

**STATISTICAL
ANALYSIS
CENTER**



**2004
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
IN
ALABAMA**

**STATE OF ALABAMA
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION CENTER
MAURY MITCHELL
Director**

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ANALYSIS
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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 2004. 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 2004

Of the 19,101 violent offenses* reported in 2004, 13% were domestic violence incidents. Domestic violence was indicated in 2,398 offenses reported: in 33 homicides; 246 rapes; 150 robberies; and in 1,969 aggravated assaults. 1,284 incidents of domestic violence were cleared for a 54% clearance rate. 39% of the clearances were exceptional, i.e...lack of prosecution.

There were 26,599 domestic simple assaults, which represent 34% of all simple assaults reported in 2004. 15,541 domestic simple assaults were cleared for a 58% clearance rate. 43% of the clearances were exceptional.

75% of the victims were females, and 25% were males. 57% of the victims were black, and 43% were white. In 61% of the offenses, the offender was black, and in 79% the offender was male.

A firearm was the weapon used in 17% of the offenses; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 54%; a knife was the weapon used in 14%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 15%.

50% of the victims suffered injuries: 7% were injured with a firearm; 20% were injured with a knife; 54% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 19% were injured with other dangerous weapons.

In 32% of domestic violence offenses the victim was the wife/ex-wife of the offender; in 45% the victim was the girlfriend/ex-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 | 26% |
| Common-law wife | 3% |
| Ex-wife | 4% |
| Husband | 8% |
| Common-law husband | 2% |
| Ex-husband | 1% |
| Girlfriend | 25% |
| Ex-girlfriend | 16% |
| Boyfriend | 10% |
| Ex-boyfriend | 5% |

Domestic Violence - Simple Assault

Relationship of Victim and Offender

| <u>The Victim was:</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Wife | 29% |
| Common-law wife | 4% |
| Ex-wife | 5% |
| Husband | 7% |
| Common-law husband | 1% |
| Ex-husband | 1% |
| Girlfriend | 28% |
| Ex-girlfriend | 17% |
| Boyfriend | 5% |
| Ex-boyfriend | 3% |

Domestic Violence - Assault 2004

Aggravated

Of the 11,335 aggravated assaults reported in 2004, 1,969 were domestic aggravated assaults - or 17% of all aggravated assaults reported in Alabama for that year. 1,038 incidents of domestic aggravated assault were cleared for a 53% 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 51%; a knife was the weapon used in 15%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 17%.

51% of the victims were injured: 5% with a firearm; 21% with a knife; 53% with fists, feet or hands; and 21% with other dangerous weapons

33% of the victims were a wife or ex-wife of the offender; 41% of the victims were a girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender; and 11% of the victims were a husband or ex-husband of the offender. 62% of the offenders were black, and 76% were males.

Simple

There were 26,599 domestic simple assaults reported in 2004, or 34% of all simple assaults for that year. 15,541 incidents of domestic simple assaults were cleared for a 58% clearance rate. 43% of the clearances were exceptional, i.e...lack of prosecution.

Hands, fists or feet were used as a weapon in 90% of these assaults, however, 36% of the victims still reported injuries.

38% of the victims were a wife or ex-wife to the offender; 45% were a girlfriend or ex-girlfriend.

Domestic Violence Relationship of Victim and Offender

| <u>The Victim was:</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Wife | 24% |
| Common-law wife | 3% |
| Ex-wife | 5% |
| Husband | 7% |
| Common-law husband | 1% |
| Ex-husband | 1% |
| Girlfriend | 27% |
| Ex-girlfriend | 18% |
| Boyfriend | 9% |
| Ex-boyfriend | 5% |

Domestic Violence - Homicide 2004

There were 33 domestic homicides reported in 2004, representing 12% of the 282 homicides reported in Alabama for that year. 24 domestic homicides were cleared for an 73% clearance rate.

45% of the victims were males, and 55% were females. 67% of the victims were black, and 33% were white.

A firearm was the weapon used in 45% of the homicides; a knife was the weapon used 30%; hands, fists or feet were used as a weapon in 12%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 13%.

In 28% of the homicides the victim was the wife or ex-wife of the offender; in 24% the victim was the husband; in 30% the victim was the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend; and in 18% of the homicides the victim was the boyfriend or ex-boyfriend of the offender.

79% of the homicides occurred at a residence; 6% occurred in a street, alley, or parking lot; and 15% occurred in other locations.

In 33% of the homicides the offender was white; and in 67% the offender was a male. 60% of the homicides had black victims and black offenders; 33% had white victims and white offenders; 4% had white victims and black offenders; and 0% had black victims and white offenders.

Domestic Violence - Robbery Relationship of Victim and Offender

| <u>The Victim was:</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Wife | 21% |
| Common-law wife | 1% |
| Ex-wife | 1% |
| Husband | 3% |
| Common law-husband | 1% |
| Ex-husband | 1% |
| Girlfriend | 31% |
| Ex-girlfriend | 31% |
| Boyfriend | 4% |
| Ex-boyfriend | 5% |

Domestic Violence - Robbery 2004

There were 150 robberies in 2004 that indicated domestic violence. This represents 3% of the 5,819 robberies reported for Alabama in that year. 80 domestic robberies were cleared for a 53% clearance rate. 33% of the clearances were exceptional.

A firearm was the weapon used in 33% of the robberies; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 49%; a knife was the weapon used in 11%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 7%.

31% of the victims suffered injuries: 13% were injured with a firearm; 17% were injured with a knife; 48% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 22% were injured with other dangerous weapons.

62% of the victims were the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender; 23% of the victims were the wife or ex-wife of the offender.

43% of the offenses occurred at a residence; 21% occurred in a street or alley; and 36% occurred in other locations.

In 71% of the robberies, the offender was black and in 87% the offender was a male.

Domestic Violence - Homicide

Relationship of Victim and Offender

| <u>The Victim was:</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Wife | 25% |
| Common-law wife | 3% |
| Ex-wife | 0% |
| Husband | 18% |
| Common-law husband | 3% |
| Ex-husband | 3% |
| Girlfriend/Ex-girlfriend | 30% |
| Boyfriend/Ex-boyfriend | 18% |

Domestic Violence - Rape 2004

There were 246 domestic violence rapes in 2004, representing 15% of the 1,665 rapes reported in Alabama for that year. 142 domestic rapes were cleared for a 58% clearance rate. 59% of the clearances were exceptional.

45% of the victims were black females and 55% were white females.

A firearm was the weapon used in 7% of the rapes; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 84%; a knife was the weapon used in 4%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 5%.

44% of the victims suffered injuries: 8% were injured with a firearm; 6% were injured with a knife; 84% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 2% were injured with other dangerous weapons.

76% of the victims were the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender, and 24% of the victims were the wife or ex-wife of the offender.

74% of the offenses occurred at a residence; 6% occurred in a street or alley; and 20% occurred in other locations.

In 48% of the rapes the offender was white, and in 52% the offender was black.

30% of domestic rape victims were juveniles, but only 7% of the offenders were juveniles.

Domestic Violence - Rape

Relationship of Victim and Offender

| <u>The Victim was:</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Wife | 13% |
| Common-law wife | 3% |
| Ex-wife | 8% |
| Girlfriend | 42% |
| Ex-girlfriend | 34% |