



Bureau of Justice Statistics

Family Violence Statistics

Including Statistics on Strangers and Acquaintances

Reported and unreported family violence

Murder of family members

Family violence reported to police

Family violence recorded by police

State prosecution of family assault

Federal prosecution of domestic violence

Family violence offenders in prison

Family violence offenders in jail

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Family Violence Statistics

Including Statistics on Strangers and Acquaintances

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Highlights, definitions, and counting rules

Introduction

This compendium contains the most recent family violence statistics from these sources: surveys conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the BJS database of Federal statistics, and two statistical databases maintained by the FBI.

The sources provide statistical snapshots of family violence at different stages in the administration of justice. First are statistics on the nature and extent of family violence. Next are statistics on family violence that is reported to police, followed by statistics on the prosecution of persons charged with family violence. Lastly are statistics on persons sent to prison or jail for family violence.

The report is divided into eight sections giving statistics on —

- Reported and unreported family violence
- Fatal family violence
- Family violence reported to police
- Family violence recorded by police
- State prosecution of family assault
- Federal prosecution of domestic violence
- Family violence offenders in prison
- Family violence offenders in jail.

Highlights

Trends in family violence

The rate of family violence fell between 1993 and 2002 from an estimated 5.4 victims to 2.1 victims per 1,000 U.S. residents age 12 or older. Throughout the period family violence accounted for about 1 in 10 violent victimizations.

Reported and unreported family violence

Family violence accounted for 11% of all reported and unreported violence between 1998 and 2002. Of these roughly 3.5 million violent crimes committed against family members, 49% were crimes against spouses, 11% were sons or daughters victimized by a parent, and 41% were crimes against other family members.

The most frequent type of family violence offense was simple assault. Murder was less than half of 1% of all family violence between 1998 and 2002.

About three-fourths of all family violence occurred in or near the victim's residence.

Forty percent of family violence victims were injured during the incident. Of the 3.5 million victims of family violence between 1998 and 2002, less than 1% died as a result of the incident.

The majority (73%) of family violence victims were female. Females were 84% of spouse abuse victims and 86% of victims of abuse at the hands of a boyfriend or girlfriend.

While about three-fourths of the victims of family violence were female, about three-fourths of the persons who committed family violence were male.

Most family violence victims were white (74%), and the majority were between ages 25 and 54 (65.7%). Most family violence offenders were white (79%), and most were age 30 or older (62%).

Fatal family violence

About 22% of murders in 2002 were family murders. Nearly 9% were murders of a spouse, 6% were murders of sons or daughters by a parent, and 7% were murders by other family members.

Females were 58% of family murder victims. Of all the murders of females in 2002, family members were responsible for 43%.

Children under age 13 were 23% of murder victims killed by a family member, and just over 3% of nonfamily murder victims.

The average age among sons or daughters killed by a parent was 7 years, and 4 out of 5 victims killed by a parent were under age 13.

Eight in ten murderers who killed a family member were male. Males were 83% of spouse murderers and 75% of murderers who killed a boyfriend or girlfriend.

In 2002 family murders were less likely than nonfamily murders to involve a firearm (50% versus 68%). Parents were the least likely family murderers to use a firearm (28%), compared to spouses (63%) or other family members (51%).

Among incidents of parents killing their children, 19% involved one parent killing multiple victims.

Family violence reported to police

Approximately 60% of family violence victimizations were reported to police between 1998 and 2002. The reporting rate among female victims was not significantly greater than the reporting rate among male victims.

The most common reason victims of family violence cited for not reporting the crime to police was that the incident was a "private/personal matter" (34%). Another 12% of non-reporting family violence victims did not report the crime in order to "protect the offender."

Among the 2.1 million incidents of family violence reported to police between 1998 and 2002, 36% resulted in an arrest.

Family violence recorded by police

Family violence accounted for 33% of all violent crimes recorded by police in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000. Of these more than 207,000 family violence crimes, about half (53%, or 110,000) were crimes between spouses.

Among crimes recorded by police, 2% of family violence involved a firearm, compared to 6% of nonfamily violence. A weapon was used in 16% of family and 21% of nonfamily violence.

About 6% of all violent crime recorded by police in 2000 involved more than one offender victimizing a lone victim. The exception was stranger crime, in which 14% of incidents involved multiple offenders victimizing a lone victim.

About 49% of family violence crimes recorded by police resulted in an arrest. Males comprised 77% of suspected family violence offenders arrested in 2000.

State prosecution of family assault

Of the approximately 1,500 defendants charged with felony assault during May 2000 in the State courts of 11 large counties, about a third were charged with family violence.

Among felony assault defendants charged with family violence in State courts, 84% had at least one prior arrest for either a felony or a misdemeanor (not necessarily for family violence), and 73% had been previously convicted of some type of felony or misdemeanor (not necessarily family violence).

Nearly half of felony assault defendants charged with family violence were released pending case disposition.

Among the 1,500 felony assault cases, the probability of the case leading to conviction (felony or misdemeanor) was greater for family assault defendants (71%) than nonfamily assault defendants (61%).

State courts sentenced 83% of persons convicted of assault (both family and nonfamily) to either prison or jail. Among felony assault defendants convicted in State courts —

- 68% of incarceration sentences for family assault were to jail
- 62% of incarceration sentences for nonfamily assault were to prison
- 45% of persons sent to prison for family assault received a sentence of more than 2 years, compared to 77% of nonfamily assault offenders sent to prison.

Federal prosecution of domestic violence

Persons suspected of domestic violence made up 4% of the total 18,653 Federal suspects referred to U.S. attorneys for alleged violent crimes from 2000 to 2002.

Of the 757 suspects referred to U.S. attorneys for domestic violence offenses between 2000 and 2002, most were firearm-related domestic violence offenses rather than interstate domestic violence offenses.

- The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives accounted for 80% of all referrals for firearm-related domestic violence.
- The FBI accounted for 72% of all interstate domestic violence referrals.

Federal courts convicted 90% of defendants adjudicated for an interstate domestic violence offense.

Among defendants convicted in federal courts —

- 79% of convictions were the product of a guilty plea, and the remaining 21% were the product of conviction following a trial
- most were male (96%), under age 40 (67%), white (72%), and non-Hispanic (95%)
- 4 in 5 defendants had a prior adult conviction.

Of 47 Federal defendants sentenced for an interstate domestic violence offense between 2000 and 2002, 91% received a prison term with a median length of 60 months.

Family violence offenders in prison

Of the nearly 500,000 men and women in State prisons for a violent crime in 1997, 15% were there for a violent crime against a family member.

Nearly half of all the family violence offenders in State prisons were serving a sentence for a sex offense against a family member. More than three-quarters of parents convicted of a violent crime against their son or daughter were in prison for a sex offense.

Of the crimes for which family violence offenders were in prison —

- most were against a female (78%)
- more than half were against a child under age 18
- more than a third were against a child under age 13.

About 90% of offenders in State prisons for family violence had injured their victim:

- 50% of family violence victims were raped or sexually assaulted
- 28% of the victims of family violence were killed
- 50% of offenders in State prisons for spousal abuse had killed their victims
- Of State prison inmates imprisoned for a crime against their son or daughter, 79% had raped or sexually assaulted the child, and another 10% had killed the child.

Among family violence offenders in State prisons in 1997 —

- most were male (93%)
- 6 out of 10 were white, while about a quarter were black
- about 80% were between ages 25 and 54.

Among offenders whose incarceration in State prisons was for family violence, 23% had used a weapon to commit their crime. The comparable percentage among State prisoners incarcerated for nonfamily violence was higher— 46%.

Family violence offenders in jail

Convicted family violence offenders made up about 22% of the nearly 86,500 convicted violent offenders in local jails in 2002. Most (60%) of these approximately 18,700 jail inmates incarcerated for family violence were in jail for an aggravated assault.

Local jail inmates convicted of family violence reported that —

- their victims were predominantly female (79%)
- nearly 30% of their victims were under age 18.

Among local jail inmates convicted of family violence, 55% injured their victim.

Most convicted jail inmates serving time for violence against a family member (88%) did not use a weapon during the crime.

Among jail inmates convicted of family violence, 45% had been subject to a restraining order at some point in their life. About 18% were under an active restraining order at the time of admission to jail.

Definitions

Violent crime Unless indicated otherwise, statistics on violent crime in this report pertain to all forms of the following crimes: criminal homicide, completed and attempted rape, sexual assault (including threats), robbery, assault (including threats), kidnaping, intimidation, illegal abortion, extortion, cruelty towards child or wife, hit-and-run driving with bodily injury, and miscellaneous crimes against persons (as opposed to crimes against property).

Family violence Unless indicated otherwise, family violence includes all types of violent crime committed by an offender who is related to the victim either biologically or legally through marriage or adoption. A crime is considered family violence if the victim was the offender's current or former spouse; parent or adoptive parent; current or former stepparent; legal guardian; biological or adoptive child; current or former stepchild; sibling; current or former step sibling; grandchild; current or former step- or adoptive-grandchild; grandparent; current or former step- or

adoptive-grandparent; in-law; or other relative (aunt, uncle, nephew).

Nonfamily violence Unless indicated otherwise, nonfamily violence includes all types of violent crime between current or former boyfriends and girlfriends; between current or former friends and acquaintances; and between strangers.

Relationship of victim to offender The databases used in this report all contain sufficient information to permit identification of family violence cases.

However, the types of information that make identification possible are not uniform. Some provide more relationship categories than others. For example, the Supplemental Homicide Reports provides 28 different categories of victim-offender relationship, while the National Crime Victimization Survey has 15 categories. Also, the databases use different terms to describe specific victim-offender relationships. For example, one uses the category "employee/employer," while another uses "colleague at work."

In general, enough information was available in each of the databases to distinguish six categories of victim-offender relationship: three family categories (spouse, son or daughter, and other family), and three nonfamily categories (boyfriend/girlfriend, friend/acquaintance, and stranger). Most sections of the report present statistics on all six categories.

Sources of data on family violence

National Crime Victimization Survey (a BJS survey)

One data source used to document the nature and extent of family violence in the United States is the BJS National Crime Victimization Survey, or NCVS, for 1998 to 2002. The NCVS compiles data on family and nonfamily violence through biannual interviews with nationally representative samples of U.S. residents age 12 or older. In these interviews, residents are asked if they were a recent victim of crime. Those who were victims are then asked numerous questions about the incident, such as where it occurred and whether they knew the offender. Residents are encouraged to tell interviewers both about crimes that were reported to police and about unreported crimes.

Because the survey data come from interviews with victims, the NCVS has no information on homicide. The survey's scope is limited to certain forms of nonfatal violence: rape and sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Based on interviews with the Nation's crime victims, estimates are formed not only of how many of these crimes occur each year but also of the characteristics pertaining to the criminal incidents. Such characteristics include the number of victims that obtained medical care for their injuries, the number that reported the crime to police, and the number whose assailant was a relative.

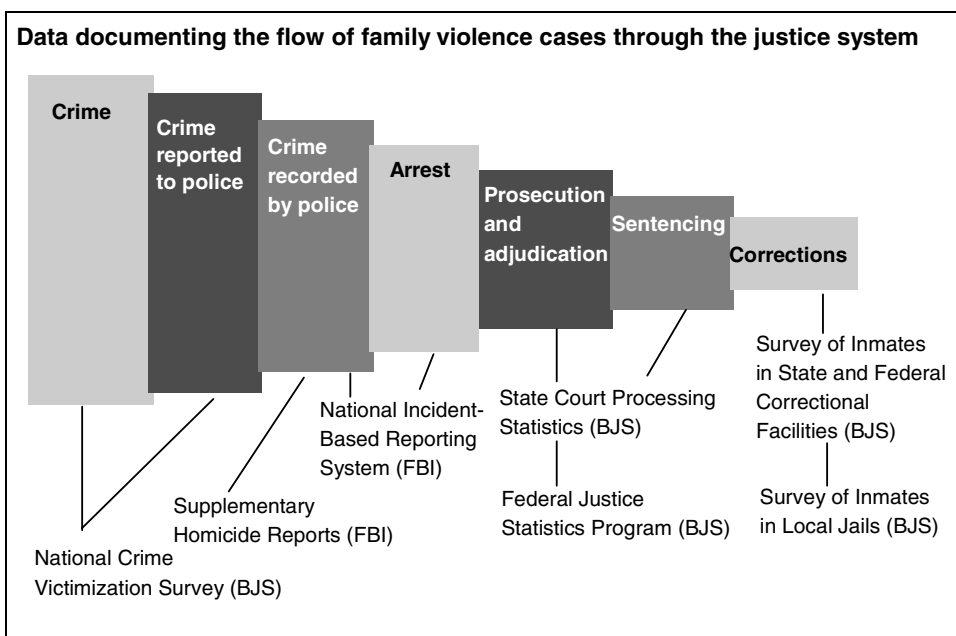


Figure 1

*Supplementary Homicide Reports
(an FBI database)*

For national statistics on family homicide for the year 2002, the source used in this report was the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports, or SHR. The FBI compiles detailed national data on family and nonfamily homicide from the thousands of law enforcement agencies across the Nation. For each criminal homicide, the SHR record such information as the age and race of the offender, the relationship of the victim to the offender, and the type of weapon used in the killing.

National Incident-Based Reporting System (an FBI database)

For statistics on family violence that comes to police attention and for statistics on arrests for family violence, the source used in this report is the database for the year 2000 from the National Incident-Based Reporting System, or NIBRS. The database, compiled by the FBI, contains NIBRS data from at least 1 police agency in each of 18 States and the District of Columbia. These jurisdictions cover about 16% of the U.S. population and do not include any areas with a population of one million or more.

The NIBRS data have information on victims, offenders, persons arrested, and incidents of family and nonfamily violence. For example, information on victims includes the type of injury sustained and the victim's relationship to the offender. Among the various details available on offenders and arrestees are their age, race, and gender. Offense characteristics available in the NIBRS data include the type of weapon used and the type of location where the crime occurred.

*State Court Processing Statistics
(a BJS data collection)*

No national data in the United States describe the processing of family violence cases from arrest through final disposition by a court. The available alternative used in this report is an extract of the BJS data collection State Court Processing Statistics (SCPS). The SCPS data used are entirely from police and court records that tracked family and nonfamily assault cases in 11 counties, from the filing of State court charges in May of 2000 to their final court disposition. These data include information about persons arrested and charged with family and nonfamily assault: their demographic characteristics, their prior arrest and conviction record, and their criminal justice status at time of arrest. The SCPS data also contain information about the processing of the assault cases, such as type of pretrial release, adjudication outcome, and type of sentence imposed.

*Federal Justice Statistics Program
(a BJS database)*

Information regarding violations of family violence-related Federal statutes that were subsequently referred to Federal court come from the Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP), a database maintained by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. FJSP provides annual data on workload, activities, and outcomes associated with Federal criminal cases. Data for 2000 to 2002 were acquired on all aspects of processing in the Federal justice system, including the number of persons investigated, prosecuted, convicted, and incarcerated. The FJSP database is a BJS database, constructed from files provided by the U.S. Marshals Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, the

Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the United States Sentencing Commission, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities (a BJS survey)

For national statistics on persons in prison for family violence, this report used the BJS Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, conducted in 1997. The survey involves face-to-face interviews with a nationally representative sample of State prisoners. Persons in prison for either family or nonfamily violence are included in the sample. Through interviews with them, information is obtained on their victims and on numerous other characteristics of the crime that brought them into prison, such as whether a weapon was used, and the location of the offense.

*Survey of Inmates in Local Jails
(a BJS survey)*

For statistics on inmates who were convicted of family violence and sentenced to a period of incarceration of less than 1 year, the source used in this report is the BJS Survey of Inmates in Local Jails. This is a periodic survey which describes the current offenses and offense characteristics of local jail inmates. Most recently conducted in 2002, face-to-face interviews were conducted with a nationally representative sample of local jail inmates to collect systematic information on this special correctional population. Questions were asked regarding the relationship of the victim to the incarcerated offender, the gender, race/Hispanic origin, and age of victims and offenders, injury to the victim, offender use of a weapon, offender substance use at the time of the crime, and the place at which the crime occurred.

Uniform counting rules

Incidents of crime vary depending on the number of offenders, number of offenses committed, and number of victims. For instance, in a single incident where two men rape and rob a woman, there are two offenders, four offenses (a rape and a robbery committed by each man), and a single victim. Such an incident differs from one in which a lone man assaults another individual. That incident involves one offender, one offense, and one victim.

The various databases used in this report are not uniform in the amount of information they contain about each incident of crime. One of the databases (NIBRS) contains information on virtually every offender, every victim, and every offense in an incident. The other databases contain less information. For example, offender characteristics available in the prisoner database pertain only to each individual incarcerated offender. The incident that resulted in that person's incarceration may have involved multiple offenders, but information on co-offenders was unavailable.

To improve the comparability of statistics across the databases, rules were adopted to guide tabulations. All statistics in this report — that is, statistics on offenders, on offenses, and on victims — follow the rule that each incident be treated as though it involved one offender, one offense, and one victim.

If an incident involved more than one *offender* and information (such as age, race, and gender) was available on more than one offender, the available data on just one of the offenders were tabulated. Similarly, if an incident involved more than one *offense* and information on the different offenses (such as the place where each occurred) was available, only the data on one of the offenses were counted.

Likewise, if an incident involved more than one *victim* and the database contained information (such as the victim's age, race, and gender) on more than one victim, victim statistics used in the analysis were based on just one of the victims.

Certain databases used in the report — NCVS, SHR, and NIBRS — were victim-based. Choosing a particular victim to characterize an incident was unnecessary with these databases. Other data collections used in the report — Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities and Survey of Inmates in Local Jails — were offender-based. Choosing a particular offender to characterize an incident was unnecessary with these sources.

Where choices had to be made about which offender, which offense, or which victim characterized an incident, the choices were guided by various hierarchies. Information about the hierarchies is summarized below.

In choosing a particular *offender* to characterize an incident, the choice was guided by the victim's relationship to the offender. For example, in a single incident in which a woman was assaulted by her husband and a stranger, the incident was treated as a spouse-on-spouse assault. Offender statistics for such an incident (such as age, race, and gender) therefore pertained solely to the characteristics of the husband; characteristics of the stranger were not tabulated.

Selecting the husband over the stranger to characterize the incident conforms to a rule adopted for this report that says to select whichever offender is highest in the following victim-to-offender relationship hierarchy (shown in order from highest to lowest, with column headings in italics):

Spouse

spouse and common-law spouse
ex-spouse

Son or daughter

child
stepchild

Other family

parent and stepparent
sibling and step-sibling
grandchild
grandparent
in-laws
other relative

Boyfriend or girlfriend

boy/girlfriend
ex-boy/girlfriend
homosexual partner

Friend or acquaintance

child of girl or boyfriend
friend
neighbor
employer
employee
acquaintance
babysittee
otherwise known

Stranger

stranger

Not included in analysis

relationship unknown

When it was necessary to choose a single *victim* to characterize an incident, the victim-offender relationship hierarchy was also used. Again, the chosen victim was the one highest in the hierarchy.

In choosing a particular *offense* to characterize an incident, the choice was guided by the offense's position in a hierarchy of offense seriousness. The offense highest in the hierarchy was selected to characterize the incident. For example, in a single incident where the victim was raped and murdered, the offense selected to characterize the incident was murder because murder is higher in the offense seriousness hierarchy than rape. The offense seriousness hierarchy (from most to least serious) generally corresponds to the offense list shown in table 5.1.

As noted earlier, each incident tabulated in this report was treated as having one offender, one offense, and one victim. Each incident was also treated as having one offense location, one victim injury (if any), one weapon involved (if any), one arrestee (if any), and one arrest offense (if any). The characteristic's position in a hierarchy determined which characteristic (for example, which injury) was tabulated. The characteristic with the highest position was chosen.

Listed in order from highest to lowest, the offense location hierarchy is in table 5.2; victim injury hierarchy, table 8.4; offender weapon use hierarchy, table 5.6; and arrest offense hierarchy, table 5.8. The arrestee hierarchy is the same as the victim-to-offender relationship hierarchy described above.

Family violence recorded by police

About the data in this section

Statistics shown in this section pertain to violent crimes that came to the attention of police in 2000. Data for these statistics come from the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which compiles detailed information on those crimes recorded by police. At least 1 police agency in each of 18 States and the District of Columbia provided NIBRS data in 2000. These NIBRS agencies constituted about 25% of all law enforcement agencies in the country and collectively had jurisdiction over approximately 16% of the U.S. population and 13% of the crime.

Family violence compared to nonfamily violence recorded by police

In jurisdictions covered by NIBRS agencies, police recorded nearly 750,000 victims of violent crime in 2000. The statistics in this section pertain to the 634,096 victims whose relationship to the offender was recorded. Of the 634,096 victims, a third were victimized by a family member (table 5.1). The

remaining two-thirds were victimized by a nonfamily member. Spouses represented the second largest group of victims of violence in police data. Offenders' spouses comprised 17.4% of all violence victims; boyfriends or girlfriends, 16.7%; and sons or daughters, 4.4%. The largest group — friends and acquaintances of offenders — accounted for nearly 4 in 10 victims of police-recorded violence. One in 8 violent offenses brought to police attention involved a stranger.

More than 207,000 individuals were victims of crimes committed by family members and recorded by police in NIBRS agencies in 2000. Of these family violence victims, more than half (110,279) were spouses of the offender, about an eighth (27,783) were sons or daughters, and the remaining third were parents (23,652), siblings (21,164), or other family members such as grandparents or in-laws (24,693).

Of the 426,525 victims of nonfamily violence, more than half (242,233) were victimized by a friend or acquaintance, and a quarter (106,009) by their boyfriend or girlfriend.

Types of family violence recorded by police

Simple assault was the most frequent violent crime known to police in NIBRS agencies in 2000, and accounted for 61.8% of all violence. Examples of simple assault include grabbing, pushing, or hitting, with no serious injury inflicted and no weapon present.

Police statistics revealed that simple assault accounted for a higher proportion of violent crimes committed by family members as compared to nonfamily members. Simple assault constituted 72.7% of family violence and 56.5% of nonfamily violence.

Within specific relationship categories, simple assault comprised 77.1% of violent crimes against spouses, 74.9% of violence against parents, and 74.2% of crimes against boyfriends or girlfriends. An estimated 40.9% of the violent crimes against strangers were simple assaults.

Table 5.1. Offenses in police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship

| Type of offense | All violent crimes | Percent of crimes in which the victim was the offender's — | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger | |
| All offenses | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Murder ^a | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.3% | |
| Sex offenses | 5.3 | 4.5 | 0.6 | 12.8 | 1.2 | 6.9 | 13.6 | 5.8 | 2.3 | 7.9 | 3.9 | |
| Rape | 2.6 | 2.0 | 0.5 | 5.0 | 0.6 | 3.1 | 5.3 | 3.0 | 1.5 | 3.8 | 2.3 | |
| Sexual assault | 2.7 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 7.8 | 0.6 | 3.8 | 8.3 | 2.8 | 0.8 | 4.1 | 1.6 | |
| Robbery | 3.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 4.9 | 0.3 | 1.9 | 20.8 | |
| Aggravated assault | 15.4 | 12.5 | 11.3 | 13.1 | 13.3 | 16.0 | 13.8 | 16.7 | 13.3 | 17.0 | 20.8 | |
| Simple assault | 61.8 | 72.7 | 77.1 | 66.7 | 74.9 | 70.2 | 59.9 | 56.5 | 74.2 | 53.8 | 40.9 | |
| Intimidation | 13.4 | 9.3 | 10.5 | 4.2 | 10.1 | 6.4 | 11.5 | 15.4 | 9.5 | 18.9 | 12.5 | |
| Other violence | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 2.9 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.9 | |
| Total offenses | 634,096 | 207,571 | 110,279 | 27,783 | 23,652 | 21,164 | 24,693 | 426,525 | 106,009 | 242,233 | 78,283 | |
| Percent of all offenses | 100% | 32.7% | 17.4% | 4.4% | 3.7% | 3.3% | 3.9% | 67.3% | 16.7% | 38.2% | 12.3% | |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 84.7% (634,096) of 748,252 violent crimes. Offense type was reported for all 634,096 crimes with recorded relationships. Crimes with multiple offenses are counted under the most serious offense. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

^aIncludes nonnegligent manslaughter.

Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Aggravated assault, the second most common violent offense recorded by police in NIBRS agencies in 2000, accounted for about 1 out of every 7 violent crimes. Aggravated assault represented a smaller proportion of violent crimes between family members compared to nonfamily members. Aggravated assault accounted for 12.5% of crimes of violence within families and 16.7% of violent crimes involving nonfamily members. It constituted 11.3% of crimes committed against spouses, 16% against siblings, and 13.3% against boyfriends or girlfriends. Violent crimes committed against strangers showed the highest percentage of aggravated assaults (20.8%).

Intimidation was recorded almost as frequently as aggravated assault, according to police data in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000. Examples of intimidation include verbal threats, threatening gestures, stalking, and bullying. The threat may be physical, emotional, psychological, or sexual in nature, and may be made in person, in writing, over the telephone, or by some other conduct.

A lower percentage of family violence was due to intimidation compared to nonfamily violence. Intimidation accounted for 9.3% of violence against family members and 15.4% of violence against nonfamily members. Sons or daughters of offenders had the lowest proportion of intimidation (4.2%); those victimized by a friend or acquaintance had the highest (18.9%).

Sex offenses — rape and sexual assault — comprised about 5% of all violence in police statistics. As a percentage of all violent crimes, sex offenses varied by the relationship of the victim to the offender. Sex offenses accounted for nearly 13% of violent crimes committed against sons or daughters and less than 1% of those committed against spouses.

Other violence (kidnaping and justifiable homicide) accounted for a small percentage of violent crimes recorded by police. This “other” violence made up 0.7% of family violence and 0.4% of nonfamily violence.

Murder (including nonnegligent manslaughter) comprised 0.2% of all family and nonfamily violent crime in police data. This percentage was relatively consistent across all relationship categories.

Measuring family violence

In this section of the report, the extent of family violence is measured with police statistics. In 2000 police recorded about 200,000 incidents of family violence in NIBRS agencies (table 5.1). These 200,000 incidents accounted for 33% of all violence. Earlier in the report, family violence was measured by survey interviews with crime victims in the NCVS. The NCVS estimated that 11% of violence was family violence (table 2.1). The reasons for the dissimilarity of the estimates — 33% versus 11% — are discussed in the Appendix, page 71.

Location of family violence recorded by police

Most violence recorded by police in NIBRS agencies in 2000 occurred in a residential setting, usually a house or apartment. Almost two-thirds of all violent crimes took place in a residence (table 5.2).

A fifth of all violence was committed in a public place such as on a highway or road, and nearly a tenth in a commercial establishment such as a bar, nightclub, or restaurant.

The vast majority of family violence occurred in a residence. About 87% of instances of police-recorded family violence took place in a house or apartment. Few acts of family violence occurred in a public place (6.7%), in a commercial establishment (2.8%), or at some other location (2.7%). The proportion of violent crimes occurring at all types of locations was relatively consistent across all family relationships.

Slightly more than half of all nonfamily violence took place in a residential setting. A residence was the site of roughly four-fifths of violent crimes against a boyfriend or girlfriend and a half of all violence against a friend or acquaintance. However, less than a fourth of violent acts against a stranger occurred in a residence.

A higher proportion of police-recorded violence against friends or acquaintances and against strangers was committed outside the home, as compared to other relationships. More than 41% of violence against a stranger, and 29% of that against a friend or acquaintance, took place in a public setting. A relatively high percentage of violence against strangers took place on a highway or road (25.5%). Parking lots, eating or drinking establishments, and retail stores were each the site for about 10% of stranger violence.

Demographic characteristics of family violence victims recorded by police

Gender

The majority of victims of all violent crimes recorded in police statistics were female. Moreover, females accounted for 70.7% of victims of family violence (table 5.3). This proportion was higher than that of nonfamily violence victims (54.9%). Overall, females comprised 60.1% of the victims of all police-recorded violence in NIBRS agencies in 2000.

Violence between intimate partners showed the highest proportion of female victims. Females made up 80% of spouse violence victims and 82% of those victimized by boyfriends or girlfriends. Nearly half of the victims of violence committed by friends or acquaintances were female. By contrast, the majority of the victims of stranger violence were male (65.4%).

Table 5.2. Location of police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship

| Offense location | All violent crimes | Percent of crimes in which the victim was the offender's — | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger |
| All offenses | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Residential property | 64.3% | 87.8% | 87.2% | 88.6% | 92.8% | 88.9% | 83.7% | 52.9% | 80.8% | 50.1% | 23.7% |
| House/apartment | 63.1 | 87.1 | 86.3 | 87.9 | 92.5 | 88.4 | 83.3 | 51.5 | 79.0 | 49.0 | 21.6 |
| Hotel/motel | 1.2 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 2.1 |
| Public place | 20.3% | 6.7% | 7.0% | 6.3% | 3.9% | 6.2% | 9.2% | 26.9% | 11.4% | 29.0% | 41.4% |
| Highway/road | 11.1 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 3.9 | 5.6 | 14.5 | 7.3 | 14.1 | 25.5 |
| Parking lot/garage | 4.0 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 2.0 | 5.2 | 3.1 | 4.5 | 10.3 |
| School/college | 3.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 4.9 | 0.4 | 7.7 | 2.1 |
| Other public | 1.8 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 0.6 | 2.7 | 3.5 |
| Commercial property | 9.2% | 2.8% | 3.2% | 2.1% | 1.3% | 2.2% | 3.6% | 12.3% | 4.2% | 11.3% | 26.6% |
| Bar/nightclub/restaurant | 3.3 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 4.5 | 1.6 | 4.1 | 9.9 |
| Retail store | 2.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 3.6 | 1.1 | 2.8 | 9.5 |
| Office building | 1.8 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 2.4 | 0.8 | 2.7 | 3.5 |
| Other commercial | 1.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 1.8 | 0.7 | 1.7 | 3.7 |
| Other place | 6.2% | 2.7% | 2.6% | 3.0% | 1.9% | 2.7% | 3.4% | 7.9% | 3.6% | 9.6% | 8.3% |
| Total offenses | 634,096 | 207,571 | 110,279 | 27,783 | 23,652 | 21,164 | 24,693 | 426,525 | 106,009 | 242,233 | 78,283 |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 84.7% (634,096) of 748,252 violent crimes. Offense location was reported for all 634,096 crimes with recorded relationships. If the offense location was unknown, it was recorded in NIBRS as "other place." Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Race/Hispanic origin

According to police data, most of the victims of family violence were white. Whites made up 69.7% of family violence victims, blacks 24.7%, and Hispanics 4.7%. Less than 1% of family violence victims were persons of other races.

Just over 70% of spouse violence victims were white and 23% were black. Of individuals victimized by boyfriends or girlfriends, just under 60% were white and 36% were black.

Close to three-fourths of victims who were a parent of the offender were white, and a fifth were black. Among sibling victims, more than three-fifths were white, and three-tenths were black.

Victims of Hispanic origin as a percentage of total victims did not vary across the relationship categories. Percentages of American Indian/Alaska Native and Asian/Pacific Islander victims also showed little variation by type of relationship.

Age

Police statistics indicated that most victims of violence were age 18 or older. Approximately three-fourths of victims of family and nonfamily violence were between ages 18 and 54. Twenty-one percent of all violence victims were under age 18.

The proportion of victims between ages 25 and 54 was highest for parents (79%) and spouses (78%), followed

by boyfriends or girlfriends (59%). Young adults between ages 18 and 24 constituted almost 35% of boyfriend and girlfriend victims compared to slightly over 18% of victims of spouse violence.

Violence at the hand of a parent had the highest proportion of juvenile victims (76.5%) followed by siblings (36.5%) and friends or acquaintances (31.2%). The percentage of juvenile victims of violence committed by strangers was lower (15%).

Nine percent of victims of family violence were children 12 years of age or younger; under 7% of victims of nonfamily violence were children in this age range. Persons victimized by a parent showed the highest proportion

Table 5.3. Victim demographic characteristics in police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship

| Victim characteristic | All violent crimes | Percent of crimes in which the victim was the offender's — | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger |
| All offenses | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 39.9% | 29.3% | 20.0% | 44.1% | 32.0% | 43.1% | 38.1% | 45.1% | 18.0% | 50.5% | 65.4% |
| Female | 60.1 | 70.7 | 80.0 | 55.9 | 68.0 | 56.9 | 61.9 | 54.9 | 82.0 | 49.5 | 34.6 |
| Race/Hispanic origin | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 66.7% | 69.7% | 71.1% | 72.0% | 74.6% | 63.0% | 61.6% | 65.2% | 58.2% | 66.7% | 70.1% |
| Black | 28.2 | 24.7 | 23.0 | 22.1 | 21.7 | 31.7 | 32.1 | 29.9 | 36.2 | 29.0 | 23.9 |
| Hispanic | 4.3 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 3.0 | 4.4 | 5.5 | 4.1 | 4.8 | 3.6 | 4.7 |
| Other | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 1.3 |
| American Indian/ Alaska Native | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 1.1 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 18 | 20.6% | 18.1% | 0.7% | 76.5% | 2.0% | 36.5% | 29.0% | 21.8% | 5.4% | 31.2% | 15.0% |
| Under 13 | 7.5 | 9.0 | 0 | 41.5 | 0 | 13.3 | 16.4 | 6.8 | 0.1 | 10.5 | 4.4 |
| 13 - 17 | 13.1 | 9.1 | 0.7 | 35.0 | 2.0 | 23.2 | 12.6 | 15.0 | 5.3 | 20.7 | 10.6 |
| 18 - 24 | 23.1 | 16.8 | 18.4 | 15.2 | 1.8 | 24.9 | 19.2 | 26.1 | 34.7 | 22.6 | 25.4 |
| 25 - 34 | 25.0 | 26.2 | 37.8 | 4.9 | 11.4 | 17.7 | 19.1 | 24.5 | 32.5 | 20.1 | 27.3 |
| 35 - 54 | 27.9 | 34.3 | 40.2 | 3.1 | 67.9 | 19.2 | 23.8 | 24.7 | 26.3 | 23.0 | 27.5 |
| 55 or older | 3.4 | 4.6 | 2.9 | 0.3 | 15.5 | 1.6 | 9.0 | 2.9 | 1.1 | 3.1 | 4.8 |
| Total offenses | 634,096 | 207,571 | 110,279 | 27,783 | 23,652 | 21,164 | 24,693 | 426,525 | 106,009 | 242,233 | 78,283 |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 84.7% (634,096) of 748,252 violent crimes. Of these 634,096 crimes with recorded relationships, victim gender was reported for 99.6%; race for 97.9%; age for 97.6%. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

of victims under age 13 (41.5%), followed by those victimized by another family member such as a grandparent or in-law (16.4%), sibling (13.3%), and friend or acquaintance (10.5%). The percentage of stranger violence against child victims age 12 or younger was lower (4.4%).

In general, adults 55 or older made up the smallest percentage of victims. These older adults comprised less than 5% of family violence victims and less than 3% of nonfamily violence victims. More than 15% of parents abused by a son or daughter were over age 54.

Injury to victims of family violence recorded by police

Nearly half of all violence victims sustained an injury. Police data in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000 revealed that 47% of victims of violence were injured (table 5.4). About 9% sustained a major injury, including death, sexual assault, and severe lacerations, and 38% had minor injuries such as cuts, abrasions, and bruises.

Within families, about 7% of victims had major and 42% had minor injuries; 10% of victims who were not related to the offender suffered major injuries and nearly 36% had minor injuries.

Degree and type of injury varied by the relationship of the victim to the offender. A higher proportion of sons or daughters (15.7%), siblings (10.5%), and other family members (16.9%) sustained major injuries compared to spouses (3.1%), parents (3.4%), and boyfriends or girlfriends (5.5%) of the offender.

About half the victims of spouse (45.8%) and boyfriend/girlfriend violence (48.2%) sustained minor injuries. Fewer than 1 in 3 victims of stranger violence had minor injuries.

Table 5.4. Victim injury in police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship

| Victim injury | All violent crimes | Percent of crimes in which the victim was the offender's— | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger |
| All offenses | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Major injuries | 9.3% | 7.4% | 3.1% | 15.7% | 3.4% | 10.5% | 16.9% | 10.4% | 5.5% | 12.5% | 10.3% |
| Victim died | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Rape or sexual assault | 5.3 | 4.5 | 0.6 | 12.8 | 1.2 | 6.9 | 13.6 | 5.8 | 2.3 | 7.9 | 3.9 |
| Severe lacerations | 2.1 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 2.5 | 3.3 |
| Broken bones/loss of teeth | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| Internal injury | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| Unconsciousness | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Other major injuries | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.3 |
| Minor injuries | 37.9% | 42.1% | 45.8% | 38.8% | 36.7% | 41.3% | 35.0% | 35.8% | 48.2% | 32.9% | 28.2% |
| No injuries | 52.8% | 50.7% | 51.0% | 45.4% | 60.0% | 48.2% | 48.3% | 53.8% | 46.4% | 54.5% | 61.6% |
| Total offenses | 634,096 | 207,571 | 110,279 | 27,783 | 23,652 | 21,164 | 24,693 | 426,525 | 106,009 | 242,233 | 78,283 |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 84.7% (634,096) of 748,252 violent crimes. Victim injury was reported for all 634,096 crimes with recorded relationships. Victims sustaining more than one injury are counted under the most serious injury. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Demographic characteristics of family violence offenders recorded by police

Gender

More than three-fourths of offenders were male in all violent crime recorded by police in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000. Males accounted for 75.3% of family violence offenders and 78.1% of nonfamily violence (table 5.5). In violent crimes against a spouse, 80% of the offenders were male; against a boyfriend or girlfriend, 81.9%; and against a stranger, 85.6% of the offenders were male. Violent crimes against a son or daughter had the lowest percentage of male offenders (67.3%) and the highest of female offenders (32.7%).

Race

The majority of violent offenders were white (defined here as both Hispanic and non-Hispanic). Police statistics

indicated that nearly 73% of family violence offenders were white, slightly more than 26% were black (also defined as both Hispanic and non-Hispanic), and 1% were of other races. For violence between nonfamily members, whites accounted for about 60% of offenders, blacks nearly 39%, and other races slightly under 1%.

The percentage of black and white offenders varied depending on the relationship between the victim and the offender. In violent crimes in which the victim was the offender's spouse, 73.7% of offenders were white and 25.2% were black; for boyfriend or girlfriend victims, 57.6% of offenders were white and 41.6% were black.

The proportion of white offenders was highest when the victim was the offender's parent (76.5%), and lowest when the victim was a stranger (54.5%). The proportion of black offenders was

highest when the victim was a stranger (44.5%), and lowest when the victim was the offender's son or daughter (22.2%).

Age

The majority of violent offenders were 18 years of age or older, according to police data. More than four-fifths of all violent offenders were between ages 18 and 54; nearly a sixth were younger than 18.

Offender age varied depending on the relationship between the victim and offender. About 81% of spouse offenders were between ages 25 and 54. For violence against a boyfriend or girlfriend, about 64% of offenders were in this age range. Young adults between ages 18 and 24 comprised 31.9% of offenders of violence against a boyfriend or girlfriend and 14.6% of offenders against a spouse.

Table 5.5. Offender demographic characteristics in police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship

| Offender characteristic | All violent crimes | Percent of crimes in which the victim was the offender's— | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger |
| All offenses | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 77.2% | 75.3% | 80.0% | 67.3% | 68.5% | 72.9% | 72.0% | 78.1% | 81.9% | 74.0% | 85.8% |
| Female | 22.8 | 24.7 | 20.0 | 32.7 | 31.5 | 27.1 | 28.0 | 21.9 | 18.1 | 26.0 | 14.2 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 64.4% | 72.9% | 73.7% | 76.8% | 76.5% | 67.3% | 66.1% | 60.2% | 57.6% | 63.2% | 54.5% |
| Black | 34.7 | 26.1 | 25.2 | 22.2 | 22.8 | 31.7 | 33.1 | 38.9 | 41.6 | 35.8 | 44.5 |
| Other | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| American Indian/ Alaska Native | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 18 | 15.6% | 11.2% | 0.3% | 1.4% | 50.6% | 31.8% | 15.7% | 17.8% | 2.5% | 26.1% | 13.3% |
| Under 13 | 2.8 | 1.4 | 0 | 0.1 | 4.5 | 4.9 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 0 | 5.8 | 1.4 |
| 13 - 17 | 12.8 | 9.8 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 46.1 | 26.9 | 12.8 | 14.3 | 2.5 | 20.3 | 11.9 |
| 18 - 24 | 24.5 | 16.9 | 14.6 | 8.0 | 23.2 | 27.8 | 21.6 | 28.3 | 31.9 | 25.1 | 33.6 |
| 25 - 34 | 27.2 | 29.4 | 36.8 | 25.4 | 13.1 | 19.1 | 24.8 | 26.1 | 34.8 | 22.0 | 26.7 |
| 35 - 54 | 29.6 | 38.7 | 44.5 | 59.5 | 12.3 | 19.9 | 30.8 | 25.1 | 29.4 | 23.7 | 23.4 |
| 55 or older | 3.1 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 5.7 | 0.8 | 1.4 | 7.1 | 2.7 | 1.4 | 3.1 | 3.0 |
| Total offenses | 634,096 | 207,571 | 110,279 | 27,783 | 23,652 | 21,164 | 24,693 | 426,525 | 106,009 | 242,233 | 78,283 |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 84.7% (634,096) of 748,252 violent crimes. Of these 634,096 crimes with recorded relationships, offender gender was reported for 99.9%; race for 98.1%; age for 95.4%. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

For parents committing an act of violence against a son or daughter, fewer than 10% of offenders were under age 25; approximately 25% were between 25 and 34; and nearly 60% were between ages 35 and 54.

Violent acts against a parent had the highest proportion of juvenile offenders (offenders less than age 18). As a percentage of all offenders committing violence against a parent, 50.6% were under age 18. Juveniles under 18 accounted for 31.8% of offenders committing an act of violence against a sibling, 26.1% against a friend or acquaintance, and 13.3% against a stranger.

The proportion of children age 12 or younger as violent offenders was relatively low in police-recorded data. Children under 13 accounted for 4.9% of offenders of violence against siblings, 4.5% against parents, 5.8% against friends or acquaintances, and 1.4% against strangers.

Adults 55 or older accounted for less than 4% of family violence offenders and under 3% of nonfamily violence offenders.

Weapon use in family violence recorded by police

Offenders did not use a weapon in the majority of violent crimes recorded by police in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000. Weapons were used in fewer than 1 in 5 violent crimes (table 5.6). A smaller percentage of family violence involved a weapon as compared to nonfamily violence. Some type of weapon was used in 15.5% of violence against family members and 20.7% of that against nonfamily members.

Weapon use varied by the relationship of the victim to the offender. For victims who were a friend or acquaintance of the offender, nearly 1 in 5 violent crimes involved a weapon; for stranger crimes, more than 1 in 3 violent crimes involved a weapon.

Five percent of violence recorded by police in NIBRS jurisdictions involved a firearm. Firearms were used in 1.7% of violent crimes committed against a spouse, 1.5% of those committed against a boyfriend or girlfriend, 4.7% against a friend or acquaintance, and 17.9% against a stranger.

The use of hands, fists, feet, and teeth was found in nearly 63% of all violence recorded in police statistics. The proportion of violent crimes in which these types of personal weapons were used was highest when the victim was a boyfriend or girlfriend (73.4%), spouse (72.4%), son or daughter (72.4%), or sibling (70.2%). Personal weapons were used in just under 57% of violent crimes against a friend or acquaintance and in 47% of violence against strangers.

Table 5.6. Weapon use by offender in police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship

| Weapon use by offender | All violent crimes | Percent of crimes in which the victim was the offender's— | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger |
| All offenses | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Weapon used | 19.1% | 15.5% | 12.9% | 17.7% | 20.0% | 18.9% | 17.2% | 20.7% | 13.3% | 19.1% | 35.7% |
| Firearm | 5.0 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 6.4 | 1.5 | 4.7 | 17.9 |
| Handgun | 3.5 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.9 | 4.7 | 1.1 | 3.1 | 14.2 |
| Other gun | 1.4 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.5 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 3.7 |
| Knife | 3.8 | 3.4 | 2.7 | 2.1 | 4.7 | 5.9 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 3.6 | 4.0 | 5.0 |
| Blunt object | 3.0 | 2.4 | 1.8 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 2.1 | 3.6 | 3.8 |
| Other | 7.3 | 7.7 | 6.7 | 11.2 | 9.8 | 6.7 | 6.9 | 7.0 | 6.1 | 6.8 | 9.0 |
| No weapon used | 80.9% | 84.5% | 87.1% | 82.3% | 80.0% | 81.1% | 82.8% | 79.3% | 86.7% | 80.9% | 64.3% |
| Hands, fists, feet, teeth | 62.9 | 70.9 | 72.4 | 72.4 | 66.5 | 70.2 | 66.0 | 59.1 | 73.4 | 56.8 | 47.1 |
| No physical force used | 18.1 | 13.7 | 14.6 | 9.9 | 13.4 | 9.9 | 16.8 | 20.2 | 13.2 | 24.2 | 17.1 |
| Total offenses | 634,096 | 207,571 | 110,279 | 27,783 | 23,652 | 21,164 | 24,693 | 426,525 | 106,009 | 242,233 | 78,283 |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 84.7% (634,096) of 748,252 violent crimes. Weapon use by the offender was reported for 90.8% of these 634,096 crimes with recorded relationships. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Table 5.7. Number of victims and offenders in police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship

| Number of victims and offenders | All violent crimes | Percent of crimes in which the victim was the offender's— | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|---|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger |
| All offenses | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| One victim | 78.9% | 79.2% | 85.7% | 66.1% | 78.7% | 70.4% | 73.2% | 78.8% | 86.8% | 77.5% | 71.9% |
| One offender | 73.1 | 76.9 | 84.4 | 61.9 | 76.6 | 67.4 | 68.8 | 71.2 | 85.2 | 69.3 | 58.1 |
| Multiple offenders | 5.9 | 2.3 | 1.3 | 4.2 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 4.4 | 7.6 | 1.6 | 8.2 | 13.8 |
| Multiple victims | 21.1% | 20.8% | 14.3% | 33.9% | 21.3% | 29.6% | 26.8% | 21.2% | 13.2% | 22.5% | 28.1% |
| One offender | 10.2 | 10.3 | 4.3 | 23.6 | 13.6 | 13.8 | 15.8 | 10.1 | 3.7 | 11.3 | 15.2 |
| Multiple offenders | 10.9 | 10.5 | 10.0 | 10.3 | 7.7 | 15.8 | 11.0 | 11.1 | 9.5 | 11.2 | 12.9 |
| Total offenses | 634,096 | 207,571 | 110,279 | 27,783 | 23,652 | 21,164 | 24,693 | 426,525 | 106,009 | 242,233 | 78,283 |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 84.7% (634,096) of 748,252 violent crimes. The number of victims and offenders was reported for all 634,096 crimes with recorded relationships. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Number of victims and offenders in family violence recorded by police

Most incidents of violence — whether family or nonfamily — involved one offender and one victim. A single offender committing a violent crime against a single victim described 76.9% of family violence and 71.2% of nonfamily violence, according to police data in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000 (table 5.7).

A single offender against a single victim was most characteristic of spouse violence and boyfriend/girlfriend violence. Of the 110,279 incidents of police-recorded spouse violence, 84.4% involved a spouse committing a violent crime against his/her spouse and no one else. The comparable figure for the 106,009 incidents of boyfriend/girlfriend violence was 85.2%.

Multiple offenders victimizing a lone victim was most characteristic of stranger violence. Of the 78,283 incidents of stranger violence, 13.8% fit that description.

In incidents of parents victimizing their children, the most common situation was one parent committing a crime against one son or daughter (61.9%). How often both parents victimized their children is not shown. Incidents of multiple offenders victimizing one person accounted for 4.2% of all incidents of parents victimizing their offspring, but the offenders in these multiple-offender incidents were not always both parents. In some cases they may have been one parent and, for example, that parent's boyfriend or girlfriend.

Violent crimes with multiple victims accounted for 33.9% of violence by a parent against his/her children, 29.6% of violence between siblings, and 28.6% of violence against other family members.

In incidents of sons or daughters victimizing their parents, 13.6% involved one son or daughter committing the crime against multiple victims. How often these multiple victims were both parents is not shown. As presented, "multiple victims" was defined to include both parents or just one parent and other persons.

Arrests for family violence recorded by police

The vast majority of arrests were made for crimes of assault. Of all arrests for violent crime recorded in police data, 68.4% were for incidents involving simple assault, 19.4% were for aggravated assault, and 5.6% were for intimidation (table 5.8).

Simple assaults accounted for a higher proportion of arrests in family violence (77.4%) compared to nonfamily

violence (62.3%). Family violence had lower proportions of arrests for aggravated assault (15.5%) and intimidation (3.9%) compared to nonfamily violence (22% and 6.8%, respectively).

Violence against a spouse showed the highest proportion of arrests for simple assault (81.6%), followed by violence against a boyfriend or girlfriend (78.1%), and a parent (76.7%). Among stranger violence, simple assault showed the lowest proportion of arrests (47.4%). Arrests for aggravated assault, as a

percentage of all arrests, were lowest when the victim was the offender's spouse (13.7%) and highest when the victim was a stranger (26.8%).

Intimidation comprised less than 3% of all arrests for violence against a son or daughter or a sibling, and nearly 9% of arrests for violence against a friend or acquaintance.

The percentage of arrests for sex offenses was highest for victims who were the offender's son or daughter (7.8%) or other family member (9.9%).

Table 5.8. Arrests in police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship

| Type of offense | All violent crimes | Percent of arrests for crimes in which the victim was the offender's — | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--|--------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger |
| All arrests | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Murder ^a | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.2% | 0.5% | 0.5% |
| Sex offenses | 3.7 | 2.6 | 0.4 | 7.8 | 0.6 | 4.8 | 9.9 | 4.5 | 1.4 | 7.2 | 2.7 |
| Rape | 1.8 | 1.2 | 0.3 | 3.5 | 0.3 | 2.3 | 4.1 | 2.1 | 0.8 | 3.3 | 1.3 |
| Sexual assault | 2.0 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 4.3 | 0.3 | 2.5 | 5.8 | 2.4 | 0.6 | 3.9 | 1.5 |
| Robbery | 2.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 3.6 | 0.2 | 2.1 | 14.0 |
| Aggravated assault | 19.4 | 15.5 | 13.7 | 16.9 | 16.4 | 20.3 | 18.4 | 22.0 | 16.3 | 24.0 | 26.8 |
| Simple assault | 68.4 | 77.4 | 81.6 | 70.9 | 76.7 | 71.6 | 65.8 | 62.3 | 78.1 | 57.3 | 47.4 |
| Intimidation | 5.6 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 2.6 | 5.7 | 2.8 | 4.8 | 6.8 | 3.3 | 8.6 | 7.9 |
| Other violent offenses | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| Total arrests | 252,196 | 101,454 | 58,113 | 11,583 | 12,360 | 9,872 | 9,526 | 150,742 | 48,849 | 75,261 | 26,632 |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 92.4% (252,196) of 273,023 arrests for violent crimes. Type of offense was reported for all 252,196 arrests with recorded relationships. Crimes with multiple offenses are counted under the most serious offense. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

^aMurder includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Demographic characteristics of persons arrested for family violence recorded by police

Gender

The vast majority of persons arrested for family violence were males. According to police statistics in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, males made up 77.1% of all suspects arrested for family violence (table 5.9). Males also predominated among arrestees for nonfamily violence, comprising 79% of persons arrested.

The predominance of males as arrestees was greatest for stranger violence. Among all persons arrested for stranger violence in 2000, 84% were male.

Males made up about 81% of persons arrested for violence against their spouse, and about 81% of those

arrested for a violent crime against their boyfriend or girlfriend.

Overall, females were 21.7% of persons arrested for a violent crime. The female percentage was greatest for violent crimes by sons and daughters against their parents. Specifically, females made up 30.3% of persons arrested for a crime of violence against a parent.

Race/Hispanic origin

Among persons arrested in 2000 for family violence, whites comprised 68.9% of the total; blacks, 24.3%; and Hispanics, 5.6%. Among those arrested for nonfamily violence, the racial composition was white, 58.1%; black, 34.8%; and Hispanic, 6%.

The category with the largest percentage of white arrestees was violence against parents. Among persons

arrested for that crime, whites were 74.5% of the total. The category with the lowest percentage of white arrestees was stranger violence (55.7%).

Blacks' highest percentage among arrestees was for stranger violence (36.7% of arrestees for that crime). Blacks' lowest percentage was violence against their parents (20.7%).

Age

Most (51%) of the sons and daughters arrested for a violent crime against their parents were children under age 18. Most (61.9%) of the parents arrested for violently victimizing their sons or daughters were ages 35-54.

Table 5.9. Arrestee demographic characteristics in police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship

| Arrestee characteristic | All violent crimes | Percent of arrests for crimes in which the victim was the offender's — | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger |
| All arrests | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 78.3% | 77.1% | 80.7% | 71.9% | 69.7% | 74.4% | 74.4% | 79.0% | 81.1% | 75.9% | 84.0% |
| Female | 21.7 | 22.9 | 19.3 | 28.1 | 30.3 | 25.6 | 25.6 | 21.0 | 18.9 | 24.1 | 16.0 |
| Race/Hispanic origin | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 62.4% | 68.9% | 69.4% | 72.2% | 74.5% | 64.0% | 59.7% | 58.1% | 57.4% | 59.4% | 55.7% |
| Black | 30.6 | 24.3 | 23.2 | 21.7 | 20.7 | 29.9 | 33.2 | 34.8 | 35.2 | 33.8 | 36.7 |
| Hispanic | 5.9 | 5.6 | 6.1 | 4.9 | 3.9 | 5.0 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 6.5 | 5.6 | 6.4 |
| Other | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| American Indian/ Alaska Native | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.5 |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 18 | 14.7% | 11.3% | 0.4% | 2.5% | 51.0% | 31.8% | 15.7% | 17.0% | 1.9% | 28.0% | 13.8% |
| Under 13 | 2.1 | 1.1 | 0 | 0.2 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 0 | 5.1 | 0.9 |
| 13 - 17 | 12.6 | 10.1 | 0.3 | 2.4 | 46.7 | 27.8 | 13.7 | 14.3 | 1.9 | 22.9 | 12.8 |
| 18 - 24 | 23.6 | 16.8 | 14.5 | 7.5 | 22.4 | 28.8 | 22.6 | 28.1 | 30.0 | 25.3 | 32.8 |
| 25 - 34 | 27.2 | 28.8 | 36.0 | 22.4 | 12.4 | 18.2 | 25.3 | 26.2 | 34.3 | 21.2 | 25.3 |
| 35 - 54 | 31.8 | 39.6 | 45.5 | 61.9 | 13.4 | 20.2 | 30.9 | 26.5 | 32.4 | 23.0 | 25.7 |
| 55 or older | 2.7 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 5.6 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 5.6 | 2.2 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 2.4 |
| Total arrests | 252,196 | 101,454 | 58,113 | 11,583 | 12,360 | 9,872 | 9,526 | 150,742 | 48,849 | 75,261 | 26,632 |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 92.4% (252,196) of 273,023 arrests. Of these 252,196 arrests with recorded relationships, arrestee gender was reported for 100%; race for 99.2%; age for 99.8%. In 95% of arrests, the gender, race, and age of at least one arrestee matched that of the offender with the closest relationship to the victim. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Demographic characteristics of victims of family violence in arrests recorded by police

Gender

The majority of victims of violent crimes in which an arrest was made were female. Females accounted for 61% of victims of all violence for which there was an arrest (table 5.10). Police data from NIBRS agencies in 2000 indicated that nearly 72% of victims of family violence and 54% of victims of nonfamily violence which resulted in an arrest were female.

The proportion of female victims of violence that ended in arrest varied by the relationship between the victim and the offender. About 80% of victims who were the spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend

of the offender were female, while about 55% of victims who were the son or daughter or sibling of the offender were female.

Males accounted for nearly three-quarters of the victims of violence committed by a stranger who was arrested; they comprised more than half of the victims of violence committed by a friend or acquaintance.

Race/Hispanic origin

Police statistics revealed that in violent crimes for which there was an arrest, 69.2% of the victims were white, 24.8% were black, and 4.9% were Hispanic.

Among arrests for violence committed by a son or daughter against their parent, 76.2% of victims were white, 19.6% black; and 3.4% Hispanic.

Comparable figures for violence against a sibling were white, 63.8%; black, 29.9%; and Hispanic, 5.2%.

Of violence that resulted in an arrest and comparing all categories of victims, other family members had the lowest proportion of white victims (60.9%), and the highest percentages of black (32.1%) and Hispanic victims (6.2%).

Violence against strangers resulting in an arrest showed the highest proportion of white victims (77.3%) and the lowest of black victims (17.6%).

Age

The majority of victims of violence that resulted in arrest were adults. More than three-fourths of these victims were between ages 18 and 54, and about a fifth were under 18.

Table 5.10. Victim demographic characteristics in offenses for which an arrest occurred in police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship

| Victim characteristic | All violent crimes | Percent of arrests for crimes in which the victim was the offender's — | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger |
| All arrests | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 38.7% | 28.3% | 19.6% | 45.3% | 31.8% | 45.2% | 39.3% | 45.7% | 18.9% | 53.8% | 72.6% |
| Female | 61.3 | 71.7 | 80.4 | 54.7 | 68.2 | 54.8 | 60.7 | 54.3 | 81.1 | 46.2 | 27.4 |
| Race/Hispanic origin | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 69.2% | 70.9% | 72.2% | 72.4% | 76.2% | 63.8% | 60.9% | 68.1% | 63.8% | 67.8% | 77.3% |
| Black | 24.8 | 22.8 | 20.9 | 21.6 | 19.6 | 29.9 | 32.1 | 26.2 | 29.6 | 27.0 | 17.6 |
| Hispanic | 4.9 | 5.3 | 5.6 | 4.7 | 3.4 | 5.2 | 6.2 | 4.7 | 5.6 | 4.4 | 3.9 |
| Other | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 1.2 |
| American Indian/ Alaska Native | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 1.0 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 18 | 17.7% | 15.0% | 0.8% | 73.3% | 2.3% | 37.2% | 25.9% | 19.6% | 4.2% | 32.2% | 12.3% |
| Under 13 | 5.9 | 6.6 | 0 | 35.7 | 0.8 | 12.6 | 13.0 | 5.4 | 0.1 | 9.5 | 3.5 |
| 13 - 17 | 11.9 | 8.5 | 0.7 | 37.6 | 1.5 | 24.6 | 13.0 | 14.2 | 4.1 | 22.7 | 8.8 |
| 18 - 24 | 22.2 | 16.9 | 18.1 | 17.9 | 1.4 | 25.3 | 20.0 | 25.8 | 32.8 | 22.1 | 22.9 |
| 25 - 34 | 26.6 | 26.8 | 37.1 | 5.7 | 11.6 | 17.2 | 19.2 | 26.4 | 32.5 | 20.2 | 32.9 |
| 35 - 54 | 30.0 | 36.4 | 41.2 | 2.9 | 68.1 | 18.7 | 24.4 | 25.6 | 29.1 | 22.6 | 27.4 |
| 55 or older | 3.6 | 4.9 | 2.9 | 0.2 | 16.6 | 1.6 | 10.4 | 2.7 | 1.4 | 2.9 | 4.5 |
| Total arrests | 252,196 | 101,454 | 58,113 | 11,583 | 12,360 | 9,872 | 9,526 | 150,742 | 48,849 | 75,261 | 26,632 |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 92.4% (252,196) of 273,023 arrests. Of these 252,196 arrests with recorded relationships, victim gender was reported for 99.5%; race for 97.7%; age for 96.5%. Victims of multiple offenses are counted under the most serious offense. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

For the majority of arrests for violence by a parent against a son or daughter, the victim was under age 18. Victims between ages 13 and 17 accounted for 37.6% of arrests for violence against a son or daughter, and victims under age 13 accounted for 35.7%. By contrast, the victim was under age 13 in 3.5% of arrests for violence against a stranger.

Sons or daughters arrested for victimizing a parent had the highest proportion of arrests for violence against victims 55 or older (16.6%).

Arrest rates for family violence recorded by police

Arrests were made in less than half of the violent crimes recorded by police, according to police statistics for NIBRS agencies in 2000. Just under 40% of all violence resulted in an arrest (table 5.11). The arrest rate for family violence is higher than for nonfamily violence. Nearly half of all family violence crimes had an arrest compared to about a third of nonfamily violence.

Arrests were made in over half of recorded violent crimes committed against spouses (52.7%) and against parents (52.3%). The rate of arrest was somewhat lower for violence against a sibling (46.6%), boyfriend or girlfriend (46.1%), and son or daughter (41.7%).

Violent crimes with the lowest arrest rate were those in which the victim was a friend or acquaintance of the offender (31.1%) or a stranger (34%).

The rate of arrest also varied by type of offense. Nearly 7 in 10 murders and 1 in 2 aggravated assaults resulted in an arrest compared to roughly 1 in 4 robberies and sex offenses and 1 in 6 crimes of intimidation.

Nearly 80% of murders committed against a parent or sibling resulted in arrest. The arrest rate for murder was lowest when the victim was a spouse of the offender (49.6%), a son or daughter (60.3%), or a stranger (65.5%).

Arrest rates for aggravated assault were highest when the victim was the

offender's spouse (63.9%) or parent (64.3%). Arrest rates were lowest for this crime when the victim was the offender's friend or acquaintance (43.9%) or was a stranger (43.9%).

Arrest rates by demographic characteristics of offenders for family violence recorded by police

During a criminal investigation, law enforcement may learn information about an offender, even if that offender is not arrested. For example, an assault victim tells the police that his assailant was a white male between ages 25 and 35. While the police may not make an arrest in this case, they nevertheless record the information provided about the offender as a suspect.

Information recorded in NIBRS on offender demographic characteristics indicated that 75.3% — 156,300 offenders — of suspected family violence offenders were male.

Table 5.11. Arrest rates in police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship and offense

| Type of offense | All violent crimes | Arrest rates for crimes in which the victim was the offender's — | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger |
| All offenses | 39.8% | 48.9% | 52.7% | 41.7% | 52.3% | 46.6% | 38.6% | 35.3% | 46.1% | 31.1% | 34.0% |
| Murder ^a | 69.0% | 62.4% | 49.6% | 60.3% | 79.5% | 78.6% | 84.8% | 71.6% | 69.8% | 74.8% | 65.5% |
| Sex offenses | 27.7 | 28.0 | 32.1 | 25.4 | 28.3 | 32.6 | 28.0 | 27.6 | 27.9 | 28.2 | 23.9 |
| Rape | 26.7 | 30.6 | 30.9 | 29.1 | 29.5 | 34.8 | 29.9 | 25.4 | 25.2 | 26.7 | 19.1 |
| Sexual assault | 28.7 | 26.1 | 38.9 | 22.9 | 27.1 | 30.9 | 26.8 | 29.9 | 33.1 | 29.5 | 30.7 |
| Robbery | 25.8 | 40.8 | 50.0 | 37.5 | 53.2 | 41.7 | 29.7 | 25.6 | 34.8 | 34.8 | 22.9 |
| Aggravated assault | 50.1 | 60.3 | 63.9 | 53.9 | 64.3 | 58.9 | 51.4 | 46.4 | 56.8 | 43.9 | 43.9 |
| Simple assault | 44.0 | 52.0 | 55.8 | 44.3 | 53.5 | 47.5 | 42.4 | 38.9 | 48.5 | 33.1 | 39.5 |
| Intimidation | 16.7 | 20.6 | 19.2 | 25.8 | 29.4 | 20.6 | 16.3 | 15.5 | 16.2 | 14.1 | 21.5 |
| Other violent offenses | 34.7 | 27.9 | 43.3 | 19.7 | 36.1 | 47.2 | 26.1 | 40.0 | 56.0 | 45.6 | 25.2 |
| Total arrests | 252,196 | 101,454 | 58,113 | 11,583 | 12,360 | 9,872 | 9,526 | 150,742 | 48,849 | 75,261 | 26,632 |
| Total offenses | 634,096 | 207,571 | 110,279 | 27,783 | 23,652 | 21,164 | 24,693 | 426,525 | 106,009 | 242,233 | 78,283 |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 84.7% (634,096) of 748,252 violent crimes and 92.4% (252,196) of 273,023 arrests for these crimes. Offense type was reported for all of these crimes and arrests. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

^aIncludes nonnegligent manslaughter.

Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Among violent crime recorded by police in NIBRS agencies in 2000, 50% — 78,150 offenders — of the 156,300 males suspected were arrested by police (table 5.12).

| Gender | Family violence offenders | | |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | Number suspected | Number arrested | Percent arrested |
| Male | 156,300 | 78,150 | 50.0% |
| Female | 51,270 | 23,330 | 45.5 |

Gender

For violence committed by males, the arrest rate was higher for family violence compared to nonfamily violence. Half of all police-recorded family violence in which the suspected offender was male resulted in an arrest (table 5.12). For nonfamily violence

committed by males, the arrest rate was slightly more than a third. Overall, two-fifths of male offenders were arrested for violence recorded by police in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000.

More than half of all males suspected of violence against their spouse or parent were arrested. The same was true for females.

Arrest rates for female offenders were slightly lower than those for male offenders for every relationship category except two. Females had a slightly higher arrest rate for violence against a boyfriend or girlfriend and against a stranger.

Race/Hispanic origin

Compared to other races, American Indian/Alaska Natives showed the highest arrest rates for violent crime. More than half (55.2%) of all suspected offenders of this racial group were arrested. Asian/Pacific Islanders were arrested at a rate of 46.5%.

Arrest rates were lowest for blacks; 35.5% of suspected black offenders were arrested for a violent crime, compared to 40.5% of white offenders and 50.3% of offenders of other races.

Blacks suspected of committing violence against a stranger were arrested at a rate of 3 in 10. In comparison, 1 in 2 blacks accused of committing spouse abuse were arrested.

Table 5.12. Arrest rates in police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship and offender demographic characteristics

| Offender characteristic | All violent crimes | Arrest rates for crimes in which the victim was the offender's — | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger |
| All offenses | 39.8% | 48.9% | 52.7% | 41.7% | 52.3% | 46.6% | 38.6% | 35.3% | 46.1% | 31.1% | 34.0% |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 40.3% | 50.0% | 53.1% | 44.4% | 53.2% | 47.5% | 39.8% | 35.8% | 45.6% | 31.9% | 33.5% |
| Female | 38.1 | 45.5 | 51.2 | 36.2 | 50.3 | 44.3 | 35.4 | 34.0 | 48.3 | 28.8 | 38.3 |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 40.5% | 48.3% | 52.1% | 40.5% | 52.5% | 46.2% | 36.5% | 35.8% | 48.6% | 30.4% | 37.2% |
| Black | 35.5 | 45.8 | 48.7 | 41.1 | 47.7 | 44.2 | 39.0 | 32.1 | 39.2 | 29.8 | 28.8 |
| Other | 50.3 | 60.1 | 64.0 | 53.5 | 60.9 | 53.4 | 51.7 | 45.1 | 57.0 | 41.7 | 41.9 |
| American Indian/ Alaska Native | 55.2 | 60.9 | 66.8 | 52.8 | 68.0 | 52.6 | 51.6 | 52.8 | 60.8 | 48.6 | 56.5 |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 46.5 | 59.6 | 62.6 | 53.9 | 58.0 | 54.1 | 51.9 | 38.4 | 52.6 | 35.6 | 34.4 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 18 | 39.2% | 49.8% | 54.1% | 54.7% | 53.7% | 47.3% | 40.2% | 35.8% | 35.7% | 35.2% | 39.9% |
| Under 13 | 30.7 | 40.4 | 42.9 | 0 | 50.0 | 38.0 | 28.9 | 28.8 | 24.0 | 29.0 | 27.2 |
| 13 - 17 | 41.1 | 51.1 | 54.6 | 57.9 | 54.1 | 49.1 | 42.7 | 37.6 | 35.8 | 37.0 | 41.3 |
| 18 - 24 | 40.0 | 49.4 | 52.6 | 38.8 | 51.6 | 49.2 | 41.7 | 37.2 | 44.1 | 33.0 | 37.5 |
| 25 - 34 | 41.6 | 48.7 | 52.2 | 37.2 | 50.1 | 45.1 | 41.0 | 37.6 | 46.4 | 31.6 | 36.7 |
| 35 - 54 | 44.4 | 50.8 | 54.5 | 44.4 | 55.9 | 47.7 | 40.1 | 39.4 | 51.5 | 31.7 | 42.4 |
| 55 or older | 37.0 | 45.2 | 52.3 | 42.6 | 52.8 | 35.1 | 31.7 | 31.0 | 46.6 | 27.4 | 32.7 |
| Total arrests | 252,196 | 101,454 | 58,113 | 11,583 | 12,360 | 9,872 | 9,526 | 150,742 | 48,849 | 75,261 | 26,632 |
| Total offenses | 634,096 | 207,571 | 110,279 | 27,783 | 23,652 | 21,164 | 24,693 | 426,525 | 106,009 | 242,233 | 78,283 |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 84.7% (634,096) of 748,252 violent crimes and 92.4% (252,196) of 273,023 arrests for these crimes. Of these 252,196 arrests with recorded relationships, offender gender was reported for 100%; race for 99.2%; age for 99.8%. In 95% of arrests, the gender, race, and age of at least one offender matched that of the offender with the closest relationship to the victim. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Arrest rates were not available for arrestees of Hispanic origin because these data were not recorded for suspected offenders.

Age

Arrest rates were highest for offenders between ages 35 and 54. Approximately 50% of suspected family violence offenders in this age group were arrested; for nonfamily violence, nearly 40% were arrested.

Offenders under 13 years of age had the lowest arrest rates (30.7%). However, 50% of the children under 13 who were suspected of violence against their parents were arrested. The group with the highest arrest rate for this crime belonged to the age category 35-54 (55.9%).

Arrest rates by demographic characteristics of victims of family violence recorded by police

Gender

Overall, arrest rates were slightly higher for violent crimes in which the victim was female rather than male, according to police data in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000. Arrest rates for violence against female family members were also slightly higher than those against male family members. However, for crimes against nonfamily members, arrest rates were higher when the victims were male.

The difference in arrest rates for crimes against female victims compared to male victims is small for family violence. Arrests were made in 49.5% of crimes

in which the victim was a female family member and 47.3% of those against a male family member (table 5.13).

However, arrest rates were slightly lower when the victim was the offender's daughter or sister, compared to those when the victim was the offender's son or brother.

For police-recorded nonfamily violence, arrest rates were higher for crimes against males (35.7%) compared to females (34.8%). For violence in which the victim and offender were strangers, arrest rates were higher for crimes against male victims (37.5%) compared to female victims (26.8%).

Table 5.13. Arrest rates in police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship and victim demographic characteristics

| Victim characteristic | All violent crimes | Arrest rates for crimes in which the victim was the offender's — | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger |
| All offenses | 39.8% | 48.9% | 52.7% | 41.7% | 52.3% | 46.6% | 38.6% | 35.3% | 46.1% | 31.1% | 34.0% |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 38.5% | 47.3% | 51.5% | 42.8% | 51.9% | 48.8% | 38.3% | 35.7% | 48.6% | 33.0% | 37.5% |
| Female | 40.5 | 49.5 | 53.0 | 40.7 | 52.4 | 44.9 | 38.7 | 34.8 | 45.5 | 28.9 | 26.8 |
| Race/Hispanic origin | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 41.2% | 49.7% | 53.5% | 41.9% | 53.2% | 47.2% | 38.1% | 36.8% | 50.5% | 31.4% | 36.9% |
| Black | 35.0 | 45.0 | 47.9 | 40.7 | 47.1 | 44.0 | 38.5 | 30.9 | 37.7 | 28.8 | 24.6 |
| Hispanic | 45.3 | 54.8 | 60.3 | 41.0 | 59.8 | 55.6 | 43.0 | 40.1 | 53.6 | 37.2 | 27.8 |
| Other | 47.6 | 59.1 | 64.2 | 49.3 | 62.6 | 54.3 | 45.1 | 41.0 | 58.4 | 38.3 | 31.6 |
| American Indian/ Alaska Native | 54.3 | 60.7 | 69.2 | 50.0 | 66.7 | 52.1 | 48.4 | 50.8 | 64.7 | 46.1 | 37.1 |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 43.9 | 58.3 | 62.1 | 48.9 | 61.1 | 56.3 | 41.7 | 35.4 | 52.0 | 33.0 | 30.4 |
| Age | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 18 | 33.9% | 40.3% | 50.5% | 39.6% | 26.5% | 47.3% | 34.1% | 31.3% | 35.7% | 31.6% | 26.8% |
| Under 13 | 30.8 | 35.6 | 48.6 | 35.5 | 0 | 44.1 | 30.3 | 27.6 | 30.5 | 27.8 | 25.9 |
| 13 - 17 | 35.7 | 45.0 | 50.6 | 44.5 | 39.4 | 49.2 | 39.1 | 32.9 | 35.8 | 33.5 | 27.1 |
| 18 - 24 | 37.8 | 48.8 | 51.5 | 48.7 | 40.8 | 47.3 | 39.8 | 34.3 | 43.3 | 30.0 | 29.3 |
| 25 - 34 | 41.7 | 49.8 | 51.3 | 48.3 | 53.1 | 45.0 | 38.5 | 37.5 | 45.9 | 30.7 | 39.2 |
| 35 - 54 | 42.3 | 51.5 | 53.7 | 38.5 | 52.4 | 45.1 | 39.2 | 36.1 | 50.8 | 29.9 | 32.5 |
| 55 or older | 40.6 | 51.5 | 53.0 | 30.3 | 55.7 | 44.4 | 44.3 | 32.1 | 56.3 | 29.3 | 30.1 |
| Total arrests | 252,196 | 101,454 | 58,113 | 11,583 | 12,360 | 9,872 | 9,526 | 150,742 | 48,849 | 75,261 | 26,632 |
| Total offenses | 634,096 | 207,571 | 110,279 | 27,783 | 23,652 | 21,164 | 24,693 | 426,525 | 106,009 | 242,233 | 78,283 |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 84.7% (634,096) of 748,252 violent crimes and 92.4% (252,196) of 273,023 arrests for these crimes. Of these 252,196 arrests with recorded relationships, victim gender was reported for 99.5%; race for 97.7%; age for 96.5%. Victims of multiple offenses are counted under the most serious offense. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Table 5.14. Weapon possession at time of arrest in police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship

| Weapon possession at time of arrest | All violent crimes | Percent of arrests for crimes in which the victim was the offender's — | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger | |
| All arrests | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Armed | 3.9% | 3.0% | 2.5% | 3.1% | 3.6% | 4.4% | 4.5% | 4.6% | 2.4% | 5.1% | 7.1% | |
| Firearm | 1.7 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 0.8 | 2.1 | 4.0 | |
| Handgun | 0.8 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 1.1 | 2.4 | |
| Rifle | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | |
| Shotgun | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.3 | |
| Other firearm | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 1.1 | |
| Knife | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 2.3 | |
| Blunt object | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 0.8 | |
| Unarmed | 96.1% | 97.0% | 97.5% | 96.9% | 96.4% | 95.6% | 95.5% | 95.4% | 97.6% | 94.9% | 92.9% | |
| Total arrests | 252,196 | 101,454 | 58,113 | 11,583 | 12,360 | 9,872 | 9,526 | 150,742 | 48,849 | 75,261 | 26,632 | |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 92.4% (252,196) of 273,023 arrests for violent crimes. Weapon at time of arrest was reported for all 252,196 arrests with recorded relationships. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Race/Hispanic origin

Arrest rates were highest for violent crimes against American Indian/Alaska Native victims, followed by violence against Hispanic victims. Arrests were made in 54.3% of recorded violent crimes against American Indian/Alaska Natives and in 45.3% of violence against Hispanics.

Police-recorded data from NIBRS agencies in 2000 showed that arrest rates were lowest for violence against blacks (35%).

Arrest rates were higher for family violence compared to nonfamily violence for each racial category of victims. Nearly 55% of recorded family violence against Hispanics and 50% of that against whites resulted in an arrest. The corresponding arrest rates for nonfamily violence were 40% for Hispanic victims and 37% for white victims.

For black victims, arrests were made in 45% of family violence and 30.9% of nonfamily violence. Crimes committed by strangers against blacks had the lowest arrest rates — less than 25%.

Age

Among all violent crimes, arrest rates were highest (42.3%) for crimes against victims ages 35-54. For family violence, roughly half of all crimes committed against victims in each of the age categories age 18 or older resulted in arrest. For nonfamily violence, recorded crimes against victims between ages 25 and 34 had the highest arrest rate (37.5%).

Arrest rates were lowest for both family and nonfamily violence against victims under age 13. Across nearly all relationship categories, arrest rates were lowest for crimes against victims in this age category.

Weapon possession at time of arrest for family violence recorded by police

Few offenders (3.9%) arrested for violence were armed at the time of arrest (table 5.14). A lower percentage of persons arrested for family violence were armed at the time of arrest (3%) compared to those arrested for nonfamily violence (4.6%).

The relationship categories with the lowest proportion of armed arrestees occurred when the victim was the spouse (2.5%) or the boyfriend or girlfriend (2.4%) of the offender.

Violence against a stranger (7.1%) was the relationship category with the largest percentage of offenders armed at the time of arrest. The second largest percentage of armed arrestees occurred among those accused of violence against a friend or acquaintance (5.1%). These two groups also accounted for the highest proportion of arrestees carrying firearms (4% and 2.1%, respectively).

Table 5.15. Disposition of juvenile arrestees in police-recorded family violence compared to nonfamily violence in 18 States and the District of Columbia in 2000, by relationship

| Disposition of juvenile | All violent crimes | Percent of juvenile arrests for crimes in which the victim was the offender's — | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---|--------|-----------------|--------|---------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| | | Family member | | | | | | Nonfamily member | | | |
| | | Total | Spouse | Son or daughter | Parent | Sibling | Other family | Total | Boyfriend or girlfriend | Friend or acquaintance | Stranger |
| All juvenile arrests | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Handled by arresting agency | 26.3% | 23.9% | 22.6% | 28.4% | 23.9% | 24.3% | 22.5% | 27.4% | 25.3% | 27.7% | 26.0% |
| Referred to another authority | 73.7 | 76.1 | 77.4 | 71.6 | 76.1 | 75.7 | 77.5 | 72.6 | 74.7 | 72.3 | 74.0 |
| Total juvenile arrests | 37,064 | 11,422 | 212 | 292 | 6,293 | 3,133 | 1,492 | 25,642 | 950 | 21,027 | 3,665 |

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 90.6% (37,064) of 40,891 arrests of juveniles for violent crimes. Disposition of the juvenile by the arresting agency was reported for all 37,064 arrests. Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Source: FBI, 2000 National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Disposition of juvenile arrestees of family violence recorded by police

The majority (73.7%) of juvenile arrestees under age 18 were referred to another authority such as another police department, a juvenile court, some other court, a probation department, or a welfare agency (table 5.15). About 1 in 4 juvenile arrestees were handled by the arresting agency. These juveniles were usually released to a parent or released with a warning.

Methodology

Reported and unreported family violence

Statistics comparing reported and unreported nonfatal family violence to reported and unreported nonfatal nonfamily violence come from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) for 1998 to 2002. The statistics are based on data gathered from residents living throughout the United States, including persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings. Crew members of merchant vessels, Armed Forces personnel living in military barracks, and institutionalized persons, such as correctional facility inmates, were not included in the scope of this survey. Similarly, U.S. citizens residing abroad and foreign visitors to this country were excluded. With these exceptions, individuals age 12 or older living in units selected for the sample were eligible to be interviewed.

In addition to single incidents of criminal victimization, the NCVS records data on series victimizations. A series victimization is defined as six or more similar but separate crimes which the victim is unable to recall individually or describe in detail to an interviewer. Survey respondents who indicated they were series victims were asked to provide details for the most recent incident. In annual BJS reports on the NCVS, series victimizations are excluded from the published victimization estimates. However, because repeat victimization is an important aspect of family violence, series crimes were included in these analyses, counted as "1" victimization to represent all the incidents in the series.

NCVS data in this section are based on a nationally representative sample of the general population age 12 or older who experienced a violent victimization that occurred between January 1998

and December 2002. Data were aggregated over this 5-year period to obtain sample sizes large enough to detect differences between family and nonfamily violence victims, as well as to detect differences between family and nonfamily violent crimes based on the characteristics of the incident.

Additional information on weighting, along with other methodological details, can be found in the BJS Internet-only report *Criminal Victimization in the United States — Statistical Tables, 2002* (NCJ 200561).

Fatal family violence

To compare family murder to nonfamily murder, this report uses data from the FBI's 2002 Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR). Murder as defined here includes murder and nonnegligent manslaughter which is the willful killing of one human being by another. Not included in the analyses are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder.

SHR data are based solely on police investigation. Not all law enforcement agencies which report offense information to the FBI also submit supplemental data on murder. At the time of analysis, the most recent SHR data contained information on 12,940 of the 16,204 murders reported in the FBI's Uniform Crime Report. To account for the total number of homicides, the SHR data were weighted to match national and State murder estimates prepared by the FBI. All victim-based analyses are adjusted in this manner.

While many law enforcement agencies report supplemental data on murder, one reason why much of the data concerning victim-offender relationship may not be reported is because no suspects were identified. In 2002, SHR data recorded information on the

relationship of the victim to the offender for 56.2% (9,102) of the 16,204 murders committed that year.

The dataset utilized in this report was compiled by James Alan Fox, the Lipman Family Professor of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University. The dataset, along with additional details about imputation and estimation procedures, is available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data <<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD>>, please refer to ICPSR 4179. After the analysis for this report was completed, the SHR database was updated to include information on an additional 2,117 murders, bringing the total number of murders included in the database to 15,057 of the 16,204 murders in the United States in 2002.

Family violence recorded by police

To compare family violence recorded by police to nonfamily violence recorded by police, this report utilizes official police statistics reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in 2000. Law enforcement agencies can report official police statistics to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System in one of two ways:

1. the Summary reporting system
2. the Incident-based reporting system (NIBRS).

Under the Summary system, law enforcement authorities aggregate the number of incidents by offense type and report these totals to the FBI on a monthly basis. Under the NIBRS system, agencies provide an individual record for each reported crime, including detailed information regarding the victim(s) and offender(s) involved, characteristics of the incident, and information on any arrests made in connection with the incident. In this regard, NIBRS represents a more comprehensive and detailed crime reporting

system, with the ability to capture a wide range of information on specific incidents.

To compare the characteristics of family violence to nonfamily violence, only cases with incident dates during calendar year 2000 were included in the analysis. In addition, only incidents from law enforcement agencies officially certified by the FBI to report NIBRS data were included. Currently, no agencies serving jurisdictions with populations of one million or more are certified to report NIBRS data. In 2000, agencies from 18 States and the District of Columbia submitted NIBRS data, representing 16% of the U.S. population and 13% of crime.

Additional methodological details can be found on the BJS website <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/nibrs.htm>>, as well as at the Incident-Based Reporting Resource Center <<http://www.jrsa.org/ibrrc>>.

State prosecution of family assault

To compare the prosecution of family and nonfamily violence defendants, this report uses data from the BJS data collection State Court Processing Statistics (SCPS). The most recent SCPS study collected data for 14,877 felony cases filed during May 2000 in 40 large counties selected to represent the estimated 54,590 felonies filed in the Nation's 75 most populous counties during that month. Results of that study and information regarding sampling and other methodological details are available in the BJS publication *Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 2000*, NCJ 202021, December 2003.

Data from all 40 counties were not used to compare the case processing of family violence to nonfamily violence. Since assault was the only crime in the

Table 10.1. Felony assault cases in the State courts of 11 counties during May 2000, by county and type of assault

| County (State) | Unweighted | | Weighted | |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| | Family | Nonfamily | Family | Nonfamily |
| Contra Costa (CA) | 19 | 26 | 19 | 26 |
| Los Angeles (CA) | 30 | 66 | 120 | 264 |
| Riverside (CA) | 60 | 36 | 120 | 72 |
| San Bernardino (CA) | 27 | 33 | 54 | 66 |
| Santa Clara (CA) | 19 | 24 | 38 | 48 |
| Pinellas (FL) | 15 | 53 | 30 | 106 |
| Essex (NJ) | 15 | 72 | 30 | 144 |
| Franklin (OH) | 7 | 9 | 14 | 18 |
| Harris (TX) | 9 | 39 | 36 | 156 |
| Tarrant (TX) | 8 | 38 | 16 | 76 |
| Travis (TX) | 8 | 24 | 16 | 48 |
| Total defendants | 217 | 420 | 493 | 1,024 |

Source: BJS, 2000 State Court Processing Statistics.

2000 SCPS data to have specific statutes that identified family violence, other violent crimes (such as murder, rape, or robbery) were excluded from the analysis. To be in this study, a county also had to meet two criteria:

1. The county had an estimated 10 or more assault defendants charged under a family or domestic violence statute (table 10.1).
2. The county had at least 17% of its assault defendants charged with committing family or domestic violence.

A total of 11 counties met the selection criteria. For instance, Travis County, Texas, had an estimated 16 family violence cases which accounted for 25% of the 64 assault cases filed in that county during May 2000. Within the selected counties, a sample of 637 cases was statistically weighted to represent 1,517 family and nonfamily assault defendants. Although the estimated 1,517 cases were less than 3% of the 54,428 felony cases filed in the Nation's 75 largest counties in May 2000, demographic characteristics of both cohorts were similar (table 10.2).

Where family assault defendants were compared to nonfamily assault defendants in this section, sampling error was

Table 10.2. Demographic distribution of felony defendants in the 11-county study compared to the Nation's 75 largest counties, 2000

| Defendant characteristic | Felony defendants in State courts during May 2000 | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | Assault cases in 11 counties | All cases in the 75 largest counties |
| Total | 100% | 100% |
| Gender | | |
| Male | 84.7% | 81.0% |
| Female | 15.3 | 19.0 |
| Race/Hispanic origin | | |
| White | 26.2% | 29.6% |
| Black | 39.2 | 45.4 |
| Hispanic | 32.6 | 22.7 |
| Other | 2.0 | 2.4 |
| Age at arrest | | |
| Under 18 | 1.6% | 2.9% |
| 18 - 24 | 30.7 | 30.8 |
| 25 - 34 | 31.5 | 30.9 |
| 35 - 54 | 32.8 | 33.2 |
| 55 or older | 3.4 | 2.1 |
| Total defendants | 1,517 | 54,428* |

*Excludes 162 weighted cases for which the arrest charge could not be classified.
Source: BJS, 2000 State Court Processing Statistics.

taken into account. All differences discussed were statistically significant at the .05 level.

Federal prosecution of domestic violence

The source of data for statistics on Federal prosecution of domestic violence is the BJS Federal Justice Statistics Program database covering the years 2000 to 2002. The database is presently constructed from source files provided by the U.S. Marshals Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the United States Sentencing Commission, and the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. A description of the source agency data files, along with other methodological details, can be found in the methodology section in the BJS Internet-only document *Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 2002* (NCJ 205368).

Family violence offenders in prison

Information about offenders in prison for family violence were obtained from BJS's 1997 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities. From June through October, 1997, a nationally representative sample of inmates in State prisons were interviewed about their current offense and sentences, criminal histories, family and personal backgrounds, gun possession and use, prior drug and alcohol use and treatment, educational programs, and other services provided while in prison.

Data and documentation with additional details are available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data <<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD>>. Please refer to ICPSR 2598.

Family violence offenders in jail

The 2002 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails provides nationally representative data on persons held in local jails including those held prior to trial and convicted offenders serving sentences in local jails or awaiting transfer to prison. Data in the survey include the individual characteristics of jail inmates; current offenses, sentences and time served; criminal histories; jail activities, conditions and programs; prior drug and alcohol use and treatment; and health care services provided while in jail. In the last Survey, completed in 1996, a representative sample of 6,000 inmates were interviewed. The sample for the 2002 survey was selected from 3,365 jails housing 558,017 males and 73,224 females. The dataset and documentation with additional details about the survey will be available from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data <<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD>>.

Appendix

Discrepant findings from two different ways of measuring family violence

The extent of family violence in the United States is measured two different ways in this report. One way — through the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) — is based on survey interviews with samples of the U.S. population. The other way — through the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) — is based on statistics compiled by police.

NCVS data summarized in this report indicated that family violence makes up 11% of all violence (both reported to police and unreported) (table 2.1), but police statistics summarized in this report indicated that family violence makes up nearly 33% of all police-recorded violence (table 5.1). No firm explanation for this apparent discrepancy is offered in the report. Presumably the discrepancy is caused by a host of factors. The discussion that follows identifies some of them, not necessarily the most important ones.

One factor pertains to the willingness of victims (and others) to report crime to police. If family violence is more likely than nonfamily violence to be reported to law enforcement authorities, the family violence percentage in police statistics will tend to be larger than the percentage in the statistics for all violence (reported and unreported). To check that possibility, reporting rates for family and nonfamily violence were compared. Results indicated that family violence (59%) is more likely than nonfamily violence (46%) to be reported to police (table 4.1). While the difference is not large enough to fully account for the 11%-versus-33% discrepancy between NCVS and police statistics, results do suggest that a difference in reporting between family and nonfamily violence is a contributing factor.

A second factor pertains to the fact that the police statistics on family violence used here are not directly comparable to the NCVS statistics in terms of geographical coverage. That is, the police statistics are based on data from agencies reporting in 18 States and the District of Columbia, while the NCVS statistics are for the entire United States. If the family violence percentage in the 18 States and the District of Columbia happens to be much larger than other States, using these jurisdictions to compare to the NCVS will create the appearance of a greater discrepancy than may actually exist.

A third factor pertains to the handling of "series" victimizations in the analysis of the NCVS data. The 11% family violence percentage from NCVS data was based on an analysis that treated each "series" victimization (6 or more crimes of a similar nature that the victim is unable to recall individually) as a single victimization. Since family violence series victimizations comprised 17% (rather than 11%) of all violent series victimizations, treating each series victimization as 6 or more victimizations (rather than 1) would tend to raise the family violence percentage above 11%. To illustrate, when the family violence percentage was re-computed, this time treating each series using the actual number of incidents (up to 20) indicated by the victim, the percentage rose to 12.5%.

A fourth factor pertains to the possibility that the NCVS undercounts family violence to a greater extent than nonfamily violence. If so, that would make the family violence percentage look lower than it actually is. The little research on the undercount that has been done — notably, a small study of assault victims whose victimization was reported to police in San Jose, California, and a national study of victims who went to hospital emergency rooms for their injuries — compared undercounts

between family and nonfamily violence. Findings from both studies suggest that the NCVS undercounts family violence to a greater extent than nonfamily violence. The two studies are summarized below.

San Jose study of known assault victims

In January 1971, a sample of victims of assault was drawn from the records of the San Jose Police Department. These known victims were interviewed and asked whether they had been a victim of crime at any time in 1970. The victims and their interviewers were not told that the researchers wanted to determine to what extent known assault victims tell interviewers about recent victimizations.

Results suggested that family assault victims were less likely than nonfamily assault victims to tell interviewers about their victimization (table 11.1). While 78% of 18 family assault victims did not mention being a victim of family violence, the comparable percentage for 62 nonfamily assault victims was lower: 29%.

Table 11.1. Among known assault victims, percent who told NCVS interviewers about the victimization

| Relationship of victim to offender | Known assault victims who did not tell NCVS interviewers about their victimization |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Family violence | 78% |
| Nonfamily violence | 29 |

Source: Adapted from U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (1972). *San Jose Methods Test of Known Crime Victims*, Statistics Technical Report No. 1. Washington, DC: USGPO, June.

The original purpose of the San Jose study was to determine the effects of the passage of time on the recall of criminal victimizations. The survey design emphasized overall reporting issues, not the specific reporting of family violence. Hence, one limitation of the study is the small sample size. Of 126 sampled victims of assault, 18 family assault victims and 62 nonfamily assault victims were located and agreed to participate, a 63.5% response rate.

Another limitation pertains to the fact that the questionnaire used in the study was more similar to the pre-1993 NCVS questionnaire than the one in use today. Consequently, the San Jose study results may be more relevant to the pre-1993 version than today's questionnaire.

The pre-1993 version was replaced with one that was specifically designed to reduce undercounting of family (and domestic) violence. There is some evidence that the redesign may have succeeded in reducing the undercount. In 1991 (the last full year of interviews using the old questionnaire), family violence victims made up 7.3% of all violence victims (8% if series victimizations totaling 3 are counted as 3 crimes rather than 1; 4 counted as 4; and 5 counted as 5). In 1993 (the first full year using the redesigned questionnaire), the percentage was 10.2%.

Hospital emergency room study

While results of the San Jose study only shed light on the extent to which police-reported family violence (family violence that was brought to police attention) is mentioned in NCVS interviews, results of another study may shed light on the extent to which victims tell interviewers about both reported and unreported

Table 11.2. Comparison of the Study of Injured Victims of Violence (SIVV) and the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), by offense and by relationship, 1994

| Type of offense | SIVV-recorded admissions to hospital emergency rooms in 1994* | | NCVS-estimated admissions to hospital emergency rooms in 1994 | | Ratio of SIVV/NCVS |
|--------------------|---|---------|---|---------|--------------------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | |
| Total | 954,000 | 100% | 504,700 | 100% | 1.9 |
| Family violence | 179,000 | 18.8 | 33,300 | 6.6 | 5.4 |
| Nonfamily violence | 775,000 | 81.2 | 471,400 | 93.4 | 1.6 |

*Age 12 or older

Source: Adapted from BJS, *Violence-Related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments*, NCJ 156921, August 1997.

family violence of a particularly serious nature. In this other study, two national numbers were compared:

1. from the NCVS, the total (reported and unreported) estimated number of family violence victims who said they went to a hospital emergency room for treatment for their injuries in 1994
2. from a national survey — the Study of Injured Victims of Violence (SIVV) — the total (reported and unreported, presumably) estimated number of family violence victims whose injuries brought them to hospital emergency rooms for treatment in 1994.

All other things being equal, the two numbers should be the same if injured family violence victims tell NCVS interviewers about any incidents that lead to emergency room treatment.

In fact, SIVV recorded far more emergency room admissions in 1994 than the NCVS, suggesting that the NCVS undercounts victims of serious family violence. The SIVV number of emergency room admissions for family violence (179,000) was found to be over 5 times the number recorded by the NCVS (33,300) (table 11.2). By comparison, the SIVV number of emergency room admissions for nonfamily violence (775,000) was 1.6 times greater than the NCVS-estimate (471,400), suggesting that the NCVS

undercounts particularly serious types of family violence to a greater extent than nonfamily violence.

The relevance of the SIVV study is limited by the fact that its findings pertain to victims who were injured and went to an emergency room. Such victims are a small percentage of all family violence victims. Furthermore, the statistics for the NCVS-documented victims of family violence (who went to emergency rooms) may be unreliable because they are based on a small sample. Also, the SIVV study did not document how many victims had, and how many had not, reported the crime to police. Presumably, the SIVV study included some of both.