

**STATISTICAL
ANALYSIS
CENTER**



Rape in Alabama

**A Statistical Analysis of Rape:
1999-2003**

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

Acknowledgements

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Preface

Crime statistics for this report were compiled from offense reports submitted by law enforcement agencies statewide for the calendar years of 1999-2003 to the State of Alabama's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, a division of the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center (ACJIC). For the purpose of this report, a juvenile is defined as a person 17 years of age or younger.

The definition of rape used for this report is the definition used for the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program: " Rape is the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Assaults or attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded."

Male sexual assault victims are not included in this definition; therefore all data presented in this report represents crime against female victims only. Sodomy or deviant sexual contact that does not involve vaginal penetration is also not included in this definition or this report. By definition, all of the offenders in this report must be males, and all of the victims are females.

A note concerning the privacy of victims: All rape incident/offense report narratives quoted for this report have been edited to hide the identity of the victim, the suspect, and any reference to their location in the state of Alabama. Proper names of police departments, sheriff's offices, medical centers, street addresses, stores and restaurants have also been edited to ensure the privacy of the victims.

Introduction

In 2002, the number of rapes reported in Alabama to the Uniform Crime Reporting Division of the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center was 1567, a 17% increase over the previous year. It was also the largest number of rapes reported in a calendar year since the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center began collecting crime statistics in 1976.

This statistical analysis of rape in Alabama is intended to analyze rape trends in Alabama, and to specifically investigate possible causes for the increase in reported rapes between 2001 and 2002. This report will examine rape circumstances, weapons used, relationships of victims and offenders, locations and other statistical data compiled about rape for the state. In 2003, the number of rapes remained steady at 1561, indicating that the 17% increase between 2001 and 2002 was not a one-time error in reporting.

Year	Total Rapes Reported	% Change from Prior Year	Rate/100,000 Population *	% Change from Prior Year
1999	1438	3%	63.3	3%
2000	1377	-4%	59.5	-6%
2001	1337	-1%	57.6	-1%
2002	1567	17%	67.2	16%
2003	1561	0%	66.7	-1%

*Rape Rates are based on female population only

**Rape by County Total
1999-2003**

Alabama	Number Per Year					Five Year
County	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	% Change
Jefferson	328	333	289	336	301	-8%
Mobile	130	135	117	156	180	38%
Montgomery	138	124	105	126	123	-11%
Autauga	16	15	10	27	30	88%
Baldwin	45	43	53	59	79	76%
Barbour	5	5	7	5	7	40%
Bibb	0	0	0	2	3	100%
Blount	6	3	5	11	8	33%
Bullock	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Butler	3	0	2	1	1	-67%
Calhoun	56	61	57	51	48	-14%
Chambers	15	6	11	22	6	-60%
Cherokee	2	0	0	0	0	-100%
Chilton	2	7	12	8	20	900%
Choctaw	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Clarke	4	9	5	10	3	-25%
Clay	1	1	1	2	2	100%
Cleburne	1	0	2	1	2	100%
Coffee	15	17	11	14	15	0%
Colbert	10	11	7	7	11	10%
Conecuh	0	0	0	2	2	100%
Coosa	3	5	7	0	4	33%
Covington	7	10	18	28	16	129%
Crenshaw	2	5	3	4	4	100%
Cullman	19	19	29	34	22	16%
Dale	11	15	9	8	9	-18%
Dallas	25	43	22	38	37	48%
Dekalb	2	3	4	5	2	0%
Elmore	21	12	13	15	29	38%
Escambia	9	7	6	12	16	78%
Etowah	57	11	32	37	25	-56%
Fayette	2	4	5	11	3	50%
Franklin	3	6	7	8	5	67%
Geneva	3	2	1	3	5	67%

Alabama	Number Per Year					Five Year
County	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	% Change
Greene	2	1	1	0	0	-100%
Hale	3	0	5	9	0	-100%
Henry	1	15	4	10	3	200%
Houston	21	50	44	39	41	95%
Jackson	6	5	6	9	15	150%
Lamar	0	0	1	0	1	100%
Lauderdale	9	8	13	17	19	111%
Lawrence	1	0	2	1	1	0%
Lee	59	48	42	59	52	-12%
Limestone	11	7	8	8	4	-64%
Lowndes	4	2	2	3	7	75%
Macon	13	8	7	14	7	-46%
Madison	134	73	118	106	116	-13%
Marengo	5	5	6	4	7	40%
Marion	4	1	1	4	3	-25%
Marshall	8	8	18	30	28	250%
Monroe	10	4	2	6	7	-30%
Morgan	28	17	14	22	12	-57%
Perry	0	0	1	0	0	0%
Pickens	0	0	2	2	4	100%
Pike	10	9	6	1	1	-90%
Randolph	2	2	9	4	7	250%
Russell	12	21	10	7	16	33%
St. Clair	11	16	16	11	20	82%
Shelby	19	19	27	23	26	37%
Sumter	1	1	3	1	4	300%
Talladega	13	15	15	22	29	123%
Tallapoosa	9	12	10	14	15	67%
Tuscaloosa	86	104	74	83	76	-12%
Walker	10	9	12	7	15	50%
Washington	1	0	4	2	2	100%
Wilcox	2	3	2	3	1	-50%
Winston	2	2	2	3	4	-50%
Total by Year	1438	1377	1337	1567	1561	9%

In the previous table, the counties represented in the “Alabama county” column include all reporting agencies within each county, including municipal police departments, county sheriff’s offices, and university police departments, if applicable.

1999-2003

- A five-year overview of rapes in Alabama indicates a 9% increase in total rapes for the state. Thirty-nine counties reported increases in the number of reported rapes, six counties reported no change in the number of reported rapes, and twenty-two counties reported a decrease in reported rapes between 1999 and 2003.
- Counties reporting an increase in rapes reported a total of 442 rapes in 1999 and a total of 744 rapes in 2003, representing a 69% increase for these counties overall for the five-year period.
- Counties reporting a decrease in rapes reported a total of 978 rapes in 1999 and a total of 799 rapes in 2003, representing an 18% decrease for these counties overall for the five-year period.
- While some Alabama counties reported a decrease in rapes over the five years of 1999-2003, the majority of Alabama counties reported an increase in rapes, and the percent of increase in these counties was significantly higher than the rate of decrease in the counties that reported a decrease in rapes.
- The six counties that reported no change in their rape numbers accounted for only 18 rapes in both 1999 and 2003.

2001-2002

- Between the years of 2001 and 2002, there was a 17% increase in reported rapes, representing the largest increase in rapes ever reported to ACJIC. Thirty-nine counties reported increases in the number of reported rapes, six counties reported no change in the number of reported rapes, and twenty-two counties reported a decrease in reported rapes between 2001 and 2002.
- Counties reporting an increase in rapes reported a total of 964 rapes in 2001 and a total of 1270 rapes in 2002, representing a 32% increase for these counties overall for the one-year period.
- Counties reporting a decrease in rapes reported a total of 356 rapes in 2001 and a total of 280 rapes in 2002, representing a 21% decrease for these counties overall for the one-year period.
- While some Alabama counties reported a decrease in rapes over the years of 2001-2002, the majority of Alabama counties reported an increase in rapes, and the counties that reported an increase in rapes reported 72% of all rapes in 2001 and 81% of all rapes in 2002.
- The six counties that reported no change in their rape numbers accounted for only 17 rapes in both 2001 and 2002.

**Rape Victims by Age Group
1999-2003**

Victim's Age in Years	Number Per Year					Five Year Total	Percent of Total
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003		
1 or under	2	0	2	0	0	4	0.05%
2	4	1	1	2	4	12	0.16%
3	0	5	3	6	5	19	0.26%
4	5	6	0	3	4	18	0.25%
5	9	7	13	14	4	47	0.65%
6	6	4	6	3	7	26	0.36%
7	16	8	16	9	7	56	0.77%
8	15	6	5	9	5	40	0.55%
9	13	14	9	12	9	57	0.78%
10	19	12	16	20	10	77	1.06%
11	21	20	26	33	29	129	1.77%
12	54	68	54	67	51	294	4.04%
13	103	92	82	111	116	504	6.92%
14	143	135	129	176	157	740	10.17%
15	121	105	155	146	152	679	9.33%
16	69	68	57	91	94	379	5.21%
17	63	41	58	64	77	303	4.16%
18	46	56	43	68	58	271	3.72%
19	49	40	50	61	51	251	3.45%
20	40	49	41	62	54	246	3.38%
21	37	40	57	56	61	251	3.45%
22	43	32	26	45	33	179	2.46%
23	26	25	26	30	44	151	2.07%
24	36	23	24	39	25	147	2.02%
25	19	26	23	18	22	108	1.48%
26	25	29	26	22	30	132	1.81%
27	33	22	24	22	22	123	1.69%
28	25	19	21	20	24	109	1.50%
29	18	22	17	21	20	98	1.35%
30	17	13	22	18	16	86	1.18%
31	21	20	17	30	24	112	1.54%
32	21	16	17	17	19	90	1.24%
33	19	24	15	12	18	88	1.21%
34	14	15	7	22	15	73	1.00%

Victim's Age in Years	Number Per Year					Five Year Total	Percent Of Total
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003		
35	16	17	15	16	10	74	1.02%
36	19	22	17	15	15	88	1.21%
37	20	16	12	11	16	75	1.03%
38	21	10	19	11	13	74	1.02%
39	14	16	9	20	16	75	1.03%
40	14	14	17	11	22	78	1.07%
41	8	10	19	15	16	68	0.93%
42	13	9	12	15	10	59	0.81%
43	9	10	11	6	15	51	0.70%
44	3	7	6	3	13	32	0.44%
45	13	10	7	5	7	42	0.58%
46	8	8	7	6	11	40	0.55%
47	5	4	2	2	4	17	0.23%
48	5	3	2	4	3	17	0.23%
49	4	4	1	3	7	19	0.26%
50	2	6	4	3	3	18	0.25%
51	3	0	8	4	9	24	0.33%
52	3	0	2	3	4	12	0.16%
53	1	1	0	1	7	10	0.14%
54	1	3	2	6	1	13	0.18%
55	2	1	0	2	0	5	0.07%
56	0	1	0	3	3	7	0.10%
57	2	4	1	0	3	10	0.14%
58	3	2	0	1	1	7	0.10%
59	0	2	6	5	1	14	0.19%
60	2	0	1	1	1	5	0.07%
61	2	0	2	0	1	5	0.07%
62	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.01%
63	1	0	0	1	0	2	0.03%
64	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.01%
65	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.01%
66	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.03%
67	0	0	0	2	0	2	0.03%
68	0	0	1	1	0	2	0.03%
69	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.03%
70	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.01%

Victim's Age in Years	Number Per Year					Five Year Total	Percent of Total
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003		
71	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.01%
72	1	0	0	0	1	2	0.03%
73	1	0	0	0	1	2	0.03%
74	0	0	1	1	1	3	0.04%
75	1	0	0	0	1	2	0.03%
76	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.01%
77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
78	1	1	0	0	1	3	0.04%
79	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.01%
80	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.03%
81	2	0	1	0	0	3	0.04%
82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
83	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
84	0	1	1	0	1	3	0.04%
85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
86	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.01%
87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
88	0	1	1	1	0	3	0.04%
89	0	2	1	1	1	5	0.07%
90	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.01%
91	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
92	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.01%
93	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.01%
94	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
95	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.01%
96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
99	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.01%
Unknown	73	114	79	55	70	390	5.36%
Total by Year	1438	1377	1337	1567	1561	7280	100.00%

A five-year overview of rape victims' ages indicates that 47% of rape victims were age 17 or younger, and that 32% of rape victims were in age groups 13, 14, 15 and 16. Rape victims age 12 and under represented 5% of all victims. Fourteen-year-olds represent the highest number of rape victims in the state, followed by 15-year-olds, 13-year-olds and 16-year-olds. These victims' age trends have remained consistent historically.

**Relationship of Rape Victim to Offender
1999-2003**

Victim was...	Number Per Year					Five Year	Percent
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total	of Total
Wife	31	43	31	40	45	190	2.61%
Common law wife	5	4	3	3	6	21	0.29%
Mother	2	1	0	2	0	5	0.07%
Daughter	32	24	27	24	40	147	2.02%
Sister	11	6	9	12	9	47	0.65%
Step-sister	1	0	0	1	1	3	0.04%
In-law	11	7	7	5	8	38	0.52%
Step-mother	2	2	0	0	1	5	0.07%
Step-daughter	36	39	27	35	40	177	2.43%
Other Family	80	74	61	91	63	369	5.08%
Neighbor	25	21	23	34	21	124	1.71%
Acquaintance	427	395	412	506	492	2232	30.71%
Girlfriend	83	73	63	82	88	389	5.35%
Ex-girlfriend	62	68	66	62	56	314	4.32%
Ex-wife	12	14	9	8	6	49	0.67%
Employee	3	2	0	3	4	12	0.17%
Employer	1	0	2	1	1	5	0.07%
Friend	153	106	108	126	133	626	8.61%
Stranger	154	142	132	161	152	741	10.19%
Cousin	1	1	0	0	1	3	0.04%
Friend's daughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Niece	0	1	0	1	0	2	0.03%
Aunt	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.01%
Grand daughter	1	0	0	0	1	2	0.03%
Unknown	305	354	356	370	393	1778	24.29%
Total	1438	1377	1337	1567	1561	7280	100%

A five-year overview of rapes indicates that in 52% of the assaults the victim was an acquaintance or friend of the offender, while in 14% of the offenses the victim was related to the offender. In 10% of reported rapes the offender was a stranger, and in 24% of rapes the relationship of the victim and offender was unknown.

The largest deviation in relationships reported between 2001 and 2002 was in the “Other Family” category, with an increase of 49%.

**Location of Rape
1999-2003**

Rape Location	Number Per Year					Five Year Total	Percent of Total
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003		
Victim's Car	16	18	19	17	25	95	1.31%
Offender's Car	49	39	49	61	61	259	3.56%
Victim's Residence	418	355	408	463	433	2077	28.53%
Offender's Residence	226	207	207	268	229	1137	15.62%
Street/Alley	36	30	35	41	33	175	2.40%
Parking Lot	13	15	17	16	14	75	1.03%
Wooded Area	14	32	21	27	35	129	1.77%
Office Building	4	2	2	6	3	17	0.23%
School	14	12	7	14	10	57	0.78%
Apt. Complex	27	29	37	35	48	176	2.42%
Vacant Lot	3	7	3	1	1	15	0.21%
Vacant House	31	31	16	13	20	111	1.52%
Dirt Road	18	14	8	12	10	62	0.85%
Offender's Friend's Res.	40	42	48	41	47	218	2.99%
Motel/Hotel	37	48	47	51	41	224	3.08%
Bar/Lounge	2	2	5	7	7	23	0.32%
Other Commercial	4	11	3	12	3	33	0.45%
Park	9	7	9	17	21	63	0.87%
Church	4	4	2	1	7	18	0.25%
Victim's Friend's Res.	74	74	62	92	81	383	5.26%
Public Building	6	7	4	5	14	36	0.49%
Trailer Park	6	3	5	3	5	22	0.30%
Hospital	10	2	4	11	4	31	0.43%
Lake	2	5	2	2	1	12	0.16%
Railroad Tracks	53	43	15	102	125	338	4.64%
Prison	0	0	4	1	3	8	0.11%
Cemetery	2	1	6	1	2	12	0.16%
Other	42	44	36	53	55	230	3.16%
Unknown	278	293	256	194	223	1244	17.08%
Total	1438	1377	1337	1567	1561	7280	100%

A five-year overview of rapes indicates that 29% of the assaults occurred in the residence of the victim, and 16% occurred in the residence of the offender; 5% occurred in the residence of a friend of the victim, and 4% in the residence of a friend of the offender; 4% occurred in the offender's car, and 3% occurred in a motel/hotel. In 17% of the rapes the location was unreported or unknown.

The largest deviation in rape locations reported between 2001 and 2002 was in the "Railroad Tracks" category, with an increase of 580%. Railroad tracks accounted for 5% of rape locations. It is likely that this is an error in reporting, as the rape location code for railroad tracks is similar to the code for unknown circumstances used for homicides and assaults in ACJIC's UCR database. More than likely, a large percentage of railroad tracks rapes should have been reported as unknown location.

Rape Weapon 1999-2003

Rape Weapon Used	Number Per Year					Five Year	Percent
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total	of Total
Gun	84	72	71	102	82	411	5.65%
Knife	56	62	49	53	42	262	3.60%
Sharp Object	1	1	0	1	1	4	0.05%
Blunt Object	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.01%
Hands/Fists/Threats	1055	1073	987	1188	1223	5526	75.92%
Unknown	45	9	50	36	2	142	1.94%
Other	197	160	179	187	211	934	12.83%
Total	1438	1377	1337	1567	1561	7280	100%

A five-year overview of rapes indicates that in 76% of the assaults the weapon used was hands, fists, feet or verbal intimidation/threats. A gun was used in 6% of rapes, and a knife in 4%. The weapon used in 13% was other and in 2% was unknown.

The largest deviation in rape weapons reported between 2001 and 2002 was in the "Gun" category, with an increase of 44%.

Alabama Laws Pertaining to Rape (definitions)

The Alabama laws regarding rape in the first and second degree are as follow (from Code of Alabama, 1975):

§ 13A-6-61. Rape in the first degree.

- (a) A person commits the crime of rape in the first degree if:
 - (1) He or she engages in sexual intercourse with a member of the opposite sex by forcible compulsion; or
 - (2) He or she engages in sexual intercourse with a member of the opposite sex who is incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless or mentally incapacitated; or
 - (3) He or she, being 16 years or older, engages in sexual intercourse with a member of the opposite sex who is less than 12 years old.

- (b) Rape in the first degree is a Class A felony.

§ 13A-6-62. Rape in the second degree.

- (a) A person commits the crime of rape in the second degree if:
 - (1) Being 16 years old or older, he or she engages in sexual intercourse with a member of the opposite sex less than 16 and more the 12 years old; provided, however, the actor is at least two years older than the member of the opposite sex.
 - (2) He or she engages in sexual intercourse with a member of the opposite sex who is incapable of consent by reason of being mentally defective.

- (b) Rape in the second degree is a Class B felony.

§§ 13A-6-61 and 13A-6-62 Commentary

“...Under the Criminal Code, it is a defense to both that the male is under 16 years of age; and §13A-6-62(a)(1) applies only if defendant be at least two years older than a female. Alabama law recognized the male’s immaturity only where the victim is over 12 but under 16. The age, immaturity and lack of judgment of the offender are the determining factors in establishing an absence of culpability, not merely the age of the victim.”

Statutory Rape

It cannot be overlooked that the largest number of forcible rapes in Alabama occurred between victims and offenders whose ages would also qualify the rapes as statutory. There is a strong probability that some of the rapes of juveniles being reported as forcible are indeed non-forcible statutory rapes.

The majority of the incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting data submitted to the UCR division of ACJIC is received on magnetic tape or disk. These reports submitted by magnetic media allow UCR to extract specific data elements from individual offense and arrest reports, however the narrative portion of these reports is not received. The narrative portion of the offense report is the only area of the report that could identify the circumstances of the rape in enough detail to determine whether it has been correctly coded as a forcible rape.

The UCR division of ACJIC maintains copies of offense reports submitted on paper for two years. Therefore, there is data in hard-copy form for years prior to 2002 available for review for this statistical analysis. The rape data received in paper form for 2002 and 2003 accounts for only 35% of the data received in those two years, while the remainder of the data submitted was in tape or disk form.

A review of the paper copies of rape reports submitted to the UCR division in 2002 and 2003 was conducted to determine if a significant number of cases of statutory rape were miscoded as forcible rape. Ninety-five percent of the reports contained narratives with enough detail to determine whether the rape was actually forcible in nature. It was found that in these two years 10% of forcible rapes with victims age 12 to 15 were actually misreported and should have been reported as statutory rapes. Although only 35% of the reports were available for evaluation, it can be assumed that this percentage would remain relatively similar for the remainder of the reports in the state.

Reviews of rape offense report narratives for years prior to 2002 and 2003 for earlier research projects have established that 10% of all statutory rapes are miscoded as forcible rapes on a consistent basis. Therefore, as this percentage has maintained consistent for the years 2002 and 2003, it seems unlikely over-reporting of miscoded statutory rapes has caused the increase in reported rapes for 2002 and 2003.

Forcible Rape

A further investigation of the nature and extent of rape in Alabama can be conducted by reviewing the narratives of the rape reports available to UCR in paper form for the years 2002 and 2003. In reviewing these narratives we can derive a more detailed picture of the circumstances surrounding incidents of rape in Alabama, and determine patterns that may relate to the increases in reported rapes for those two years over prior years.

Alcohol-Related Rapes

The first fact that emerges when reviewing the rape reports for the years of 2002 and 2003 is that a large number of rapes occurred when the victim was intoxicated. Quite often victims are at a party where alcohol or drugs are being ingested. Also frequently, the offenders offer the victims drugs or alcohol to make them more vulnerable and out of control.

The following are samples of narratives from some of the offense reports where the rape victim was intoxicated, in some cases with drugs or alcohol provided by the offender:

“The victim was at a party... Almost everyone at the party worked together... The victim got really drunk and went upstairs to bed. As she slept, the offender came into her room. The offender put something inside the victim’s vagina and she woke up. She told him to ‘Quit that hurts.’ She repeatedly told him to quit. That’s all the victim could remember. She woke up and her blue jeans were off... her bra was undone and sweater was on.”

As in observed in the previous narrative, victims who have been using alcohol or drugs quite often pass out and then wake up only when the offender has already begun raping them. Another narrative example:

“The victim states she was at her aunt’s home and [offender] came by to see her. The victim states she had been drinking and was probably intoxicated. The victim states she had laid down on the sofa, and the next thing she recalls I that [offender] was on top of her having intercourse.”

In some narrative examples, the victim cannot remember any circumstances before or after the rape, and barely remembers the actual attack, due to alcohol or drugs being used at the time of the rape:

“The victim stated that she was at a party given by her classmate. The victim

believes that some time after the party the listed suspects raped her. The victim stated that she had been drinking with some friends before the party, and the only thing she remembers is when the father of her friend told everyone that party was over.”

In one of the narratives, alcohol was actually provided by one of the parents of the friend of the rape victim, even though she was under the legal age to consume alcohol:

“Victim stated she was spending the weekend with a friend. Her friend’s mother bought a six-pack of beer and allowed the girls to drink it along with five other juveniles. Victim stated that suspect asked her to come into the bedroom and then her pulled her pants off and forced her to have sexual intercourse.”

Rapes that Occurred in Prior Years

Another pattern that emerges from the narratives of rape reports submitted to the UCR division in 2002 and 2003 is that many rapes from previous years that went unreported during those years are now being reported as the victim becomes more mature and less afraid to report the offense. In the cases where the offender is a family member, the victim is reporting the rape years later for fear that another female family member may be victimized as well. Examples:

“On this date victim reported a rape and sodomy that occurred when she was ten or eleven years old [victim’s age of this report is 22 years old]. Victim stated that the offender is her uncle. Victim stated that she did not report the incident because she was scared, however decided to report it now because she has learned that the offender has attempted to get custody of his biological daughter, and she does not want the same thing to happen to her.”

The victim in the following report is now 14 years old:

“The victim disclosed during an interview that when she was five or six years old her cousin who was approximately 20 years old had vaginal and anal sex with her.”

A Friend of the Family

Another factor in many rapes, from previous years as well in the years 2002 and 2003, is an offender who is a family friend and takes advantage of a relationship with the family assault a female family member:

“Victim stated that after her mother left for work, the offender came into her room and asked her if she wanted to have sex and she told him no. She then stated he started taking her clothes off and she told him to stop but he continued. She states he had sex with her then she went to school and told her mom that night.”

In the previous example, the victim is 14 years old and the offender is a 27-year-old family friend that the mother obviously trusted enough to leave alone with her teenage daughter.

Rape Circumstances Overview

A review of the narratives of rape reports submitted to the UCR Division for the calendar years 2002 and 2003 did not reveal any unusual patterns in reporting that would account for a 17% increase in rapes for these years over 2001. The primary rape circumstances indicated in these narratives included:

- Intoxication of either victim, offender, or both;
- Rapes of juveniles by family friends, older siblings of friends, and family members;
- Rapes that occurred when the victim was much younger being reported by the victim now that she is older or an adult;
- Rapes that occurred when the victim accepted a ride in a car from a male she did not know or did not know well;
- Rapes that occurred in date situations; and
- Rapes that occurred at parties, or among juveniles with no adult supervision

Conclusion

In 2003, the last full year for which statistics were available for this report, total crime in the State of Alabama increased 1% overall. Violent crime dropped by 3% and property crime increased by 2%. The number of rapes in Alabama remained steady at 1561. In 2002, reported rapes in Alabama hit an all-time high of 1567. The percent increase between 2001 and 2002 in reported rapes was 17%, the largest increase in twenty-five years.

The increase in reported rapes between 2001 and 2002 appears to be an actual trend in reported rapes, and not a one-time statistical anomaly or reporting error. The evidence that indicates this conclusion is:

- The number of reported rapes for 2003 remained at 1561, a 0% change over the previous year, indicating consistent trend with the prior year's number;
- The majority of Alabama counties reported an increase in rapes. The reporting of only one or a few counties did not cause the increase. The increase was an across-the-board increase for most of the counties in Alabama;
- The age of rape victims has remained consistent through the increase, with 13, 14, 15, and 16-year-olds still representing the highest number of rape victims in the state;
- The locations, relationships, and weapons used have remained consistent over the five-year period reviewed, even after the increase in reported rapes; and
- A review of rape report narratives indicates that 10% of statutory rapes are miscoded as forcible, a consistent percentage for the five-year period reviewed.

Based on the evidence reviewed for this report, it would seem that the large increase in rapes between 2001 and 2002, remaining consistent for 2003, is an actual indication of an increase in criminal activity. However there may be additional factors that have contributed to the number of reported rapes in the state showing a dramatic increase over these two years:

- An increase in reporting of all crime data by local county and municipal law enforcement agencies that did not submit UCR data in the past;
- An increase in public awareness of rape and more willingness in the public to report rapes to local law enforcement;
- An increase in victims' service organizations' presence in the state, or an increase in available services to rape victims in the state; and
- An increase in the level of training and number of law enforcement officers available to respond to rape offenses, victims, and investigations.

Rape in Alabama 1979 – 2003

Year	Total Rapes Reported	% Change over Prior Year
2003	1561	0%
2002	1567	17%
2001	1337	-1%
2000	1377	-4%
1999	1438	3%
1998	1396	4%
1997	1345	1%
1996	1329	2%
1995	1307	-8%
1994	1427	3%
1993	1389	-9%
1992	1504	7%
1991	1401	9%
1990	1291	4%
1989	1238	7%
1988	1161	5%
1987	1109	-1%
1986	1122	5%
1985	1070	9%
1984	982	7%
1983	920	-9%
1982	1006	1%
1981	994	-13%
1980	1144	10%
1979	1042	10%