



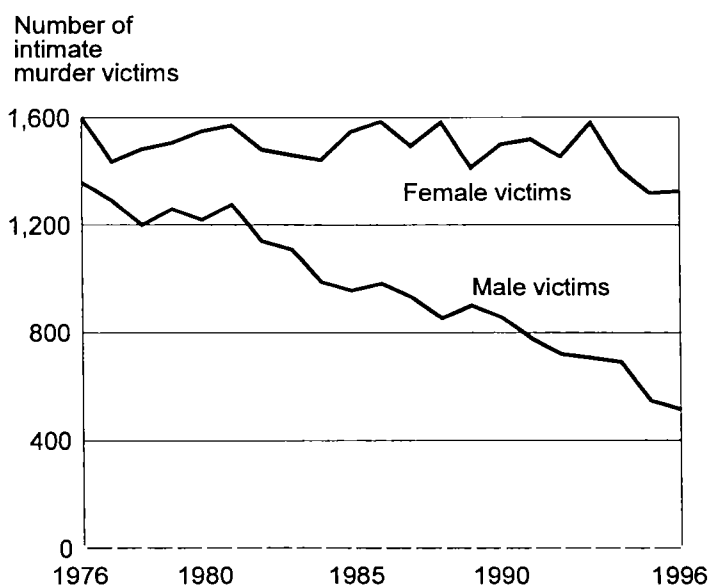
Bureau of Justice Statistics Factbook

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

By Lawrence A. Greenfeld
BJS Deputy Director

Michael R. Rand
Chief, Victimization Statistics

Diane Craven, Ph.D.

Patsy A. Klaus

Craig A. Perkins

Cheryl Ringel

Greg Warchol, Ph.D.

BJS Statisticians

Cathy Maston
BJS Statistical Assistant

and

James Alan Fox, Ph.D.
Dean and Professor, Northeastern University
BJS Visiting Fellow

NCJ-167237 March 1998

U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D.
Director

The following BJS staff wrote or verified this report:
Lawrence A. Greenfeld, Michael R. Rand, Diane Craven, Ph.D., Patsy A. Klaus, Craig A. Perkins, Cheryl Ringel, Greg Warchol, Ph.D., and Cathy Maston.

James Alan Fox, Ph.D., BJS Visiting Fellow, wrote the analysis of trends of murder by intimates, using data that he had prepared from the Supplementary Homicide Reports.

Tom Hester and Priscilla Middleton created and edited the report. Yvonne Boston and Jayne Robinson, under the supervision of Marilyn Marbrook, prepared the report for final printing.

Many people made valuable contributions to this report, by providing data, reviewing early drafts, and providing suggestions or comments. The authors express their appreciation to these people who include:

Kathleen Creighton, chief of Crime Surveys Branch, and other staff at the U.S. Bureau of the Census

Victoria Major and other staff members of the Criminal Justice Information Services Branch of the FBI

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

Contents

Foreword	iii
Highlights	v
Introduction	vii
Trends in violence against intimates	1
What have been the trends in:	
Violent victimization of intimates?	
Intimate murder?	
Characteristics of victims and incidents of intimate violence	11
Who has the highest rates of victimization by an intimate?	
Where and when does intimate violence occur?	
Responses to intimate violence	17
How often do victims of intimate violence:	
Defend themselves in attacks?	
Call the police for assistance?	
Seek assistance from victim service agencies?	
How often are victims injured in intimate violence?	
Profile of convicted intimate offenders	23
How many are incarcerated for intimate violence?	
What is the criminal history of convicted intimate offenders?	
What role do drugs and alcohol play in intimate violence?	
Appendix 1: Defining the victim-offender relationship	31
Appendix 2: Data for graphical figures	35

Please note that the following pages in this report are blank:
iv, x, xii, 2, 12, 18, 24, 30, 32, and 36.
The Acrobat file skips these blanks.

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.

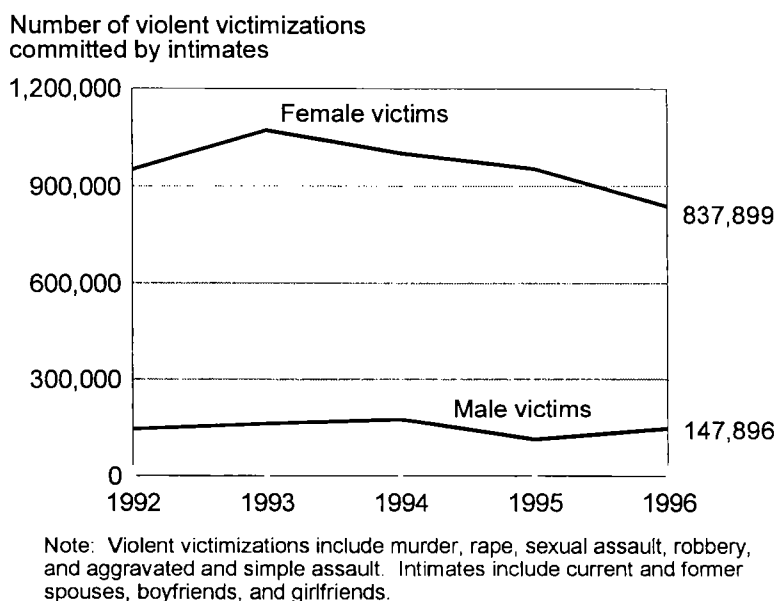
Intimate murder now accounts for about 9% of the murders which occur nationwide.

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

Trends in violence against intimates

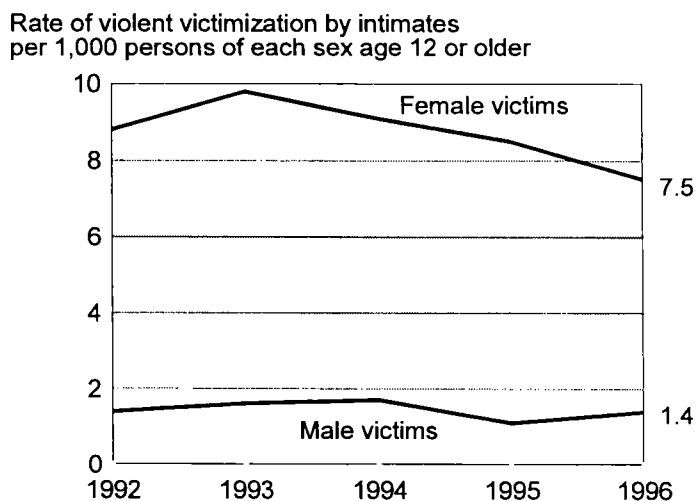
On average each year from 1992 to 1996, there were more than 960,000 violent victimizations of women age 12 or older by an intimate (a current or former spouse, girlfriend, or boyfriend).

- 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.



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.



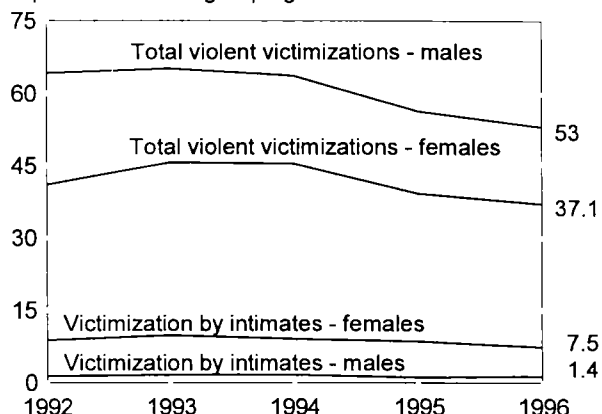
Although less likely than males to experience violent crime overall, females are 5 to 8 times more likely than males to be victimized by an intimate.

- 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.

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

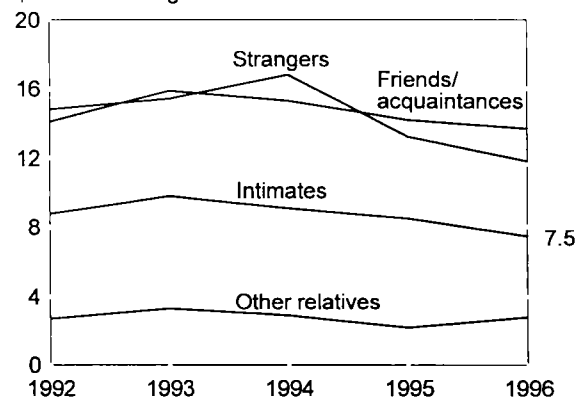
- Intimate violence accounts for about a fifth of all violence against females. The two categories of violence by friends and acquaintances and violence by strangers are each over a third of the victimizations. Violence by relatives other than intimates are less than a 10th of all violence that women,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

Rate of violent victimizations per 1,000 persons of each group age 12 or older

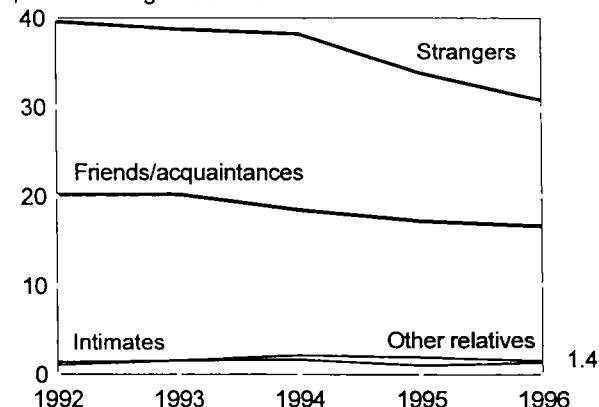


Note: Violent victimizations include murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

Rate of murder, rape, robbery, and assault per 1,000 females age 12 or older



Rate of murder, rape, robbery, and assault per 1,000 males age 12 or older



Analysis of trends in intimate murder, 1976-96

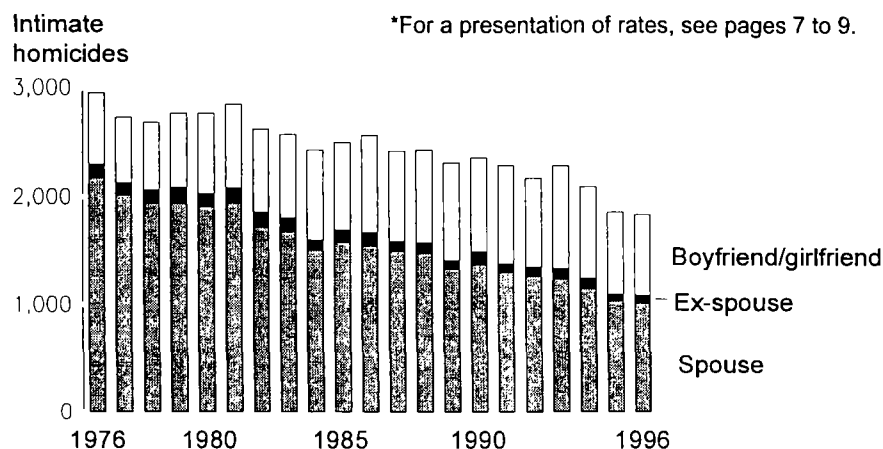
by James Alan Fox, Ph.D., BJS Visiting Fellow

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%.

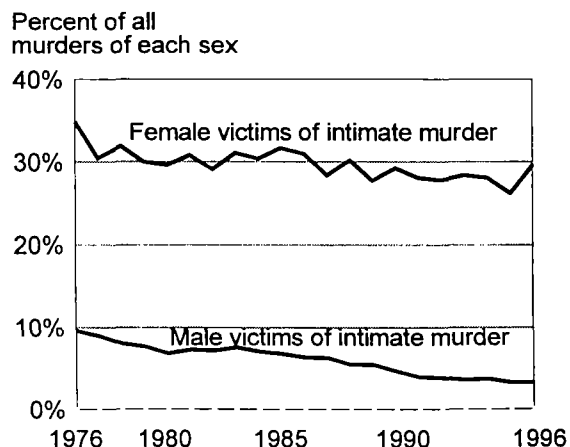
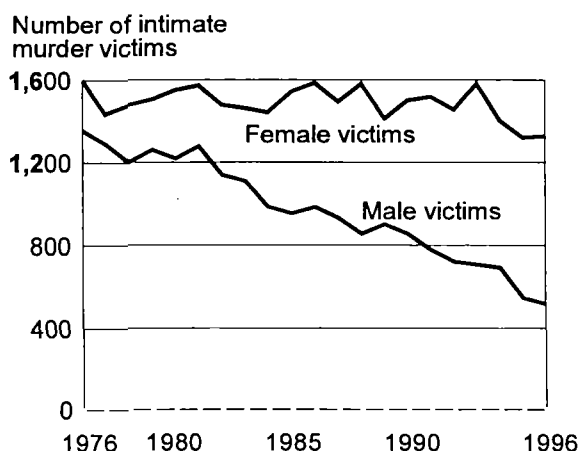
*For a presentation of rates, see pages 7 to 9.



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).



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.

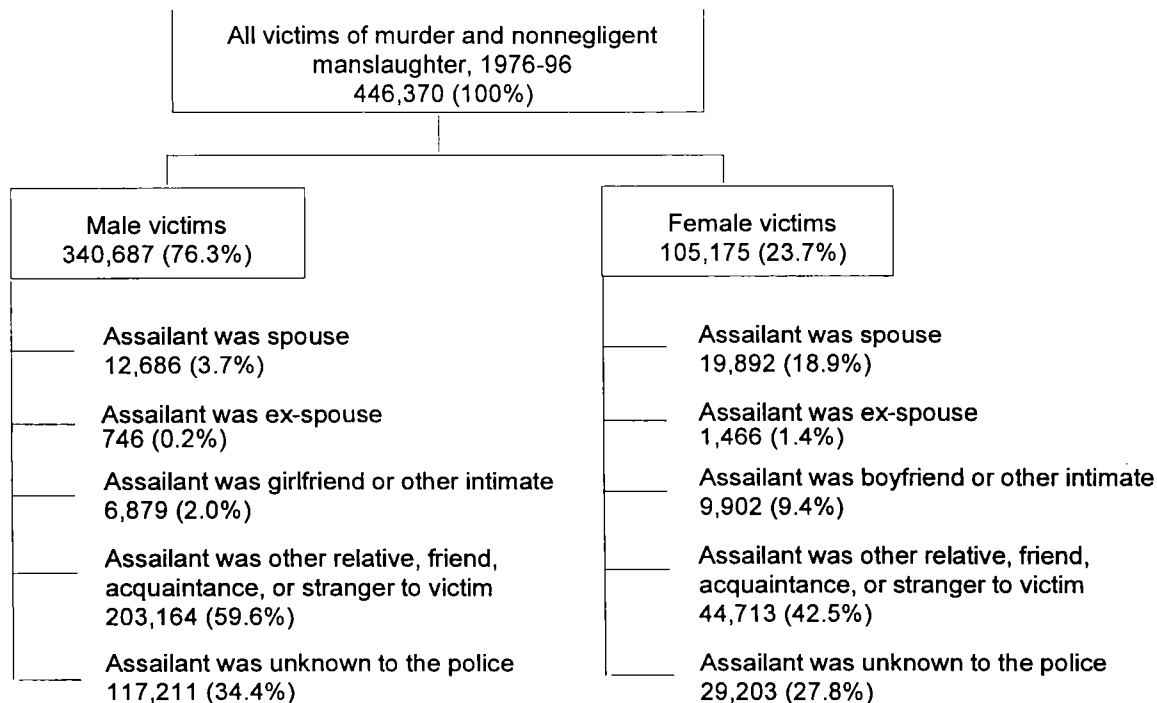
Murders of ex-spouses accounted for about 1 out of every 200 murders that occurred nationwide during the two decades. About 1 out of every 25 intimate murder victims were ex-spouses. About two-thirds of the ex-spouse murder victims were women.

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.

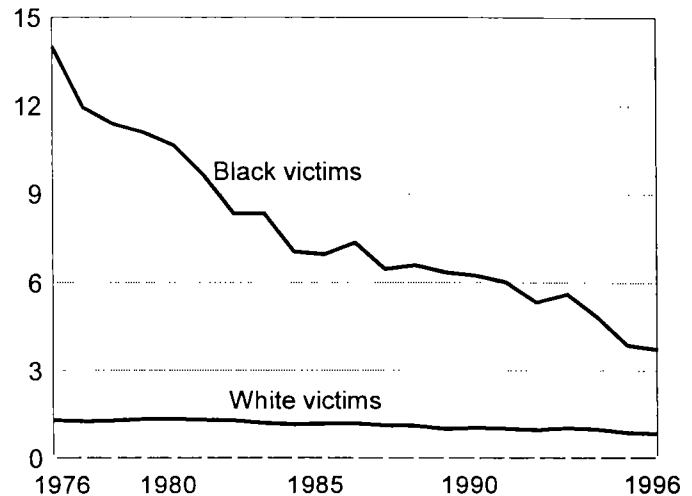
Intimate murder rates for whites during the same years decreased by an annual average of 2%. The rate declined from about 1.3 intimate murders per 100,000 whites age 20-44 to 0.85 murders per 100,000.

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

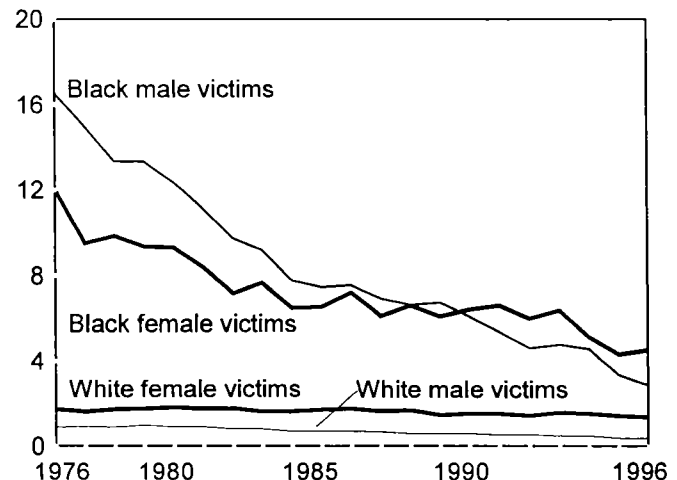
In 1976 the per capita rate of intimate murder of black men was nearly 19 times higher than that of white men. The rate among black females that year was 7 times higher than the rate among white females. In 1996 the black male rate was 8 times that of white males, and the black female rate was 3 times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

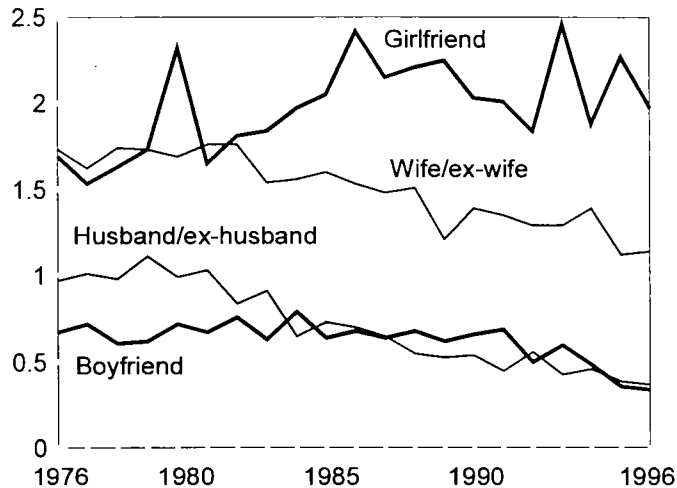
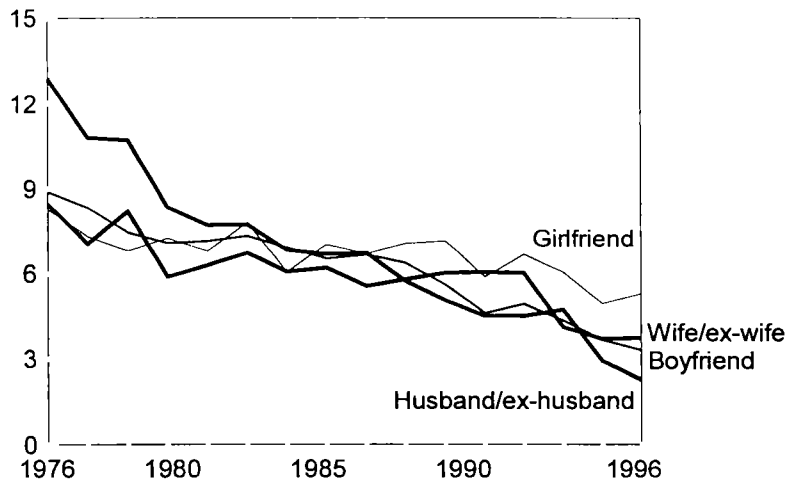
During the 20-year period after 1976, per capita rates of intimate murder declined an annual average of 8% among black males, 5% among black females, 4% among white males, and 1% among white females.

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



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



White victims of murder by an intimateRate 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.

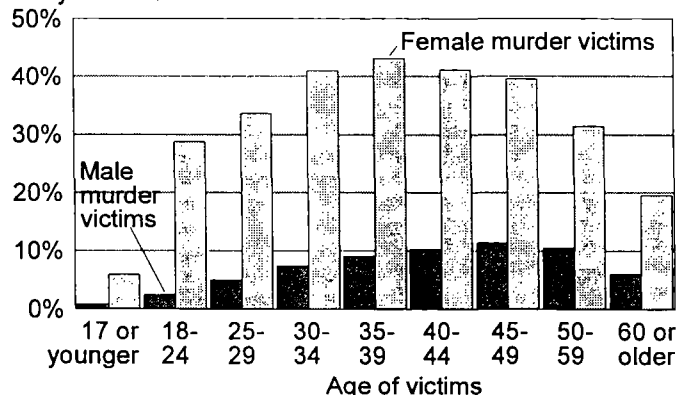
Year	Murders of white females (ages 20-44) by boyfriends or other nonmarital intimates	Population of never married or widowed white women, ages 20-44	Rate of murder per 100,000 white women
1976	90	5,329,000	1.7
1977	89	5,821,000	1.5
1978	102	6,239,000	1.6
1979	116	6,712,000	1.7
1980	163	7,014,000	2.3
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.

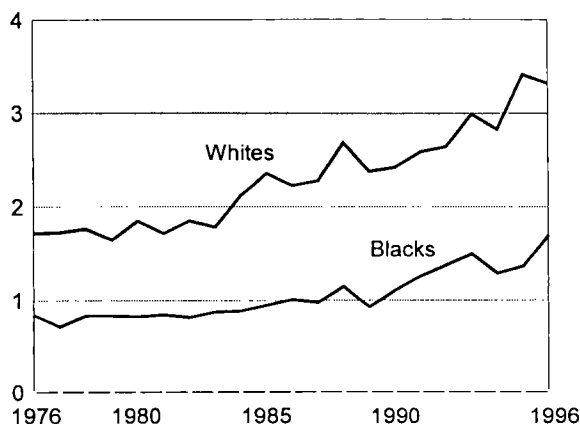
The difference between men and women was the largest in the 18-to-24 age bracket: Intimate offenders were responsible for the deaths of 2.5% of the male murder victims but 28.5% of the female victims.

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.

Ratio of females to males as victims of intimate murder



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.

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.

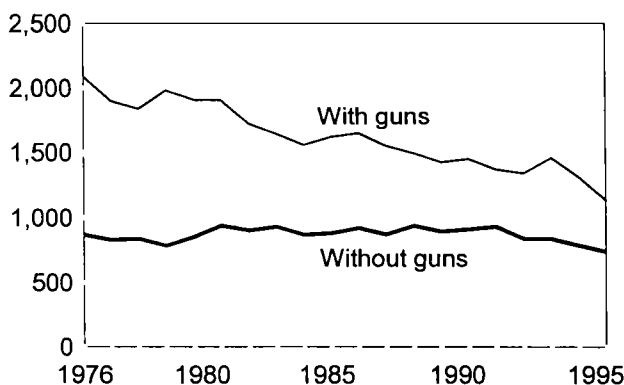
Race-specific trends in the gender ratio have remained parallel over the past two decades, both having doubled over this period.

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%).

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.

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.

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.

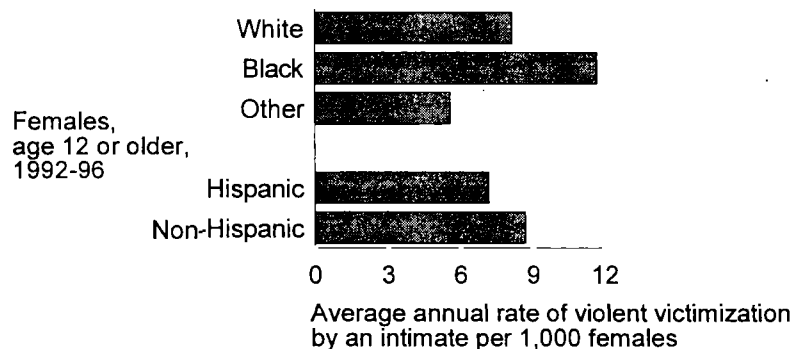
About 3 out of 4 women experiencing violence at the hands of an intimate report the offense occurred at or near their own home. Half report that it occurred between 6 pm and midnight.

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**

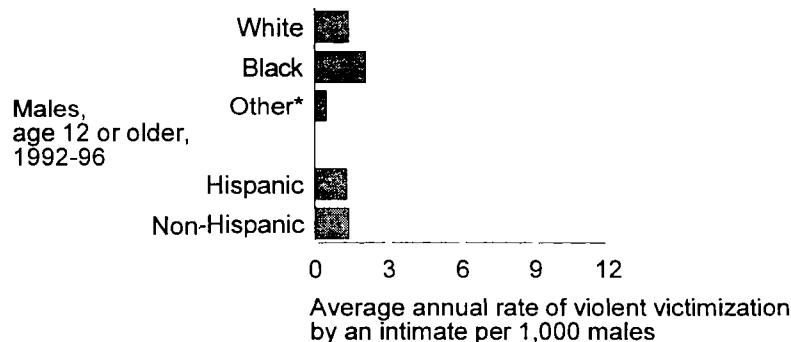
Characteristics of victims of violence by intimates

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



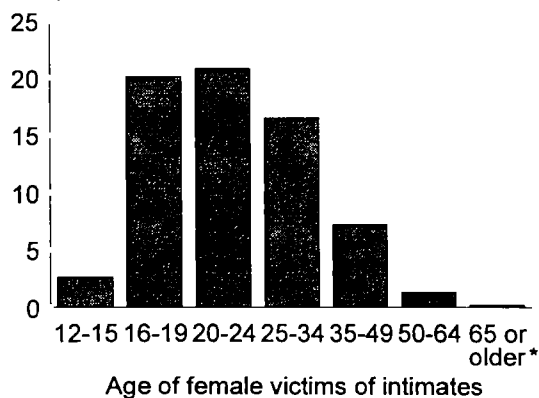
- On average each year between 1992 and 1996 about 12 per 1,000 black women experienced violence by an intimate, compared to about 8 per 1,000 white women.

- 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



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.

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.

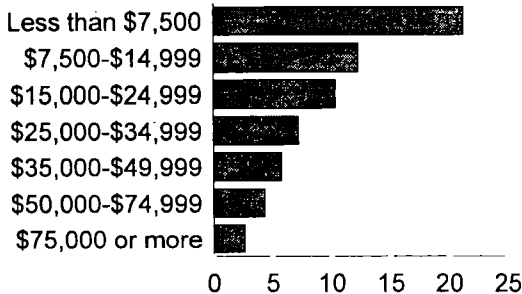
- Annual rates of intimate violence by age of female victims showed little change from 1992 to 1996.

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

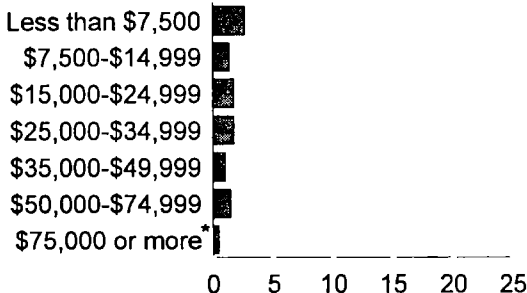
- The rate of intimate violence against women generally decreased as household income levels increased.

Females, 1992-96

Household income



Males, 1992-96



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

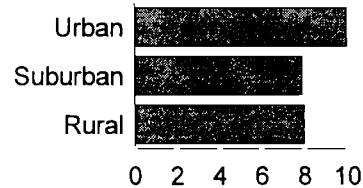
Note: Nonlethal violent victimizations are rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. Intimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

*Fewer than 10 sample cases.

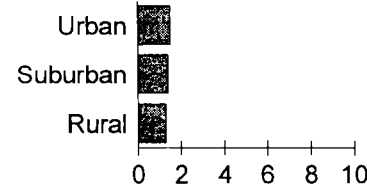
Urban women experienced a higher rate of nonlethal violence from an intimate than suburban and rural women.

- 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

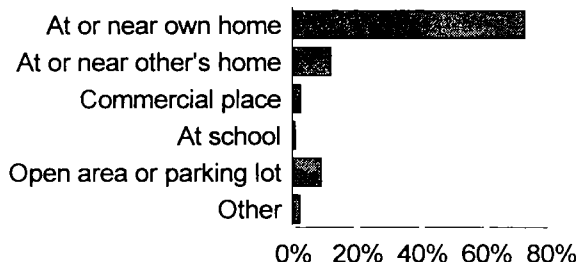
*Victims may report more than one type of threat.

Characteristics of violent victimizations by intimates

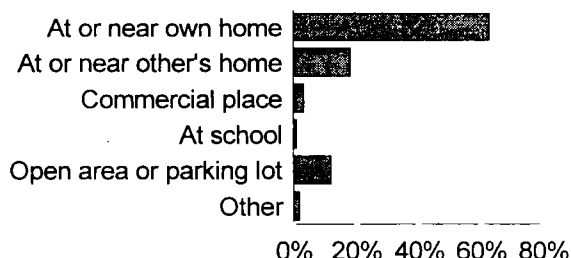
Three-quarters of the incidents of nonlethal intimate violence against women occur at or near the victim's home.

- 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.

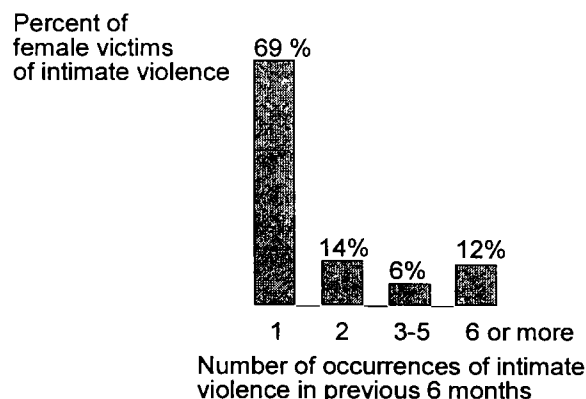
Percent of incidents of intimate violence against —
Female victims Male victims

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.



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.

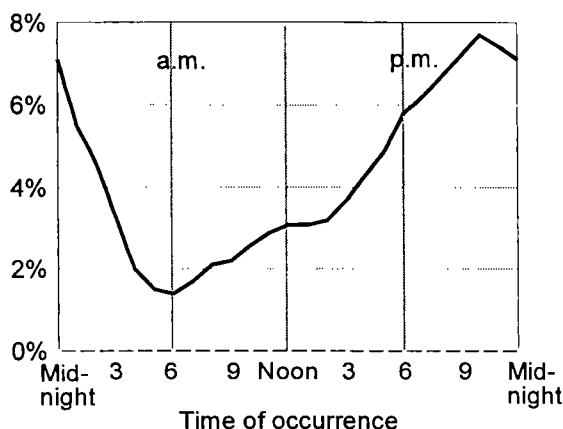
Percent of State prisoners convicted of crimes against intimates	
No children under age 18	36%
Children under age 18	64
Living with offender before prison	40%
Not living with offender	25

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.

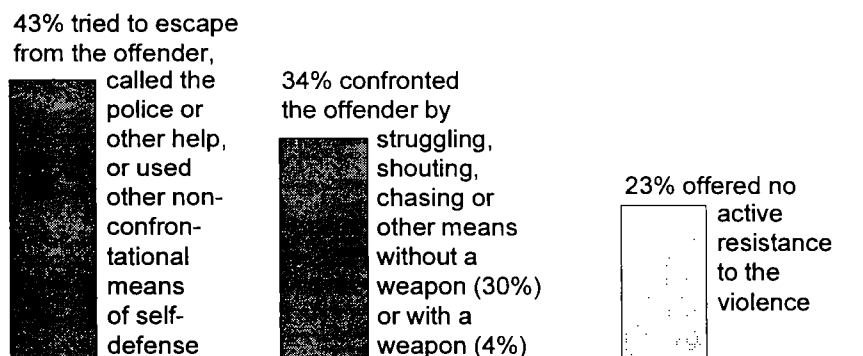
About 160,800 female victims of violence are estimated to receive services from a victim service agency each year.

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

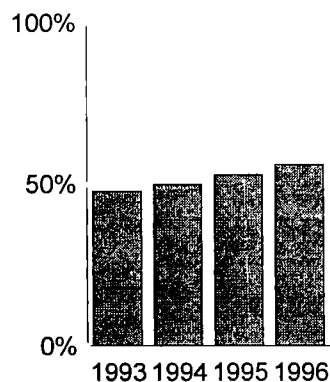
Responses to nonlethal intimate violence

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%

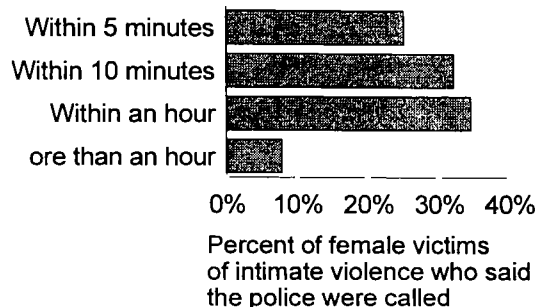
Actions taken by the police

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.

Police response time, according to the victims



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.

Type of expense or loss	Female victims of intimate violence, 1992-96		
	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

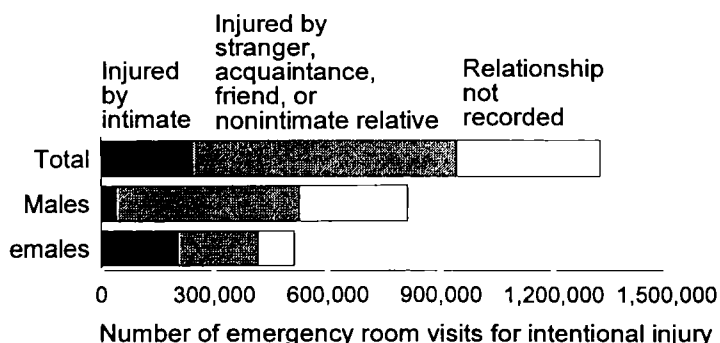
The National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, a data collection program in a national sample of hospital emergency departments, provides another source of information on intimate violence.

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.

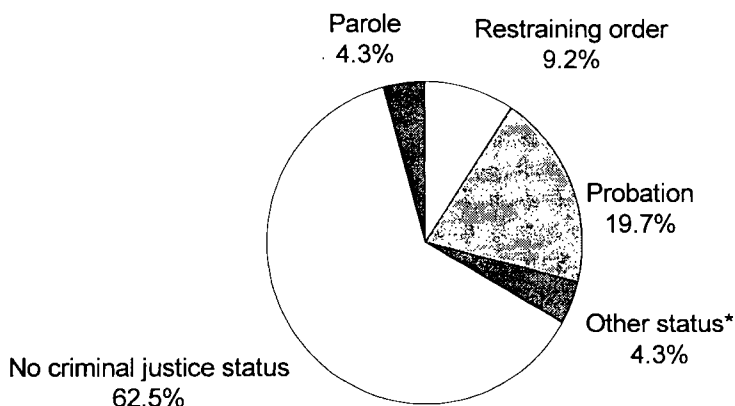
Convicted violent offenders in local jails 100%			
Intimate violence 23.6%	Other relatives violence 8.6%	Friend/acquaintance violence 25.9%	Stranger violence 41.9%
Homicide 4.7%	Homicide 2.0%	Homicide 8.6%	Homicide 7.5%
Rape/sexual assault 12.3%	Rape/sexual assault 52.4%	Rape/sexual assault 23.5%	Rape/sexual assault 3.6%
Robbery 2.4%	Robbery 3.7%	Robbery 14.1%	Robbery 46.8%
Assault 72.3%	Assault 34.4%	Assault 46.4%	Assault 36.6%

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.

Convicted intimate violent offenders in local jails 100%		
Previously placed under a restraining or protection order 50.9%		No history of restraining or protection orders 49.1%
Who was the victim of the intimate violence?	Who took out the restraining or protection order?	Who was the victim of the intimate violence?
Spouse 39.3%	Spouse 39.9%	Spouse 33.9%
Boyfriend, girlfriend, or ex-spouse 60.7%	Boyfriend, girlfriend, or ex-spouse 42.4%	Boyfriend, girlfriend, or ex-spouse 66.1%
	Other relatives or acquaintances 17.7%	

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.



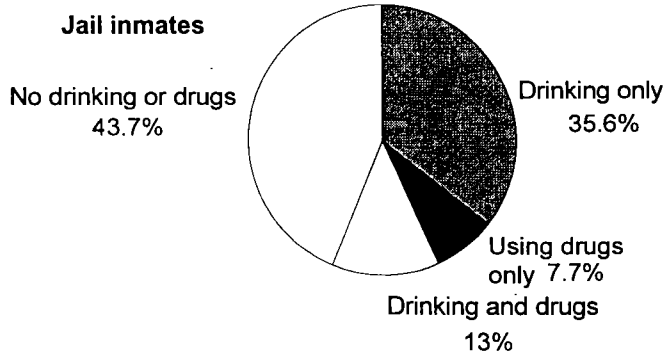
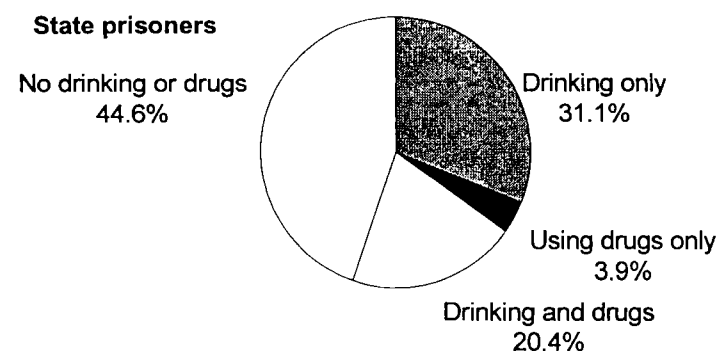
- Among those who were in jail for violence against an intimate and who had been on probation or parole when they committed their crime, about 1 in 4 also had a restraining order against them.

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.

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 —

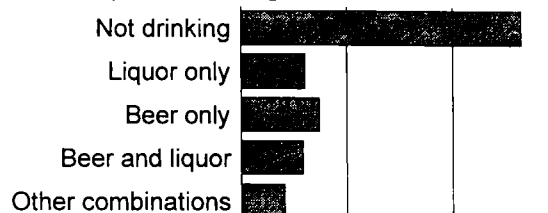
- about 4 in 10 reported consuming the equivalent of about one six-pack of beer before their crime.
- about 1 in 5 reported drinking the equivalent of two dozen or more beers before their crime.

Number of ounces of ethanol reported to have been consumed	Cumulative percent- age 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.

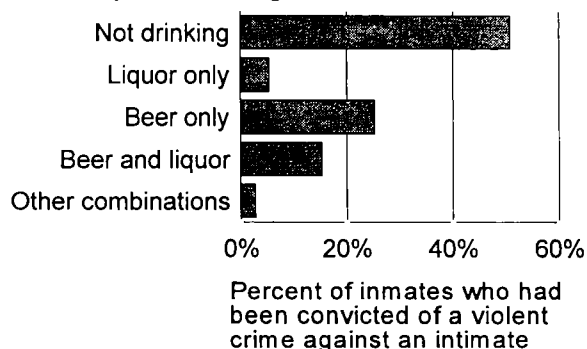
State prisoners

What they were drinking



Jail inmates

What they were drinking



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%	Homicide 16.7%	Homicide 33.8%	Homicide 24.0%
Rape/sexual assault 21.0%	Rape/sexual assault 66.0%	Rape/sexual assault 30.1%	Rape/sexual assault 8.2%
Robbery 2.8%	Robbery 1.9%	Robbery 13.5%	Robbery 48.5%
Assault 29.6%	Assault 10.0%	Assault 19.3%	Assault 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.

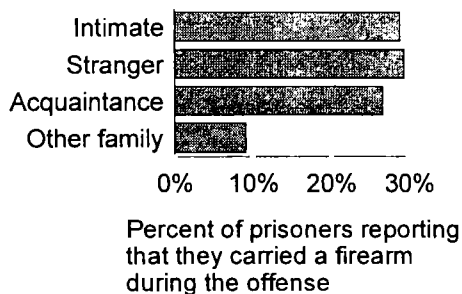
Characteristic of violent offenders in State prisons	When the victim was an intimate*	When the victim was not an intimate
Male	89.6%	96.8%
Female	10.4	3.2
White	46.8%	36.9%
Black	40.8	46.5
Hispanic	9.5	13.9
Other	2.9	2.6
Age 24 or younger	9.8%	19.5%
25-34	41.1	44.9
35 or older	49.1	35.6
8th grade or 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.

Single victim of violent
State prisoner



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

^aIntimates include current and former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

^bInjuries include broken bones, lost teeth, and being knocked unconscious.

- 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.

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	Victim's relation to the prisoner					
	All violent offenders	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
	Babysitter (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 (**SIVV**). 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	Spouse	Parent/
	Casual acquaintance	Ex-spouse	step-parent
	Well-known	Boyfriend/	Own child/
	Friend/ex-friend	ex-boyfriend	stepchild
	Other nonrelative	Girlfriend/	Sibling/stepsibling
		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

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



National Institute of Justice Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Research in Brief

November 1998



The findings from this second in a series of reports issued jointly by the National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention paint a picture of the violence against women as seen daily by emergency room, law enforcement, and court professionals.

Accurate information of the kind presented in this Research in Brief and in the full report contributes to our Nation's efforts to stop violence against women and alleviate the suffering of its victims, much of which occurs in the privacy of homes rather than in public.

This information will help the U.S. Department of Justice direct and evaluate efforts to work within the legal system to protect Americans and provide justice for those who violate the rights of others. This knowledge also will help the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services direct efforts toward preventing the physical injury and psychological abuse that results from violence. Ultimately, the knowledge gained from surveys like this one has the power to call the Nation's attention to how pervasive the problem is and how many women face dangers in our communities.

Jeremy Travis, Director
National Institute of Justice

Mark Rosenberg, Director
National Center for Injury
Prevention and Control, Centers
for Disease Control and Prevention

Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey

by Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes

Violence against women first came to be viewed as a serious social problem in the early 1970s, in part because of the re-emergence of the Women's Movement.¹ In unprecedented numbers, scholars trained in such diverse disciplines as philosophy, literature, law, and sociology began to examine violence against women in the context of a feminist ideology.² Despite the resulting outpouring of research on violence against women, particularly in the areas of rape and intimate partner violence, many gaps remain in our understanding of violence against women.³

Until now, empirical data on the relationship between certain types of violence against women, such as childhood victimization and subsequent adult victimization, have been limited. Reliable information on minority women's experiences with violence and on the consequences of violence against women, including rates of injury and use of medical services, is also limited.⁴

To further an understanding of violence against women, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) jointly sponsored—through a grant to the Center for Policy Research—a national telephone survey on violence against women, which

was conducted from November 1995 to May 1996. To provide a context in which to place women's experiences, the National Violence Against Women (NVAW) Survey sampled both women and men. Thus the survey provides comparable data on women's and men's experiences with violent victimization.

Respondents to the NVAW Survey were queried about:

- Physical assault they experienced as children by adult caretakers.
- Physical assault they experienced as adults by any type of perpetrator.
- Forcible rape or stalking they experienced at any time in their life by any type of perpetrator.

Respondents who disclosed victimization were asked detailed questions about the characteristics and consequences of their victimization, including injuries sustained and use of medical services (see "Survey Screening Questions," page 13 and "Survey Methodology," page 14).

Several features set the NVAW Survey apart from other victimization surveys:

- State-of-the-art techniques protected confidentiality and minimized the potential for retraumatizing victims of violence

Issues and Findings

Discussed in this Brief: Results of a nationally representative telephone survey of 8,000 women and 8,000 men about their experiences with rape, physical assault, and stalking cosponsored by the National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and conducted by the Center for Policy Research.

Key issues: This study provides empirical data on the prevalence and incidence of rape, physical assault, and stalking; the prevalence of male-to-female and female-to-male intimate partner violence; the prevalence of rape and physical assault among women of different racial and ethnic backgrounds; the rate of injury among rape and physical assault victims; and injured victims' use of medical services.

Key findings and policy implications:

Although the survey sampled both women and men, this report focuses on women's experiences with violence. Analysis of survey data produced the following results:

- Using a definition of physical assault that includes a range of behaviors, from slapping and hitting to using a gun, the survey found that physical assault is widespread among American women: 52 percent of surveyed women said they were physically assaulted as a child by an adult caretaker and/or as an adult by any type of perpetrator; 1.9 percent of surveyed women said they were physically assaulted in the previous 12 months. Based on these estimates, approximately 1.9 million women are physically assaulted annually in the United States. More research is needed to understand the relationship between physical assault experienced in childhood and physical assault experienced in adulthood.
- Using a definition of rape that includes forced vaginal, oral, and anal intercourse, the survey found that rape is a crime committed primarily against youth: 18 percent of women surveyed said they experienced a completed or attempted rape at some

time in their life and 0.3 percent said they experienced a completed or attempted rape in the previous 12 months. Of the women who reported being raped at some time in their lives, 22 percent were under 12 years old and 32 percent were 12 to 17 years old when they were first raped. Given these findings, research and intervention strategies should focus on rapes perpetrated against children and adolescents.

- Among women of different racial and ethnic backgrounds, the difference in the prevalence of reported rape and physical assault is statistically significant. American Indian/Alaska Native women were most likely to report rape and physical assault victimization, while Asian/Pacific Islander women were least likely to report rape and physical assault victimization. Hispanic women were less likely to report rape victimization than non-Hispanic women. More research is needed to determine how much of the difference can be explained by the respondent's willingness to report information to interviewers and how much by social, demographic, and environmental factors.
- Women experience significantly more partner violence than men do: 25 percent of surveyed women, compared with 8 percent of surveyed men, said they were raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or date in their lifetime; 1.5 percent of surveyed women and 0.9 percent of surveyed men said they were raped and/or physically assaulted by such a perpetrator in the previous 12 months. According to survey estimates, approximately 1.5 million women and 834,700 men are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the United States. Because women are also more likely to be injured by intimate partners, research aimed at understanding and preventing partner violence against women should be stressed.
- Violence against women is primarily partner violence: 76 percent of the women who

were raped and/or physically assaulted since age 18 were assaulted by a current or former husband, cohabiting partner, or date, compared with 18 percent of the men. It is therefore imperative that strategies for preventing violence against women should focus on ways of protecting women from risks posed by current and former intimates.

- Women are significantly more likely than men to be injured during an assault: 32 percent of the women and 16 percent of the men who were raped since age 18 were injured during their most recent rape; 39 percent of the women and 25 percent of the men who were physically assaulted since age 18 were injured during their most recent physical assault. About one in three women who were injured during a rape or physical assault required medical care. To better meet the medical needs of women who are victims of violence, medical professionals should receive comprehensive training on the physical consequences of violence against women and appropriate treatment strategies.
- Using a definition of stalking that requires the victim to feel a high level of fear, the survey found that stalking is more prevalent than previously thought: 8 percent of surveyed women and 2 percent of surveyed men said they were stalked at some time in their life; 1 percent of surveyed women and 0.4 percent of surveyed men said they were stalked in the previous 12 months. According to survey estimates, approximately 1 million women and 371,000 men are stalked annually in the United States. Given these findings, stalking should be considered a serious criminal justice and public health concern.

Target audience: Criminal justice and public health researchers and practitioners, legislators, policymakers, and intervention planners at all levels of government.

and jeopardizing the safety of respondents. In addition to lessening the possibility that respondents would be harmed by their participation in the survey, these techniques increased the quality of the information being gathered.

- Information about both the prevalence (lifetime and annual) and incidence of violence was gathered. Thus victimization estimates from the NVAW Survey can be compared with victimization estimates from a wide variety of other surveys.
- Behaviorally specific questions screened respondents for rape, physical assault, and stalking victimization. These questions were designed to leave little doubt in the respondents' minds as to the type of information being sought.
- Detailed information about the characteristics and consequences of victimization for each type of perpetrator identified by the respondents was gathered. While this approach created a very complicated data set, it also created the opportunity to track victimizations by the same perpetrator (e.g., the victim's first ex-husband).

This Research in Brief summarizes the survey's findings on the prevalence and incidence of rape, physical assault, and stalking; the rate of injury among rape and physical assault victims; and injured victims' use of medical services. Complete details about men's and women's experiences with stalking are contained in an earlier report. This Research in Brief therefore focuses primarily on rape and physical assault. The full report detailing the prevalence, incidence, and consequences of violence against women will be available through the CDC (see "Other Publications in the Series").

Rape: Prevalence and incidence

Using a definition of rape that includes forced vaginal, oral, and anal sex, the survey found that 1 of 6 U.S. women

and 1 of 33 U.S. men has experienced an attempted or completed rape as a child and/or an adult; specifically, 18 percent of surveyed women and 3 percent of surveyed men said they

experienced a completed or attempted rape at some time in their life (see exhibit 1). These findings are similar to findings from the National Health and Social Life Survey, which found that

Other Publications in the Series

To obtain other publications in the series from the National Violence Against Women Survey:

- *Stalking in America: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey*, Research in Brief, by Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, April 1998 (NCJ 169592).

Visit NIJ's Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij> or contact the

National Criminal Justice Service at P.O. Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000, (800) 851-3420 or (301) 519-5500, or send an e-mail message to askncjrs@ncjrs.org.

- *Final Report on Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women*, by Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes, Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, forthcoming 1998.

Learn about the availability of the *Final Report* and other CDC family and intimate violence prevention activities by visiting the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control's Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/fivpt>.

Additional reports in the series are forthcoming.

Exhibit 1: *Persons Raped or Physically Assaulted in Lifetime by Sex of Victim*

Type of Assault	Percentage		Number ^a	
	Women (n=8,000)	Men (n=8,000)	Women (100,697,000)	Men (92,748,000)
Total rape^b	17.6	3.0	17,722,672	2,782,440
Completed ^b	14.8	2.1	14,903,156	1,947,708
Attempted only ^b	2.8	0.9	2,819,516	834,732
Total physical assault^b	51.9	66.4	52,261,743	61,584,672
Threw something ^b	14.0	22.4	14,097,580	20,775,552
Pushed, grabbed, shoved ^b	30.6	43.5	30,813,282	40,345,380
Pulled hair	19.0	17.9	19,132,430	16,601,892
Slapped, hit ^b	43.0	53.7	43,299,710	49,805,676
Kicked, bit ^b	8.9	15.2	8,962,033	14,097,696
Choked, tried to drown ^b	7.7	3.9	7,753,669	3,617,172
Hit with object ^b	21.2	34.7	21,347,764	32,183,556
Beat up ^b	14.1	15.5	14,198,277	14,375,940
Threatened with gun ^b	6.2	13.1	6,243,214	12,149,988
Threatened with knife ^b	5.8	16.1	5,840,426	14,932,428
Used gun ^b	2.6	5.1	2,618,122	4,730,148
Used knife ^b	3.5	9.6	3,524,395	8,903,808
Rape and/or physical assault^b	55.0	66.8	55,383,350	61,955,664

a. Based on estimates of women and men in the United States aged 18 years and older, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, 1995.

b. Differences between women and men are statistically significant: p-value ≤ .001.

c. Differences between women and men are statistically significant: p-value ≤ .01.

Exhibit 2: Persons Raped or Physically Assaulted in Previous 12 Months by Sex of Victim

Type of Violence	Percentage		Number ^a	
	Women (n=8,000)	Men (n=8,000)	Women (100,697,000)	Men (92,748,000)
Rape ^b	0.3	0.1	302,091	92,748
Physical assault ^b	1.9	3.4	1,913,243	3,153,432
Rape and/or physical assault ^b	2.1	3.5	2,114,637	3,246,180

a. Based on estimates of men and women in the United States aged 18 and older, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, 1995.

b. Differences between men and women are statistically significant: p-value ≤ .001.

22 percent of surveyed women and 2 percent of surveyed men had been “forced to do something sexual” at some time in their lifetime.⁵

The survey also found that 0.3 percent of surveyed women and 0.1 percent of surveyed men said they experienced a completed or attempted rape in the previous 12 months.⁶ These estimates equate to approximately 302,100 women and 92,700 men who are forcibly raped each year in the United States (see exhibit 2).

Because some rape victims experienced more than one rape in the 12 months preceding the survey, the *incidence* of rape (number of separate victimizations) exceeded the *prevalence* of rape (number of rape victims). Specifically, women who were raped in the previous 12 months averaged 2.9 rapes, while men averaged 1.2 rapes. According to survey estimates, approximately 876,100 rapes were perpetrated against women and approximately 111,300 rapes were perpetrated against men in the United States during the 12 months preceding the survey (see exhibit 3).

The annual rape victimization estimates generated by the NVAW Survey are higher than comparable victimization estimates generated by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The NCVS estimates for 1994—the most

recent year for which estimates are available—are 432,100 rapes and sexual assaults of women age 12 and older and 32,900 rapes and sexual assaults of men age 12 and older.⁷ However, direct comparisons between the NVAW Survey and the NCVS are difficult to make. Estimates reported by the two surveys refer to somewhat different populations and sexual victimizations. Moreover, the two surveys differ substantially with respect to other methodological issues.

Specifically, the NVAW Survey estimates include victimizations against persons age 18 and older, while the NCVS estimates include victimizations against persons 12 years of age and older. The NVAW Survey estimate for forcible rape is being compared to an NCVS estimate that includes rape and

other forms of sexual assault, such as grabbing, fondling, and verbal threats of a sexual nature.

In addition, the screening questions used by the two surveys differ substantially. The NVAW Survey uses five questions to screen respondents for rape victimization, while the NCVS uses only two questions.⁸ Although empirical data on this issue are limited, some researchers assume that increasing the number of screening questions increases disclosure rates.⁹ Furthermore, the NVAW Survey screening questions are more explicit than those used by the NCVS.¹⁰

Moreover, published NCVS estimates count series victimizations—reports of six or more crimes within a 6-month period for which the respondent cannot recall details of each crime—as a single victimization. Thus, published NCVS estimates of the number of rape and sexual assault victimizations are lower than would be obtained by including all incidents reported to its survey interviewers. To produce NCVS estimates for direct comparison with the NVAW Survey estimates, each crime in a series of victimizations reported to the NCVS interviewers would have to be counted separately.

Finally, the sampling errors associated with the estimates from the NVAW

Exhibit 3: Number of Rapes and Physical Assaults Perpetrated in Previous 12 Months by Sex of Victim

Type of Violence	Number of Victims	Average Number of Victimization per Victim ^a	Total Number of Victimization
Women			
Rape	302,091	2.9	876,064
Physical assault	1,913,243	3.1	5,931,053
Men			
Rape	92,748	1.2	111,298
Physical assault	3,153,432	2.5	7,883,580

a. The standard error of the mean for each estimate in this column is 1.431, 0.167, 0.539, 0.225, respectively.

Exhibit 4: *Women Raped or Physically Assaulted in Lifetime by Race/Ethnicity of Victim*

	Women Raped or Physically Assaulted in Lifetime (%)					
	Total	White	African-	Asian/	American	Mixed
	(n=7,850)	(n=6,452)	American (n=780)	Pacific Islander (n=133)	Indian/ Alaska Native (n=88)	Race (n=397)
Rape ^a	18.2	17.7	18.8	6.8	34.1	24.4
Physical assault ^b	51.8	51.3	52.1	49.6	61.4	57.7
Rape and/or physical assault ^b	55.0	54.5	55.1	51.9	64.8	61.2

a. Differences between racial/ethnic groups are statistically significant: p-value $\leq .001$.

b. Differences between racial/ethnic groups are statistically significant: p-value $\leq .05$.

Survey and the NCVS would have to be compared. This is important given the relatively high margin of error associated with NVAW Survey estimates of the average number of rape victimizations experienced by male and female victims (see footnote in exhibit 3). Comparisons of sampling errors would help determine whether the estimates are actually different or whether apparent differences are not statistically significant.

A study now under way and funded by NIJ, BJS, and CDC will provide more comprehensive information about the differences between the two surveys, including error ranges for the estimates. Using data from the two surveys, the study is calculating estimates using the same counting rules and the same age populations. The results of this detailed comparison will be published in early 1999.

Physical assault: Prevalence and incidence

The NVAW Survey used a modified version of the Conflict Tactics Scale¹¹ to query respondents about a variety of physical assaults they may have suffered. Responses revealed that physical assault is widespread in American society: 52 percent of surveyed women and 66 percent of

surveyed men said they were physically assaulted as a child by an adult caretaker and/or as an adult by any type of perpetrator.

For both women and men, the most frequently reported physical assault was slapping and hitting, followed by pushing, grabbing, shoving, and hitting with an object. Relatively few respondents reported that an adult caretaker or other adult pulled their hair or threw something at them that could hurt. Still fewer reported that an adult caretaker or other adult choked or almost drowned them, kicked or bit them, beat them up, threatened them with a gun or knife, or used a gun or knife on them (see exhibit 1).

The NVAW Survey also found that 1.9 percent of surveyed women and 3.4 percent of surveyed men said they were physically assaulted in the previous 12 months. These estimates equate to approximately 1.9 million women and 3.2 million men who are physically assaulted annually in the United States (see exhibit 2). Female victims averaged 3.1 assaults and male victims averaged 2.5 assaults per year, which equate to approximately 5.9 million physical assaults perpetrated against women and 7.9 million physical assaults perpetrated against men in the 12 months preceding the survey (see

exhibit 3). These estimates probably underestimate the number of physical assaults perpetrated against women and men annually because the NVAW Survey categorized victimizations involving both rape and physical assault only as rapes.

The NVAW Survey estimates of annual physical assaults are greater than the NCVS estimates. The NCVS estimate for 1994 is 4.1 million aggravated and simple assaults of women age 12 and older and 5.7 million aggravated and simple assaults of men age 12 and older.¹² Comparisons between the NVAW Survey and NCVS estimates of physical assault are confounded by the same methodological differences discussed earlier and are being addressed in ongoing research funded by NIJ, BJS, and CDC that is comprehensively reviewing the two surveys' estimates for physical violence.

The risk of violence varies among minority women

The survey found that American Indian/Alaska Native women were significantly more likely to disclose rape and physical assault victimization than women of other racial/ethnic backgrounds, while Asian/Pacific Islander women were significantly less likely to report rape and physical assault victimization (see exhibit 4).

These findings must be viewed with caution, however, given the relatively small numbers of American Indian/Alaska Native and Asian/Pacific Islander women included in the sample. Because information on violence against American Indian/Alaska Native women is limited, it is difficult to explain why they report more rape and physical assault victimization. A previous study found that Native-American couples were significantly more violent than their white counterparts.¹³ Another study found that the overall homicide rates for Native Americans were approximately two

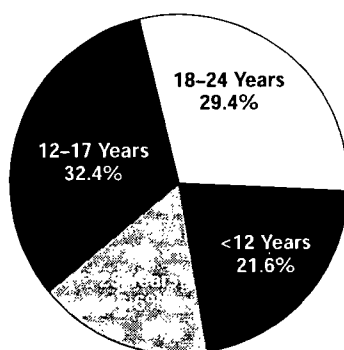
Exhibit 5: Women Raped or Physically Assaulted in Lifetime by Hispanic/Non-Hispanic Origin of Victim

Women Raped or Physically Assaulted in Lifetime (%)			
	Total (n=7,945)	Hispanic ^a (n=628)	Non-Hispanic (n=7,317)
Rape ^b	18.1	14.6	18.4
Physical assault	51.9	53.2	51.8
Rape and/or physical assault	55.1	54.9	55.1

a. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

b. Differences between Hispanics and non-Hispanics are statistically significant: $p\text{-value} \leq .05$.

Exhibit 6: Women Victims' Age at Time of First Rape^a



a. $n = 1,323$ women victims.

times greater than U.S. national rates.¹⁴ Information from this study published elsewhere shows that Native-American women report significantly more stalking victimization than do women of other racial/ethnic backgrounds.¹⁵ Thus there is some evidence that Native Americans are at significantly greater risk of violence than other Americans.

How much of the difference in rape and physical assault prevalence can be explained by differences in willingness to report victimization to interviewers and how much can be explained by actual victimization experiences is unclear and requires further study. Research is also needed to ascertain how social, environmental,

and demographic factors intersect with race and ethnicity to produce differences in rape and physical assault prevalence. Finally, research is needed to determine whether victimization rates vary significantly among women of diverse American Indian tribes and Alaska Native communities.

Because information is also lacking on violence against Asian/Pacific Islander women, it is unclear why they report less rape and physical assault victimization. Information from focus groups and nonrandom samples of Asian-American women suggests that intimate partner violence is a major concern among these women.¹⁶ However, there are no accurate estimates of intimate partner violence among Asian-American or Pacific Islander women, and the differences between Asian-American and Pacific Islander women in rape and physical assault prevalence also may be significant. Such differences, however, cannot be discerned from the NVAW Survey because data on these two groups were combined. Clearly, more research is needed on violence against Asian-American and Pacific Islander women.

The survey found that Hispanic women were less likely to report rape victimization than were non-Hispanic women (see exhibit 5). Previous studies comparing violence prevalence among Hispanic and non-Hispanic women

have produced contradictory conclusions;¹⁷ hence, findings from the NVAW Survey neither confirm nor contradict earlier findings.

Rape is primarily a crime against youth

It has been previously reported that rape in America is a "tragedy of youth" because the majority of rapes occurs against children and adolescents.¹⁸ Results from the survey support this assertion: More than half (54 percent) of the female rape victims identified by the survey were under 18 years old when they experienced their first rape (see exhibit 6). Of the women disclosing rape, 22 percent were under 12 years old when they experienced their first rape, while 32 percent were 12 to 17 years old.

Several authors have reported that women who are sexually assaulted as children and adolescents are at greater risk of being sexually assaulted as adults.¹⁹ Results from the NVAW Survey provide further evidence of the link between sexual assault as a minor and subsequent sexual assault as an adult: 18 percent of the women who reported being raped before age 18 said they were also raped after the age of 18, compared with 9 percent of the women who did not report being raped before the age of 18.

Women experience more partner violence than men do

The NVAW survey found that women are significantly more likely to be assaulted by an intimate partner than men are. Twenty-five percent of surveyed women, compared with 8 percent of surveyed men, said they were raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or date at some time in their life; 1.5 percent of all surveyed women compared with 0.9 percent of all surveyed men said they were raped

Exhibit 7: Persons Raped or Physically Assaulted by an Intimate Partner in Lifetime and in Previous 12 Months by Sex of Victim

Type of Violence	In Lifetime ^a			
	Percentage		Number ^b	
	Women (n=8,000)	Men (n=8,000)	Women (100,697,000)	Men (92,748,000)
Rape ^c	7.7	0.3	7,753,669	278,244
Physical assault ^c	22.1	7.4	22,254,037	6,863,352
Rape and/or physical assault ^c	24.8	7.6	24,972,856	7,048,848

Type of Violence	In Previous 12 Months ^a			
	Percentage		Number ^b	
	Women (n=8,000)	Men (n=8,000)	Women (100,697,000)	Men (92,748,000)
Rape ^c	0.2	—	201,394	—
Physical assault ^c	1.3	0.9	1,309,061	834,732
Rape and/or physical assault ^c	1.5	0.9	1,510,455	834,732

- a. Intimate partner includes current and former spouses, opposite-sex cohabiting partners, same-sex cohabiting partners, dates, and boyfriends/girlfriends.
- b. Based on estimates of men and women in the United States aged 18 years and older, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, 1995.
- c. Differences between women and men are statistically significant: p-value $\leq .001$.
- d. Differences between women and men are statistically significant: p-value $\leq .05$.
- e. The number of men rape victims was insufficient to reliably calculate prevalence estimates.

Exhibit 8: Percentage of Persons Physically Assaulted by an Intimate Partner in Lifetime by Type of Assault and Sex of Victim^a

Type of Assault	Women (n=8,000)	Men (n=8,000)
Total physical assault by intimate partner^b	22.1	7.4
Threw something ^b	8.1	4.4
Pushed, grabbed, shoved ^b	18.1	5.4
Pulled hair ^b	9.1	2.3
Slapped, hit ^b	16.0	5.5
Kicked, bit ^b	5.5	2.6
Choked, tried to drown ^b	6.1	0.5
Hit with object ^b	5.0	3.2
Beat up ^b	8.5	0.6
Threatened with gun ^b	3.5	0.4
Threatened with knife ^b	2.8	1.6
Used gun ^b	0.7	0.1
Used knife	0.9	0.8

- a. Intimate partner includes current or former spouses, opposite-sex cohabiting partners, same-sex cohabiting partners, dates, and boyfriends/girlfriends.
- b. Differences between women and men are statistically significant: p-value $\leq .001$.

and/or physically assaulted by such a partner in the previous 12 months. Based on U.S. Census estimates of the number of women and men in the country, these findings equate to approximately 1.5 million women and 834,700 men who are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the United States (see exhibit 7).

Results from the survey show that most physical assaults perpetrated against women by intimate partners consist of pushing, grabbing, shoving, slapping, and hitting. Fewer women reported that an intimate partner threw something at them that could hurt, pulled their hair, kicked or bit them, hit them with an object, or beat them up. Relatively few reported that an intimate partner threatened them with a knife or gun. Only a negligible number reported that an intimate partner actually used a knife or gun on them (see exhibit 8).

It is important to note that differences between women's and men's rates of physical assault by an intimate partner become greater as the seriousness of the assault increases. For example, women were two to three times more likely than men to report that an intimate partner threw something that could hurt or pushed, grabbed, or shoved them. However, they were 7 to 14 times more likely to report that an intimate partner beat them up, choked or tried to drown them, threatened them with a gun, or actually used a gun on them (see exhibit 8).

The NVAW Survey finding that women are significantly more likely than men to be victimized by intimate partners contradicts findings from some previous national surveys that found men and women to be at nearly equal risk of physical assault by an intimate partner.²⁰ The finding, however, supports data from the NCVS, which have consistently shown women to be at greater risk of intimate partner violence.²¹

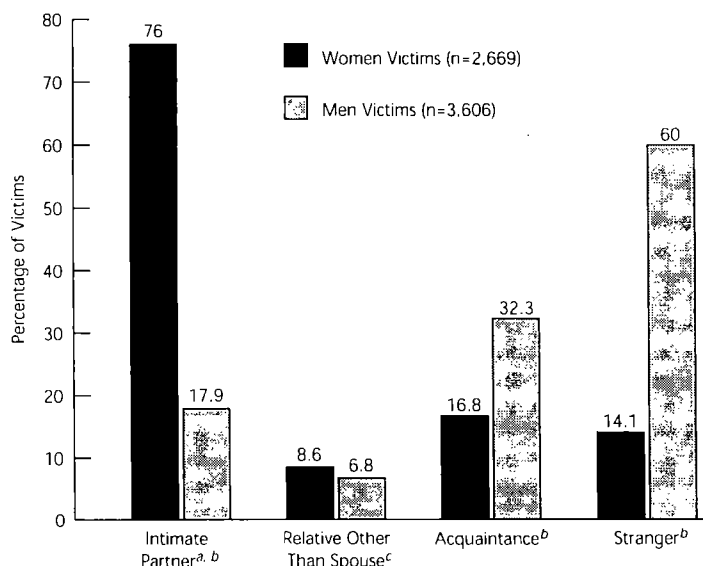
Violence against women is primarily partner violence. The survey confirms previous reports that U.S. women are primarily raped and/or physically assaulted by intimate partners.²² 76 percent of the women who were raped and/or physically assaulted since the age of 18 were assaulted by a current or former husband, cohabiting partner, or date; 17 percent were victimized by an acquaintance, such as a friend, neighbor, or coworker; 14 percent were victimized by a stranger; and 9 percent were victimized by a relative other than a husband (see exhibit 9). By comparison, the survey found that U.S. men are primarily raped and physically assaulted by strangers and acquaintances, not intimate partners.

Violence against women is primarily male violence. The survey also found that most violence perpetrated against adults is perpetrated by males: 93 percent of the women and 86 percent of the men who were raped and/or physically assaulted since the age of 18 were assaulted by a male. In comparison only 11 percent of these women and 23 percent of these men were assaulted by a female (see exhibit 10). Given these findings, adult violence prevention strategies should focus primarily on the risks posed by male perpetrators.

Rate of injury among rape and physical assault victims

To generate information on violence-related injuries, respondents disclosing rape and physical assault were asked whether they were injured during their most recent victimization. The survey found that women who were raped since age 18 were nearly twice as likely as their male counterparts to report an injury other than the rape itself (32 and 16 percent, respectively) (see exhibit 11). Similarly, women who were physically assaulted since age 18 were significantly more likely than

Exhibit 9: Distribution of Adult Rape and Physical Assault Victims by Victim-Perpetrator Relationship and Sex of Victim



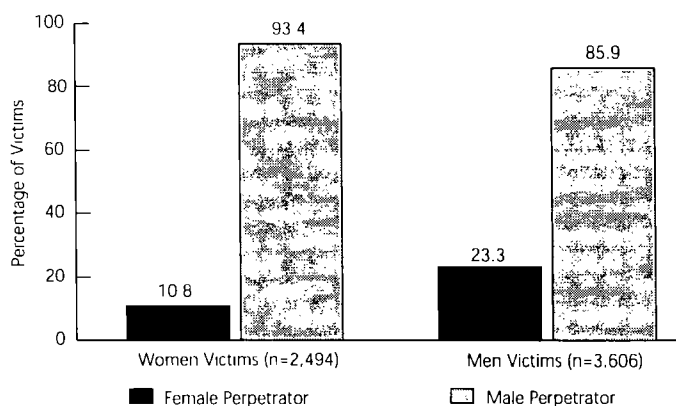
a. Intimate partner includes current and former spouses, same-sex cohabitating partners, opposite-sex cohabitating partners, dates, and boyfriends/girlfriends.

b. Differences between women and men are statistically significant: p-value ≤ .001.

c. Differences between women and men are statistically significant: p-value ≤ .01.

Note: Total percentages by sex of victim exceed 100 because some victims had multiple perpetrators.

Exhibit 10: Distribution of Adult Rape and Physical Assault Victims by Sex of Perpetrator and Sex of Victim



Note: Total percentages by sex of victim exceed 100 because some victims had multiple perpetrators.

Exhibit 11: Distribution of Adult Rape and Physical Assault Victims by Injury, Type of Medical Care Received, and Sex of Victim^a

Injury/Medical Care	Rape Victims (%)		Physical Assault Victims (%)	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Was victim injured?	(n=734)	(n=62)	(n=1,862)	(n=2,972)
Yes	31.5 ^c	16.1	39.0 ^c	24.8
No	68.5	83.9	61.0	75.2
Did injured victim receive medical care? ^d	(n=236)	— ^b	(n=722)	(n=736)
Yes	35.6	— ^b	30.2	37.1
No	64.4	— ^b	69.8	62.9
Type of medical care received ^e	(n=84)	— ^b	(n=218)	(n=306)
Hospital	81.9	— ^b	76.1	85.7
Physician	54.8	— ^b	52.8	42.1
Dental	16.9	— ^b	9.6	10.6
Ambulance/paramedic	19.0	— ^b	17.5	23.5
Physical therapy	16.7	— ^b	9.2	12.8
Type of hospital care received ^f	(n=68)	— ^b	(n=166)	(n=234)
Emergency room	50.0	— ^b	61.4	66.7
Outpatient	36.8	— ^b	22.3	22.6
Overnight	13.2	— ^b	15.1	10.3

- a. Estimates are based on the most recent victimization since the age of 18.
b. The number of men rape victims was insufficient to reliably calculate medical utilization estimates.
c. Differences between women and men are statistically significant: p-value ≤ .001.
d. Estimates are based on responses from victims who were injured.
e. Estimates are based on responses from victims who received medical care.
f. Estimates are based on responses from victims who received hospital care.

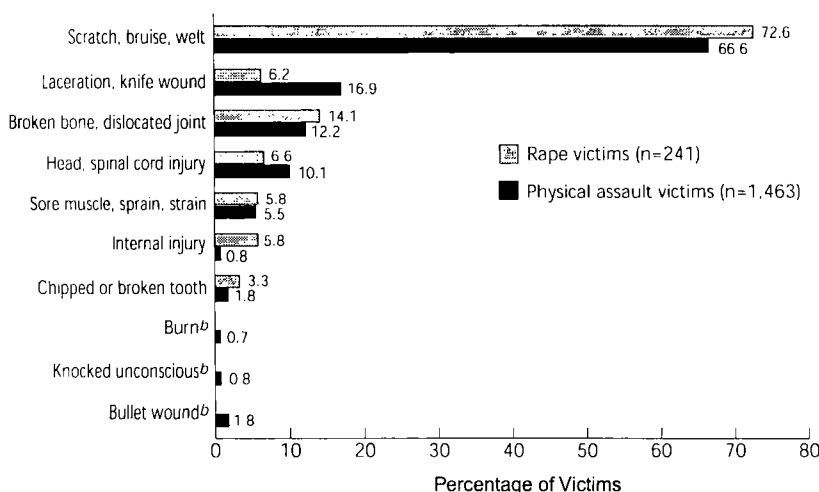
Note: Total percentages for type of medical and hospital care received exceed 100 because some victims had multiple forms of medical/hospital care.

their male counterparts to report that they were injured during their most recent physical assault (39 and 25 percent, respectively). When only physical assaults by intimates are considered, the difference between injury rates for women and men is even greater (41 and 19 percent, respectively).

Most of the adult rape and physical assault victims (both men and women) who reported being injured sustained relatively minor injuries, such as scratches, bruises, and welts. Relatively few sustained more serious types of injuries, such as broken bones, dislocated joints, concussions, lacerations, or bullet wounds (see exhibit 12).

Victims' use of medical services. The survey found that 36 percent of the women injured during their most recent rape since age 18 and 30 percent of the women injured during their most recent physical assault since age 18 received some type of medical treatment (e.g., ambulance/paramedic services, treatment in a hospital emergency department, physical therapy) (see exhibit 11). Some medically treated victims received more than one type of medical treatment (e.g., hospitalization as well as outpatient physical therapy). Others received one type of medical treatment more than once—for example, three nights in the hospital or 10 physical therapy sessions. Hence, the annual number of medical treatments provided to rape and physical assault victims exceeds the annual number of rapes and physical assaults that resulted in treatment.

Exhibit 12: Percentage of Injured Adult Rape and Physical Assault Victims Who Sustained Specific Types of Injuries: Men and Women Combined^a



- a. Estimates are based on the most recent victimization since the age of 18.
b. The number of rape victims was insufficient to reliably calculate injury estimates.

Exhibit 13 provides estimates of the average number of nights spent in the hospital or the average number of visits made to specific medical providers by rape and physical assault victims. These estimates are based on responses from victims who received the specific type of medical care considered. For example, the estimate of the average number of nights spent in the hospital by female rape victims (3.6) is based

only on responses by female rape victims who were treated in a hospital on an inpatient basis. It should be noted that some of these average frequency estimates have a relatively high margin of error (see footnotes c through e in exhibit 13) and should be viewed with caution.

Exhibit 14 presents estimates of the number of female rapes and physical assaults resulting in injuries annually, as well as estimates of the number of specific types of medical treatment to these victims annually. It is important to note that because women are primarily raped and physically assaulted by intimate partners, the injury and medical utilization estimates for women presented in exhibits 13 and 14 pertain mostly to rapes and physical assaults perpetrated by current and former husbands, cohabiting partners, dates, and boyfriends. Because men are primarily raped and physically assaulted by male strangers and acquaintances, the injury and medical utilization estimates for men pertain primarily to violence perpetrated by men other than intimate partners.

According to estimates generated by the NVAW Survey, hospital emergency department personnel treated approximately 1.3 million adults for injuries related to rapes and physical assaults in the 12 months preceding the survey (128,700 female rape victims, 546,900 female physical assault victims, and 588,300 male physical assault victims). This figure is somewhat lower than an estimate generated from the Study of Injured Victims of Violence (SIVV), a hospital record-extraction study conducted for the Bureau of Justice Statistics by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The SIVV found that during 1994, hospital emergency department personnel treated an estimated 1.4 million people for injuries from confirmed or suspected interpersonal violence.²³

Included in the SIVV estimate (but excluded from the NVAW Survey estimate) are hospital emergency department treatments to victims of all ages (including children and adolescents), victims of suspected interpersonal violence, male rape victims, and male and female sexual assault and robbery

victims. Because these groups were excluded from the NVAW Survey estimate, it is not surprising that it is lower than the SIVV estimate of 1.4 million.

Stalking is a significant social problem

Using a definition of stalking that requires victims to feel a high level of fear, the survey found that stalking is much more prevalent than previously thought: 8 percent of surveyed women and 2 percent of surveyed men said they were stalked at some time in their life; 1 percent of surveyed women and 0.4 percent of surveyed men said they were stalked in the previous 12 months. Based on U.S. Census estimates of the number of women and men in the country, these findings equate to approximately 1 million women and 371,000 men who are stalked annually in the United States (see exhibit 15).

If a less stringent definition of stalking is used, one requiring victims to feel only somewhat frightened or a little frightened of their assailant's behavior, the lifetime stalking prevalence rate increases from 8 to 12 percent for women and from 2 to 4 percent for men; the annual stalking prevalence rate increases from 1 to 6 percent for women and from 0.4 to 1.5 percent for men. Based on these higher prevalence rates, approximately 12.1 million women and 3.7 million men are stalked at some time in their life, and an estimated 6 million women and 1.4 million men are stalked annually.

Stalking prevalence estimates generated by the NVAW Survey are higher than previous nonscientific stalking estimates. In 1992, when asked by a reporter to estimate the extent of stalking in America, forensic psychiatrist Park Dietz guessed that 5 percent of U.S. women are stalked at some time in their lifetime and 200,000 U.S. women are stalked annually.²⁴ The NVAW Survey estimate that 8 percent

Exhibit 13: Average Number of Visits/Overnights in Hospital for Rape and Physical Assault Victims by Type of Medical Care and Sex of Victim^a

Type of Medical Care	Rape Victims ^b	Physical Assault Victims	
	Women ^c	Women ^d	Men ^e
Emergency room	3.2	1.7	1.4
Outpatient	2.2	5.0	2.8
Overnight in hospital	3.6	8.5	13.3
Physician visit	4.8	3.3	7.2
Dental visit	5.0	3.8	5.7
Ambulance/paramedic visit	1.2	1.1	1.0
Physical therapy visit	13.0	18.5	10.8

a. Estimates are based on the most recent victimization since the age of 18.

b. The number of men rape victims was insufficient to reliably calculate medical utilization estimates.

c. The standard error of the mean for each estimate in this column is 1.539, 0.433, 1.049, 0.889, 1.995, 0.145, and 4.273, respectively.

d. The standard error of the mean for each estimate in this column is 0.2, 2.011, 3.365, 0.454, 1.016, 0.07, and 7.61, respectively.

e. The standard error of the mean for each estimate in this column is 0.132, 0.789, 3.0, 1.252, 1.6, 0.023, and 2.475, respectively.

Note: Estimates are based on responses from victims who received the specific type of care considered.

of women have been stalked at some time in their life is nearly two times greater than Dietz's earlier guess, and the survey's estimate that 1 million women are stalked annually is five times greater than Dietz's earlier guess. Given the high rate of stalking victimization uncovered by the NVAW Survey, it is imperative that stalking be treated as a legitimate criminal justice problem and public concern.

Policy implications

The NVAW Survey provides compelling data on the prevalence, incidence, and physical consequences of violence against women, as well as victims' utilization of medical services. Information presented in this report can help inform policy and intervention directed at violence against women. Based on findings from the survey, the authors conclude the following:

1. Violence against women should be treated as a significant social problem. The survey data validate opinions held by many professionals about the pervasiveness of violence against women. More than half the surveyed women reported being physically assaulted as a child by an adult caretaker and/or as an adult by another adult, and nearly one-fifth reported being raped at some time in their lives. Further, 2 percent of the surveyed women reported being raped, physically assaulted, or both in the 12 months preceding the survey. This equates to an estimated 2.1 million U.S. women who are raped and/or physically assaulted annually. Because some rape and physical assault victims experience multiple victimizations per year, an estimated 876,000 rapes and 5.9 million physical assaults are perpetrated against U.S. women annually (see exhibit 14). Given the pervasiveness of rape and physical assault among American women, it is imperative that violence against women be treated as a major criminal justice and public health concern.

2. Rape should be viewed as a crime committed primarily against youth. The survey confirms previous reports that most rape victims are children or adolescents. Eighteen percent of surveyed women reported being the victim of a completed or attempted rape

at some time in their lives. Of these, more than half (54 percent) were raped before the age of 18. The survey also found that women who are raped before the age of 18 are significantly more likely to be raped as adults. Given these findings, rape prevention strategies

Exhibit 14: Average Annual Injury and Care Utilization Estimates for Adult Rape and Physical Assault Victims by Sex of Victim

	Estimated Number of Victimization ^a per Year		
	Rape Victims ^a	Physical Assault Victims	
	Women	Women	Men
Victimization	876,064	5,931,053	7,883,580
Victimization with injury	275,960	2,313,111	1,970,895
Victimization with injury receiving medical treatment	98,242	693,933	729,231
Victimization treated medically with:			
Hospital care	80,460	527,389	627,139
Physician care	53,837	367,784	306,277
Dental care	16,603	69,393	80,215
Ambulance/paramedic care	18,666	124,908	175,015
Physical therapy	16,406	62,454	94,800
Victimization treated in the hospital with:			
Emergency room care	40,230	321,707	420,183
Outpatient care	29,609	116,026	144,242
Inpatient care	10,621	79,108	62,714
Visit/Overnight			
Emergency room visit	128,736	546,902	588,256
Outpatient visit	65,140	580,130	403,878
Overnight in hospital	144,828	672,418	834,096
Physician visit	258,418	1,213,687	2,205,194
Dental visit	83,015	263,694	457,226
Ambulance/paramedic visit	22,399	137,399	175,015
Physical therapy visit	213,278	1,155,399	1,023,840

a. The number of men rape victims was insufficient to reliably calculate medical utilization estimates.

Exhibit 15: Persons Stalked in Lifetime and in Previous 12 Months by Sex of Victim

	Percentage		Number ^a	
	Women (n=8,000)	Men (n=8,000)	Women (100,697,000)	Men (92,748,000)
Stalked in lifetime ^b	8.1	2.2	8,156,460	2,040,460
Stalked in previous 12 months ^b	1.0	0.4	1,006,970	370,990

a. Based on estimates of men and women in the United States aged 18 years and older, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, 1995.

b. Differences between women and men are statistically significant: p-value ≤ .001.

should focus on rapes perpetrated against minors, and rape research should focus on the long-term effects of rape occurring at an early age.

3. Studies are needed to determine why the prevalence of rape and physical assault varies significantly among women of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

The survey found that American Indian/Alaska Native women were most likely to report rape and physical assault victimization, while Asian/Pacific Islander women were least likely to report rape and physical assault victimization. The survey also found that Hispanic women were less likely to report rape victimization than non-Hispanic women.

It is unclear from the survey data whether the differences in prevalence rates among women of different racial and ethnic groups are caused by differences in reporting practices or differences in actual victimization experiences. It is also unclear how social, environmental, and demographic factors intersect with race and ethnicity to produce differences in rape and physical assault prevalence among women of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. Thus more research is needed to establish the degree of variance in prevalence among women of different racial and ethnic groups and to determine how much of the variance may be explained by differences in willingness to disclose information and how much by social, environmental, and demographic factors. Research is also needed to determine whether differences exist in rape and physical assault prevalence among women of diverse Asian/Pacific Islander groups, American Indian tribes, and Alaska Native communities.

4. Women are at greater risk of partner violence than men. The survey found that women were significantly more likely than men to report being raped and physically assaulted by a current or former intimate partner, whether the timeframe considered was the person's lifetime or the 12 months preceding the survey. Moreover, women who were raped or physically assaulted by a current or former intimate partner were significantly more likely to sustain injuries than men who were raped or physically assaulted by a current or former intimate partner. Given these findings, intimate partner violence should be considered first and foremost a crime against women.

5. Violence against women is predominantly partner violence.

Data from the survey confirm previous reports that violence against women is predominantly intimate partner violence. Of the women who reported being raped and/or physically assaulted since the age of 18, three-quarters (76 percent) were victimized by a current or former husband, cohabiting partner, date, or boyfriend. Given these findings, violence-against-women intervention strategies should focus on the risks posed to women by current and former husbands, cohabiting partners, dates, and boyfriends.

6. America's medical community should receive comprehensive training about the medical needs of female victims of crime. The injury and medical utilization data generated by the NVAW Survey provide compelling evidence of the physical and social costs associated with violence against women.

The survey found that in about one-third of all rapes and physical assaults perpetrated against women, the victim

sustains an injury. Further, in about one-third of all such injury victimizations, the victim receives some type of medical care (e.g., paramedic care, emergency room treatment, dental care, or physical therapy). Thus, of the estimated 6.8 million rapes and physical assaults perpetrated against U.S. women annually, 2.6 million will result in an injury to the victim and 792,200 will result in the victim receiving some type of medical care. Because many rape and physical assault victims receive multiple forms of care for the same injury victimization, medical personnel in the United States treat literally millions of rape and physical assault victimizations annually.

Given the high number of injury victimizations perpetrated against women annually and the extensiveness of medical treatment to female victims of violence, it is imperative that medical professionals receive information about the physical consequences of violence against women and the medical needs of female victims.

7. Stalking should be treated as a significant social problem. Using a definition of stalking that requires victims to feel a high level of fear, the survey found that stalking is more widespread than previously thought. Eight percent of women and 2 percent of men reported being stalked at some time in their lives, and 1 percent of women and 0.4 percent of men reported being stalked in the 12 months preceding the survey. Thus an estimated 1.4 million people are stalked annually in the United States. Given the high number of stalking victims, it is important that stalking be treated as a legitimate criminal justice and public health concern.

Rape Screening Questions

Rape was defined as an event that occurred without the victim's consent, that involved the use or threat of force to penetrate the victim's vagina or anus by penis, tongue, fingers, or object, or the victim's mouth by penis. The definition included both attempted and completed rape. The following questions were used to screen respondents for rape victimization:¹

- *[Female respondents only] Has a man or boy ever made you have sex by using force or threatening to harm you or someone close to you? Just so there is no mistake, by sex we mean putting a penis in your vagina.*
- *Has anyone, male or female, ever made you have oral sex by using force or threat of force? Just so there is no mistake, by oral sex we mean that a man or boy put his penis in your mouth or someone, male or female, penetrated your vagina or anus with their mouth.*
- *Has anyone ever made you have anal sex by using force or threat of harm? Just so there is no mistake, by anal sex we mean that a man or boy put his penis in your anus.*
- *Has anyone, male or female, ever put fingers or objects in your vagina or anus against your will or by using force or threats?*
- *Has anyone, male or female, ever attempted to make you have vaginal, oral, or anal sex against your will, but intercourse or penetration did not occur?*

Physical assault was defined as behaviors that threaten, attempt, or actually inflict physical harm. A modified version of the Conflict Tactics Scale² was used to screen respondents for physical assault they experienced as a child at the hands of an adult caretaker and physical assault

they experienced as an adult at the hands of another adult:

- *[Physical assault as a child] When you were a child did any parent, step-parent, or guardian ever*
 - *Throw something at you that could hurt?*
 - *Push, grab, or shove you?*
 - *Pull your hair?*
 - *Slap or hit you?*
 - *Kick or bite you?*
 - *Choke or attempt to drown you?*
 - *Hit you with some object?*
 - *Beat you up?*
 - *Threaten you with a gun?*
 - *Threaten you with a knife or other weapon?*
 - *Use a gun on you?*
 - *Use a knife or other weapon on you?*
- *[Physical assault as an adult] Not counting any incidents you have already mentioned after you became an adult did any other adult, male or female, ever*
 - *Sent you unsolicited letters or written correspondence?*
 - *Made unsolicited phone calls to you?*
 - *Stood outside your home, school, or workplace?*
 - *Showed up at places you were even though he or she had no business being there?*
 - *Left unwanted items for you to find?*
 - *Tried to communicate in other ways against your will?*
 - *Vandalized your property or destroyed something you loved?*

Respondents who answered yes to one or more of these questions were asked whether anyone had ever done any of these things to them on more than one occasion and whether they felt frightened or feared bodily harm as a result of these behaviors. Only respondents who reported being victimized on more than one occasion and who were very frightened or feared bodily harm were counted as stalking victims.

Notes

1. Rape screening questions were adapted from those used in The National Women's Study, see *Rape in America: A Report to the Nation*, National Victim Center and the Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, 211 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22201, April 23, 1992, p.15.

2. Straus, Murray, "Measuring Intrafamily Conflict and Violence: The Conflict Tactics (CT) Scale," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 41 (February 1979): 75-88.

Survey Methodology

The National Violence Against Women (NVAW) Survey was conducted from November 1995 to May 1996 by interviewers at Schulman, Ronca, and Bucuvalas, Inc. (SRBI) under the direction of John Boyle. The authors of this report designed the survey and conducted the analysis.

The national sample was drawn by random-digit dialing from households with a telephone in all 50 States and the District of Columbia. The sample was administered by U.S. Census region. Within each region, a simple random sample of working residential "hundreds banks" of phone numbers was drawn. (A hundreds bank is the first eight digits of any 10-digit telephone number, e.g., 301-608-38xx.) A randomly generated two-digit number was appended to each randomly sampled hundreds bank to produce the full 10-digit random-digit number. Separate banks of numbers were generated for male and female respondents. These random-digit numbers were called by SRBI interviewers from their central telephone facility, where nonworking and nonresidential numbers were screened out. Once a residential household was reached, eligible adults (i.e., women and men 18 years of age and older) in each household were identified. In households with more than one eligible adult, the adult with the most recent birthday was selected as the designated respondent.

A total of 8,000 women and 8,005 men 18 years and older were interviewed using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing system. (Five completed interviews with men were subsequently eliminated from the sample during data editing due to an excessive amount of incongruous data.) Only female interviewers surveyed female respondents. For male respondents, approximately half of the

interviews were conducted by female interviewers and half by male interviewers.

A Spanish-language translation was administered by bilingual interviewers for Spanish-speaking respondents.

To determine the representativeness of the sample, select demographic characteristics of the NVAW Survey sample were compared with demographic characteristics of the general population as measured by the U.S. Census Bureau's 1995 Current Population Survey of adult men and women. Sample

weighting was considered to correct for possible biases introduced by the fact that some households had multiple phone lines and multiple eligibles, and for over- and under-representation of selected subgroups. Although there were some instances of over- and under-representation, the overall unweighted prevalence rates for rape, physical assault, and stalking were not significantly different from their respective weighted rates. As a result, sample weighting was not used in the analysis of the NVAW Survey data.

Exhibit 16: Estimated Standard Errors Multiplied by the z-Score (1.96) for a 95-Percent Confidence Level by Sample or Subsample Size

Size of Sample or Subsample	Percentage of the Sample or Subsample Giving a Certain Response or Displaying a Certain Characteristic for Percentages Exactly or Approximately Equal to:				
	10 or 90	20 or 80	30 or 70	40 or 60	50/50
16,000	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8
12,000	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9
8,000	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1
4,000	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.5
3,000	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.8
2,000	1.3	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.2
1,500	1.5	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.5
1,300	1.6	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.7
1,200	1.7	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.8
1,100	1.8	2.4	2.7	2.9	3.0
1,000	1.9	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.1
900	2.0	2.6	3.0	3.2	3.3
800	2.1	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.5
700	2.2	3.0	3.4	3.6	3.7
600	2.4	3.2	3.7	3.9	4.0
500	2.6	3.5	4.0	4.3	4.4
400	2.9	3.9	4.5	4.8	4.9
300	3.4	4.5	5.2	5.6	5.7
200	4.2	5.6	6.4	6.8	6.9
150	4.8	6.4	7.4	7.9	8.0
100	5.9	7.9	9.0	9.7	9.8
75	6.8	9.1	10.4	11.2	11.4
50	8.4	11.2	12.8	13.7	14.0

A technical report describing the survey methods in more detail and recording sample characteristics and prevalence rates using weighted and unweighted data is available from the authors.²

Data were analyzed using SPSS Base 7.0 for Windows software. Measures of association (e.g., Lambda) were calculated between nominal-level independent and dependent variables, and the chi-square statistic was used to test for statistically significant differences between men and women (p -value $\leq .05$). Any estimates based on five or fewer responses were deemed unreliable and therefore were not tested for statistically significant differences between groups and not presented in the tables. Because estimates presented in this report generally exclude "don't know," "refused," and other invalid responses,

sample and subsample sizes (n 's) vary from table to table.

The estimates from this survey, as from any sample survey, are subject to random sampling error. Exhibit 16 presents the estimated standard errors multiplied by the z -score (1.96) for specified sample and subsample sizes of 16,000 or less at different response distributions of dichotomous variables (e.g., raped/not raped, injured/not injured). These estimated standard errors can be used to determine the extent to which sample estimates will be distributed around the population parameter (i.e., the true population distribution). As exhibit 16 shows, larger sample and subsample sizes produce smaller estimated standard errors. Thus the estimated standard error at the 95-percent confidence level for a sample or subsample of 8,000 (the number of women and men, respectively, on which life-

time and annual prevalence rates are based) is 1.1 percentage points if the response distribution is a 50/50 split, while the standard error at the 95-percent confidence level for a sample or subsample of 50 is 14 percentage points if the response distribution is a 50/50 split.

Notes

1. John Boyle, Ph.D., is senior vice president and director of the Government and Social Research Division at SRBI. Dr. Boyle, who specializes in public policy research in the area of health and violence, also manages the firm's Washington, D.C., area office.

2. To obtain copies of the *National Violence Against Women Survey Methodology Report*, call or write to the Center for Policy Research, 1570 Emerson Street, Denver, Colorado 80218; 303-837-1555.

Notes

1. Kennedy, Leslie W., in Foreword to *Dangerous Domains: Violence Against Women in Canada* by Holly Johnson, Scarborough, Ontario: International Thomas Publishing, 1996.

2. Wilson, Carolyn F., *Violence Against Women: An Annotated Bibliography*, Boston: G.K. Hall & Co., 1981.

3. National Research Council, *Understanding Violence Against Women*, Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 1996: 40-44.

4. Ibid.

5. Michael, Robert T., John H. Gagnon, Edward O. Lauman, and Gina Kolata, *Sex in America: A Definitive Survey*, New York: Warner Books, 1994: 223.

6. The NVAW Survey was conducted from November 1995 to May 1996 (see "Survey Methodology," page 14). Respondents reported on events that spanned the 12 months prior to their interview. For example, a person who was interviewed in November 1995 reported on events that occurred between November 1994 and November 1995; a person who was interviewed in May 1996 reported on events that occurred between May 1995 and May 1996.

7. Craven, Diane, *Sex Differences in Violent Victimization, 1994*, Special Report, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, September 1997, NCJ 164508.

8. The two rape/sexual assault screening questions used in the NCVS are as follows: (1) *(Other than any incidents already mentioned,) has anyone attacked or threatened you in any of these ways: . . . (e) Any rape, attempted rape, or other type of sexual attack?* (2) *(Other than any incidents already mentioned,) have you been forced or coerced to engage in unwanted sexual activity by (a) someone you didn't know before, (b) a casual acquaintance, or, (c) someone you know well?*

9. See, for example, Helton, A.M., "The Pregnant Battered Women," *Responses to Victimization of Women and Children* 9, (1) 1986: 22-23; Koss, Mary P., "Detecting the Scope of Rape: A Review of Prevalence Research Methods," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 8 (2) (June 1993): 198-222.

10. See "Survey Screening Questions," page 13.

11. Straus, Murray, "Measuring Intrafamily Conflict and Violence: The Conflict Tactics (CT) Scale," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 41 (February 1979): 75-88.

12. Craven, *Sex Differences in Violent Victimization, 1994*.

13. Bachman, Ronet, *Death and Violence on the Reservation: Homicide, Family Violence, and Suicide in American Indian Populations*, Westport, CT: Auburn House, 1992.

14. Wallace, L.J.D., A.D. Calhoun, K.E. Powell, J. O'Neill, and S.P. James, *Homicide and Suicide Among Native Americans 1979-1992*, Violence Surveillance Summary Series, No. 2, Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 1996.

15. Tjaden, Patricia, and Nancy Thoennes, *Stalking in America: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey*, Research in Brief, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, April 1998, NCJ 169592.

16. Ho, C.K., "An Analysis of Domestic Violence in Asian American Communities: A Multicultural Approach to Counseling," in *Diversity and Complexity in Feminist Therapy*, ed. L.S. Brown and M. Root, New York: Harrington Park, 1996: 129-150; Huisman, K.A., "Wife Battering in Asian American Communities," *Violence Against Women* 2 (1996): 260-283.

17. Sorenson, S.B., J.A. Stein, J.M. Siegel, J.M. Golding, and M.A. Burnam, "The Prevalence of Adult Sexual Assault: The Los Angeles Epidemiologic Catchment Area Project," *American*

Journal of Epidemiology 126: 154-164, 1987; Sorenson, S.B., and C.A. Tells, "Self-Reports of Spousal Violence in a Mexican American and a Non-Hispanic White Population," *Violence and Victims* 6 (1991): 3-16.

18. See National Victim Center and the Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, *Rape in America: A Report to the Nation*, 211 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22201, April 23, 1992.

19. See, for example, Browne, Angela, and David Finkelhor, "Initial and Long-term Effects: A Review of the Research," in *Sourcebook on Child Sexual Abuse*, ed. David Finkelhor, Beverly Hills: Sage Publications, 1986: 158; Miller, J., D. Moeller, A. Kaufman, P. Divasto, P. Fitzsimmons, D. Pather, and J. Christy, "Recidivism among Sexual Assault Victims," *American Journal of Psychiatry* 135 (1978): 1103-1104; and Russel, D.E.H., *The Secret Trauma: Incest in the Lives of Girls and Women*, New York: Basic Books, 1986.

Patricia Tjaden, Ph.D., and Nancy Thoennes, Ph.D., are with the Denver-based Center for Policy Research.

This research was supported by grant number 93-IJ-CX-0012, awarded to the Center for Policy Research by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and sponsored jointly by NIJ and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

20. See, for example, Morse, Barbara, "Beyond the Conflict Tactics Scale: Assessing Gender Differences in Partner Violence," *Violence and Victims* 10 (Winter 1995): 251-272; Straus, Murray, and Richard Gelles, "Societal Change and Change in Family Violence From 1975 to 1985 as Revealed by Two National Studies," *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 48 (August 1986): 465-479.

21. See, for example, Bachman, Ronet, *Violence Against Women: A National Crime Victimization Survey Report*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, NCJ 145325; Bachman, Ronet, and Linda Saltzman, *Violence Against Women: Estimates From the Redesigned Survey*, Special Report, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, August 1995, NCJ 154348; Gaquin, Diedre, "Spouse Abuse: Data From the National Crime Survey," *Victimology* 2 (1977-1978): 634-643; and Klaus, Patsy, and Michael Rand, *Family Violence*, Special Report, Wash-

ington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, April 1984, NCJ 093449.

22. See, for example, Langan, Patrick A., and Christopher A. Innes, *Preventing Domestic Violence Against Women*, Special Report, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1986, NCJ 102037; Timrots, Anita D., and Michael R. Rand, *Violent Crime by Strangers and Nonstrangers*, Special Report, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, January 1987, NCJ 103702.

23. Rand, Michael, *Violence-Related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments*, Special Report, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, August 1997, NCJ 156921.

24. See Puente, Maria, "Legislators Tackling the Terror of Stalking: But Some Experts Say Measures Are Vague," *USA Today*, July 21, 1992: A9.

The authors thank Lois Mock at NIJ and Linda Saltzman at the CDC for their advice and support in completing this project. The authors also thank anonymous reviewers and Steven Leadbetter and Marcie Jo Kresnow, mathematical statisticians at the CDC, who provided helpful comments on drafts of this report.

The National Institute of Justice is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

NCJ 172837

Findings and conclusions of the research reported here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
National Institute of Justice

Washington, DC 20531

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DOJ/NIJ
Permit No. G-91