

**ALABAMA CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
INFORMATION CENTER**

**1999  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
IN ALABAMA**

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

**STATISTICAL  
ANALYSIS  
CENTER**

**Domestic Violence**

This report was produced by the Statistical Analysis Center of the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center. Data presented in this report was provided by the Uniform Crime Reporting Division of ACJIC for the calendar year of 1999. For purposes of this report, domestic violence is indicated when the relationship of the victim and offender is husband, wife, common-law spouse, ex-husband, ex-wife, girlfriend, boy-friend, ex-girlfriend, or ex-boyfriend. Statistics contained within this report include adult and juvenile victims.

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

## Domestic Violence

- Of the 21,127 violent offenses\* reported in 1999, 21% were domestic violence incidents. Domestic violence was indicated in 4,358 offenses reported: in 50 homicides; 187 rapes; 59 robberies; and in 4,062 aggravated assaults. 2,244 incidents of domestic violence were cleared for a 51% clearance rate. 31% of the clearances were exceptional, i.e...lack of prosecution.
- There were 25,459 domestic simple assaults, which represent 38% of all simple assaults reported in 1999. 13,242 domestic simple assaults were cleared for a 52% clearance rate. 33% of the clearances were exceptional.
- 83% of the victims were females, and 17% were males. 54% of the victims were black, and 46% were white. In 57% of the offenses, the offender was black, and in 84% the offender was male.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 3% of the offenses; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 83%; a knife was the weapon used in 4%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 10%.
- 41% of the victims suffered injuries: 2% were injured with a firearm; 6% were injured with a knife; 83% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 9% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- In 34% of domestic violence offenses the victim was the wife of the offender; in 26% the victim was the girlfriend of the offender.

\*Excluding simple assaults

### Relationship of Victim and Offender

The Victim was:	Percent
Wife	30%
Common-law wife	4%
Ex-wife	6%
Husband	7%
Common-law husband	1%
Ex-husband	2%
Girlfriend	26%
Ex-girlfriend	16%
Boyfriend	5%
Ex-boyfriend	3%

## Domestic Violence - Homicide

- There were 50 domestic homicides reported in 1999, representing 15% of the 339 homicides reported in Alabama for that year. 33 domestic homicides were cleared for an 66% clearance rate. 9% of the clearances were exceptional.
- 36% of the victims were males, and 64% were females. 54% of the victims were black, and 46% were white.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 56% of the homicides; a knife was the weapon used 30%; hands, fists or feet were used as a weapon in 8%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 6%.
- In 38% of the homicides the victim was the wife or ex-wife of the offender; in 18% the victim was the husband; in 26% the victim was the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend; and in 18% of the homicides the victim was the boyfriend or ex-boyfriend of the offender.
- 85% of the homicides occurred at a residence; 7% occurred in a street, alley, or parking lot; and 8% occurred in other locations.
- In 54% of the homicides the offender was black; and in 64% the offender was a male. 48% of the homicides had black victims and black offenders; 36% had white victims and white offenders; 6% had white victims and black offenders; 2% had black victims and white offenders; and in 8% of the homicides the offender's race was not reported.

### Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	32%
Common-law wife	2%
Ex-wife	4%
Husband	10%
Common-law husband	8%
Ex-husband	0%
Girlfriend/Ex-girlfriend	26%
Boyfriend/Ex-boyfriend	18%

## Domestic Violence - Rape

- There were 187 domestic violence rapes in 1999, representing 14% of the 1,380 rapes reported in Alabama for that year. 93 domestic rapes were cleared for a 50% clearance rate. 58% of the clearances were exceptional.
- 51% of the victims were black females and 49% were white females.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 7% of the rapes; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 81%; a knife was the weapon used in 3%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 9%.
- 28% of the victims suffered injuries: 8% were injured with a firearm; 2% were injured with a knife; 82% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 8% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- 75% of the victims were the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender, and 25% of the victims were the wife or ex-wife of the offender.
- 80% of the offenses occurred at a residence; 4% occurred in a street or alley; and 16% occurred in other locations.
- In 41% of the rapes the offender was white, and in 52% the offender was black.
- 27% of domestic rape victims were juveniles, but only 5% of the offenders were juveniles.

### Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	16%
Common-law wife	3%
Ex-wife	6%
Girlfriend	42%
Ex-girlfriend	33%

## Domestic Violence - Robbery

- There were 59 robberies in 1999 that indicated domestic violence. This represents 1% of the 5,251 robberies reported for Alabama in that year. 42 domestic robberies were cleared for a 71% clearance rate. 67% of the clearances were exceptional.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 17% of the robberies; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 71%; a knife was the weapon used in 8%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 4%.
- 30% of the victims suffered injuries: 6% were injured with a firearm; 19% were injured with a knife; 69% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 6% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- 72% of the victims were the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender; 15% of the victims were the wife or ex-wife of the offender.
- 58% of the offenses occurred at a residence; 20% occurred in a street or alley; and 22% occurred in other locations.
- In 83% of the robberies, the offender was black and in 87% the offender was a male.

### Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	10%
Common-law wife	0%
Ex-wife	5%
Husband	2%
Common law-husband	2%
Ex-husband	0%
Girlfriend	19%
Ex-girlfriend	53%
Boyfriend	7%
Ex-boyfriend	2%

# Domestic Violence - Assault

## Aggravated

- Of the 14,157 aggravated assaults reported in 1999, 4,062 were domestic aggravated assaults - or 29% of all aggravated assaults reported in Alabama for that year. 2,076 incidents of domestic aggravated assault were cleared for a 51% clearance rate. 29% of the clearances were exceptional.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 14% of the assaults; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 33%; a knife was the weapon used in 21%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 32%.
- 64% of the victims were injured: 8% with a firearm; 22% with a knife; 36% with fists, feet or hands; and 34% with other dangerous weapons
- 37% of the victims were a wife or ex-wife of the offender; 34% of the victims were a girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender; and 14% of the victims were a husband or ex-husband of the offender. 68% of the offenders were black, and 72% were males.

## Simple

- There were 25,459 domestic simple assaults reported in 1999, or 38% of all simple assaults for that year. 13,242 incidents of domestic simple assaults were cleared for a 52% clearance rate. 33% of the clearances were exceptional, i.e...lack of prosecution.
- Hands, fists or feet were used as a weapon in 92% of these assaults, however, 42% of the victims still reported injuries.
- 42% of the victims were a wife or ex-wife to the offender; 43% were a girlfriend or ex-girlfriend.

## **Domestic Violence - Aggravated Assault**

### **Relationship of Victim and Offender**

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	29%
Common-law wife	2%
Ex-wife	6%
Husband	11%
Common-law husband	2%
Ex-husband	1%
Girlfriend	22%
Ex-girlfriend	12%
Boyfriend	11%
Ex-boyfriend	4%

## **Domestic Violence - Simple Assault**

### **Relationship of Victim and Offender**

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	33%
Common-law wife	4%
Ex-wife	5%
Husband	6%
Common-law husband	1%
Ex-husband	1%
Girlfriend	27%
Ex-girlfriend	16%
Boyfriend	4%
Ex-boyfriend	3%