



Bureau of Justice Statistics Crime Data Brief

February 2003, NCJ 197838

Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001

By Callie Marie Rennison, Ph.D.
BJS Statistician

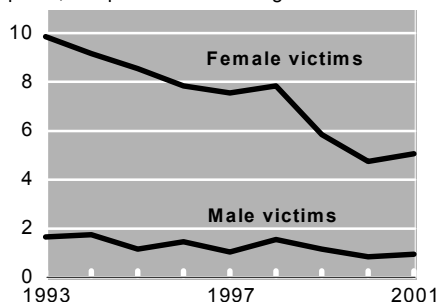
According to estimates from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), there were 691,710 nonfatal violent victimizations committed by current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends of the victims during 2001 (table 1). Such crimes — *intimate partner violence* — primarily involve female victims. About 588,490, or 85% of victimizations by intimate partners in 2001 were against women.

Intimate partner violence made up 20% of violent crime against women in 2001. By contrast, during the year intimate partners committed 3% of all nonfatal violence against men. (See *Criminal Victimization 2001, Changes 2000-01, with Trends 1993-2001*, NCJ 194610, for more information on victim-offender relationship.)

Updating *Intimate Partner Violence* (May 2000, NCJ 178247), these findings are based on NCVS data collected by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The NCVS inquires about criminal victimizations from an ongoing nationally representative sample of household residents in the United States. Violent acts examined include rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault.

Intimate partner violence — by current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends — made up 20% of all nonfatal violence against females age 12 or older in 2001.

Rate of victimization by an intimate partner per 1,000 persons of each gender



- The number of violent crimes by intimate partners against females declined from 1993 to 2001. Down from 1.1 million nonfatal violent crimes by an intimate in 1993, women experienced about 588,490 such crimes in 2001.

- In 1993 men were victims of about 162,870 violent crimes by an intimate partner. By 2001 that total had fallen to an estimated 103,220 victimizations.

- Intimate partner violence made up 20% of all nonfatal violent crime experienced by women in 2001. Intimate partners committed 3% of the nonfatal violence against men.

- For intimate partner violence, as for violent crime in general, simple assault was the most common type of crime.

- 1,247 women and 440 men were killed by an intimate partner in 2000. In recent years an intimate killed about 33% of female murder victims and 4% of male murder victims.

Table 1. Violence by intimate partners, by type of crime and gender of victims, 2001

	Total		Intimate partner violence			
	Number	Rate per 1,000 persons	Female		Male	
			Number	Rate per 1,000 females	Number	Rate per 1,000 males
Overall violent crime	691,710	3.0	588,490	5.0	103,220	0.9
Rape/sexual assault	41,740	0.2	41,740	0.4	--	--
Robbery	60,630	0.3	44,060	0.4	16,570	0.1
Aggravated assault	117,480	0.5	81,140	0.7	36,350	0.3
Simple assault	471,860	2.1	421,550	3.6	50,310	0.5

Note: The difference in male and female intimate partner victimization rates is significant at the 95%-confidence level within each victimization category presented.
--Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.



Washington, DC 20531

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

Table 2. Rates of intimate partner violence, by the gender of victims, 1993-2001

Victim characteristics	Number of nonfatal intimate victimizations per 1,000 persons									Percent change, 1993-2001 (* indicates a significant difference)
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	
Total	5.8	5.5	4.9	4.7	4.3	4.8	3.5	2.8	3.0	-48.4*
Male	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.5	1.1	0.8	0.9	-41.8*
Female	9.8	9.1	8.5	7.8	7.5	7.8	5.8	4.7	5.0	-49.3*

Note: These rates are based on the data-year only and do not include fatal violence. Nonfatal violence includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. These rates differ from rates published in *Intimate Partner Violence* (May 2000, NCJ 178247), which included fatal violence and some collection-year data. Percent changes are based on unrounded rates.

Trends in nonfatal intimate partner violence, 1993-2001

The rate of intimate violence against females declined significantly between 1993 and 2001, dropping by nearly half (49%). The rate of intimate violence against males fell 42% between 1993 and 2001. These percent changes in rates of intimate partner violence for women and men were not measurably different.

Fatal intimate partner violence, 1976-2000

The number of men murdered by intimates dropped 68% between 1976 and 2000, the year of the most recently available data. In 1976, an intimate murdered 1,357 men; in 2000, 440.

The number of women killed by an intimate was stable for two decades but declined after 1993. Between 1976 and 2000 the number of women murdered by intimates fell 22% from 1,600 to 1,247.

In recent years, generally, about 33% of female murder victims but 4% of the males were killed by an intimate.

Between 1993 and 2000 the proportion of all male murder victims killed by an intimate was relatively stable while the proportion of female murder victims killed by an intimate increased slightly.

	Murder victims of an intimate partner			
	Male		Female	
	Number	Percent of all murders	Number	Percent of all murders
1976	1,357	9.6%	1,600	34.9%
1980	1,221	6.9	1,549	29.6
1990	859	4.7	1,501	29.3
1993	708	3.7	1,581	28.5
2000	440	3.7	1,247	33.5

Note: Categories used for *intimate* in this table are spouses, former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends (including homosexual relationships).

Sources: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-2000 and <www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide/intimates>.

For additional information see the BJS website:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>