

**ALABAMA CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION CENTER**

**2002
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 2002. For purposes of this report, domestic violence is indicated when the relationship of the victim and offender is husband, wife, common-law spouse, ex-husband, ex-wife, girlfriend, boy-friend, ex-girlfriend, or ex-boyfriend. Statistics contained within this report include adult and juvenile victims.

**STATE OF ALABAMA
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION CENTER
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Domestic Violence

- Of the 19,257 violent offenses* reported in 2002, 12% were domestic violence incidents. Domestic violence was indicated in 2,592 offenses reported: in 27 homicides; 195 rapes; 69 robberies; and in 2,301 aggravated assaults. 1,312 incidents of domestic violence were cleared for a 51% clearance rate. 34% of the clearances were exceptional, i.e...lack of prosecution.
- There were 27,254 domestic simple assaults, which represent 36% of all simple assaults reported in 2002. 15,835 domestic simple assaults were cleared for a 59% clearance rate. 43% of the clearances were exceptional.
- 75% of the victims were females, and 25% were males. 55% of the victims were black, and 45% were white. In 60% of the offenses, the offender was black, and in 79% the offender was male.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 18% of the offenses; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 52%; a knife was the weapon used in 15%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 15%.
- 54% of the victims suffered injuries: 8% were injured with a firearm; 20% were injured with a knife; 41% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 31% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- In 37% of domestic violence offenses the victim was the wife/ex-wife of the offender; in 41% the victim was the girlfriend/ex-girlfriend of the offender.

Relationship of Victim and Offender

The Victim was:	Percent
Wife	28%
Common-law wife	4%
Ex-wife	5%
Husband	8%
Common-law husband	1%
Ex-husband	1%
Girlfriend	25%
Ex-girlfriend	16%
Boyfriend	7%
Ex-boyfriend	5%

*Excluding simple assaults

Domestic Violence – Homicide

- There were 27 domestic homicides reported in 2002, representing 9% of the 295 homicides reported in Alabama for that year. 22 domestic homicides were cleared for an 85% clearance rate.
- 38% of the victims were males, and 62% were females. 69% of the victims were black, and 31% were white.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 50% of the homicides; a knife was the weapon used 35%; hands, fists or feet were used as a weapon in 4%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 11%.
- In 35% of the homicides the victim was the wife or ex-wife of the offender; in 20% the victim was the husband; in 27% 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.
- 69% of the homicides occurred at a residence; 12% occurred in a street, alley, or parking lot; and 19% occurred in other locations.
- In 21% of the homicides the offender was white; and in 58% the offender was a male. 71% of the homicides had black victims and black offenders; 21% had white victims and white offenders; 8% had white victims and black offenders; and 0% had black victims and white offenders.

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	35%
Common-law wife	0%
Ex-wife	0%
Husband	8%
Common-law husband	12%
Ex-husband	0%
Girlfriend/Ex-girlfriend	27%
Boyfriend/Ex-boyfriend	18%

Domestic Violence – Rape

- There were 195 domestic violence rapes in 2002, representing 12% of the 1,567 rapes reported in Alabama for that year. 113 domestic rapes were cleared for a 59% clearance rate. 61% of the clearances were exceptional.
- 57% of the victims were black females and 43% were white females.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 7% of the rapes; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 84%; a knife was the weapon used in 3%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 6%.
- 44% of the victims suffered injuries: 10% were injured with a firearm; 3% were injured with a knife; 81% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 6% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- 74% of the victims were the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender, and 26% of the victims were the wife or ex-wife of the offender.
- 76% of the offenses occurred at a residence; 3% occurred in a street or alley; and 21% occurred in other locations.
- In 43% of the rapes the offender was white, and in 57% the offender was black.
- 31% 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	21%
Common-law wife	1%
Ex-wife	4%
Girlfriend	42%
Ex-girlfriend	32%

Domestic Violence – Robbery

- There were 69 robberies in 2002 that indicated domestic violence. This represents 1% of the 5,702 robberies reported for Alabama in that year. 35 domestic robberies were cleared for a 51% clearance rate. 54% of the clearances were exceptional.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 35% of the robberies; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 44%; a knife was the weapon used in 3%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 18%.
- 38% of the victims suffered injuries: 20% were injured with a firearm; 0% were injured with a knife; 67% were injured with fists, feet or hands; and 13% were injured with other dangerous weapons.
- 48% of the victims were the girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender; 19% of the victims were the wife or ex-wife of the offender.
- 51% of the offenses occurred at a residence; 13% occurred in a street or alley; and 36% occurred in other locations.
- In 82% of the robberies, the offender was black and in 89% the offender was a male.

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	6%
Common-law wife	0%
Ex-wife	13%
Husband	7%
Common law-husband	0%
Ex-husband	1%
Girlfriend	20%
Ex-girlfriend	28%
Boyfriend	6%
Ex-boyfriend	19%

Domestic Violence – Assault

Aggravated

- Of the 11,693 aggravated assaults reported in 2002, 2,301 were domestic aggravated assaults - or 20% of all aggravated assaults reported in Alabama for that year. 1,142 incidents of domestic aggravated assault were cleared for a 50% clearance rate. 31% of the clearances were exceptional.
- A firearm was the weapon used in 18% of the assaults; hands, fists, or feet were used as a weapon in 50%; a knife was the weapon used in 16%; and other dangerous weapons were used in 16%.
- 54% of the victims were injured: 8% with a firearm; 18% with a knife; 57% with fists, feet or hands; and 17% with other dangerous weapons
- 37% of the victims were a wife or ex-wife of the offender; 39% of the victims were a girlfriend or ex-girlfriend of the offender; and 11% of the victims were a husband or ex-husband of the offender. 59% of the offenders were black, and 77% were males.

Simple

- There were 27,254 domestic simple assaults reported in 2002, or 36% of all simple assaults for that year. 15,835 incidents of domestic simple assaults were cleared for a 59% clearance rate. 43% of the clearances were exceptional, i.e...lack of prosecution.
- Hands, fists or feet were used as a weapon in 89% of these assaults, however, 35% of the victims still reported injuries.
- 39% 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	4%
Ex-wife	4%
Husband	8%
Common-law husband	1%
Ex-husband	2%
Girlfriend	24%
Ex-girlfriend	15%
Boyfriend	8%
Ex-boyfriend	5%

Domestic Violence – Simple Assault

Relationship of Victim and Offender

<u>The Victim was:</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife	30%
Common-law wife	4%
Ex-wife	5%
Husband	7%
Common-law husband	1%
Ex-husband	2%
Girlfriend	27%
Ex-girlfriend	16%
Boyfriend	5%
Ex-boyfriend	3%