 13% of the 1,396 rapes reported in Alabama for that year. 101 domestic rapes were cleared for a 56% clearance rate. 62% of the clearances were exceptional.
- 47% of the victims were black females and 53% were white females.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 5% of the rapes; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 85%; a knife was the weapon used in 5%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 5%.
- 49% of the victims suffered injuries: 5% were injured with a firearm; 8% were injured with a knife; 80% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 7% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- 71% of the victims were the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender, and 29% of the victims were the wife or ex-wife of the offender.
- 76% of the offenses occurred at a residence; 4% occurred in a street or alley; and 20% occurred in other locations.
- In 47% of the rapes the offender was white, and in 53% the offender was black.
- 27% of domestic rape victims were juveniles, but only 5% of the offenders were juveniles.

Domestic Violence - Rape

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	19%
Common-law wife	2%
Ex-wife	8%
Girlfriend	37%
Ex-girlfriend	34%

Domestic Violence - Robbery

- There were 54 robberies in 1998 that indicated domestic violence. This represents 1% of the 5,519 robberies reported for Alabama in that year. 32 domestic robberies were cleared for a 59% clearance rate. 63% of the clearances were exceptional.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 15% of the robberies; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 59%; a knife was the weapon used in 19%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 7%.
- 39% of the victims suffered injuries: 5% were injured with a firearm; 24% were injured with a knife; 67% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 4% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- 69% of the victims were the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender; 16% of the victims were the wife or ex-wife of the offender.
- 61% of the offenses occurred at a residence; 15% occurred in a street or alley; and 24% occurred in other locations.
- In 79% of the robberies, the offender was black and in 91% the offender was a male.

Domestic Violence - Robbery

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	9%
Common-law wife	2%
Ex-wife	5%
Husband	6%
Common law-husband	0%
Ex-husband	0%
Girlfriend	28%
Ex-girlfriend	41%
Boyfriend	2%
Ex-boyfriend	7%

Domestic Violence - Assault

Aggravated

- Of the 15,540 aggravated assaults reported in 1998, 4,328 were domestic aggravated assaults - or 28% of all aggravated assaults reported in Alabama for that year. 2,395 incidents of domestic aggravated assault were cleared for a 55% clearance rate. 32% of the clearances were exceptional.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 16% 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 33%.
- 58% of the victims were injured: 7% with a firearm; 23% with a knife; 34% with fists, feet or hands; and 36% with other dangerous weapons
- 39% 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 13% of the victims were a husband or ex-husband of the offender. 67% of the offenders were black, and 73% were males.

Simple

- There were 27,211 domestic simple assaults reported in 1998, or 37% of all simple assaults for that year. 16,267 incidents of domestic simple assaults were cleared for a 60% clearance rate. 39% of the clearances were exceptional, i.e....lack of prosecution.
- Hands, fists or feet were used as a weapon in 91% of these assaults, however, 40% of the victims still reported injuries.
- 43% of the victims were a wife or ex-wife to the offender; 42% were a girlfriend or ex-girlfriend.

Domestic Violence Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	31%
Common-law wife	5%
Ex-wife	6%
Husband	6%
Common-law husband	1%
Ex-husband	2%
Girlfriend	25%
Ex-girlfriend	16%
Boyfriend	5%
Ex-boyfriend	3%