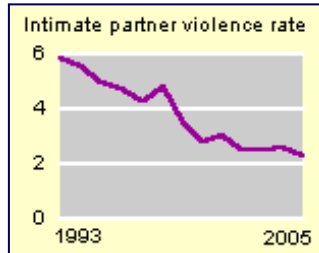




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Intimate Partner Violence in the United States

by Shannan Catalano, Ph.D.
BJS Statistician

Violence between intimates includes - homicides, rapes, robberies, and assaults committed by intimates.

Intimate relationships involve - current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends, including same sex relationships.

Intimates are distinguished from -
- other relatives (parent, child, sibling, grandparent, in-law, cousin)
- acquaintances (friend, co-worker, neighbor, schoolmate, someone known)
- strangers (anyone not previously known by the victim)

Domestic violence includes - intimate partner violence as well as violence between family members.

Violence between intimates is difficult to measure -- because it often occurs in private, and victims are often reluctant to report incidents to anyone because of shame or fear of reprisal.

Sources:

National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). See also **NCVS methodology**.

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- **Injury and treatment**
 - Threats and attacks
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Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) of the FBI's **Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR)** as presented in **Homicide Trends in the United States**

Print version: PDF format (491K)

Injury
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- **Victim assistance**
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Intimate Partner Violence in the U.S.

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Overview

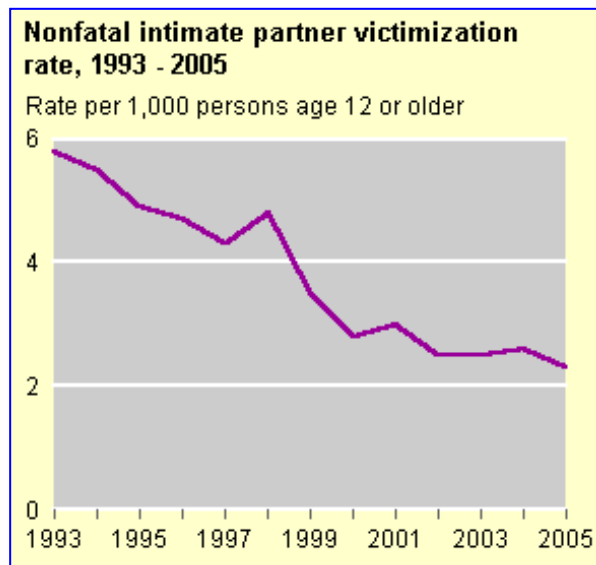
Intimate partner violence has been declining.

Next

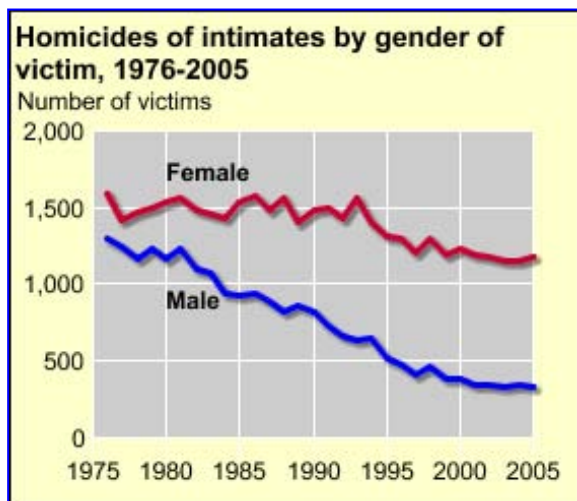
Nonfatal intimate partner violence has declined since 1993.

- [Definitions](#)
- [About the data](#)

To view data, click on the chart.



Homicides of intimates have declined, especially among male victims.

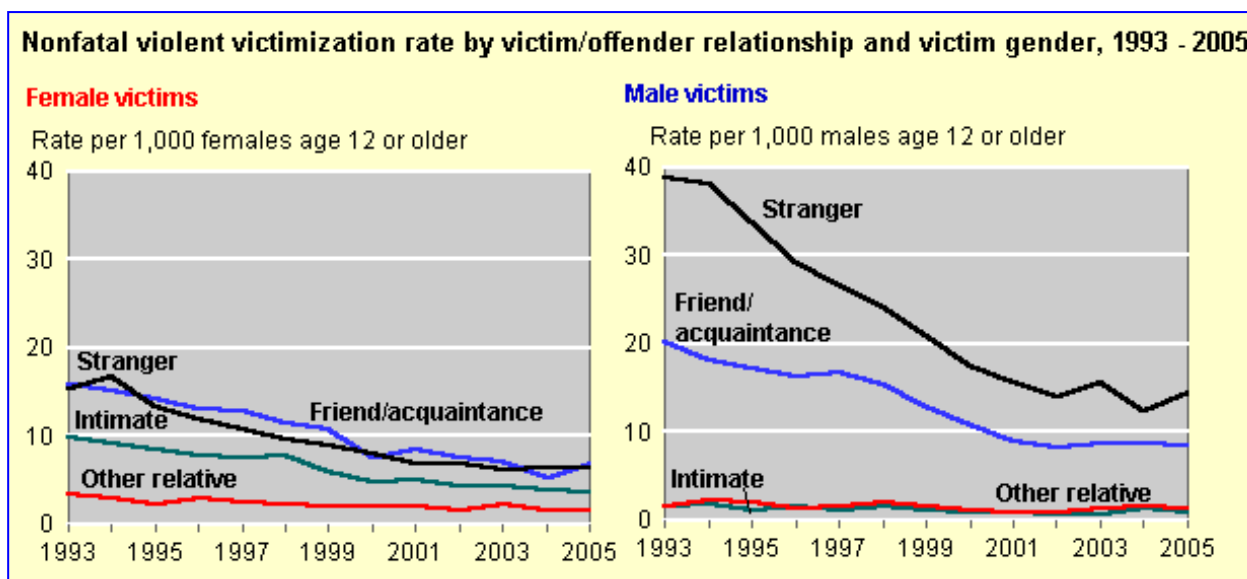


[D]

See [Intimate homicide](#) in Homicide Trends in the United States.

Nonfatal violence has declined since 1993, regardless of the relationship between the victim and the offender.

To view data, click on the chart.



[D]

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Females are more likely than males to experience nonfatal intimate partner violence.

On average between 2001 and 2005, nonfatal intimate partner victimizations represented —

- 22% of nonfatal violent victimizations against females age 12 or older
- 4% of nonfatal violent victimizations against males age 12 or older.

Victim/offender relationship in nonfatal violent victimizations, by victim and gender, 2001-2005

Average annual rate per 1,000 persons age 12 or older

Victim/offender relationship	Female		Male	
	Rate	Percent	Rate	Percent
		100%		100%
Intimate	4.2	21.5	0.9	3.6
Other relative	1.7	8.9	1.2	4.6
Friend/acquaintance	7.0	36.2	8.6	34.3
Stranger	6.5	33.4	14.4	57.4

For homicides, intimate partners committed —

- 30% of homicides of females.
- 5% of homicides of males.

Homicide victim/offender relationship by victim gender, 1976-2005

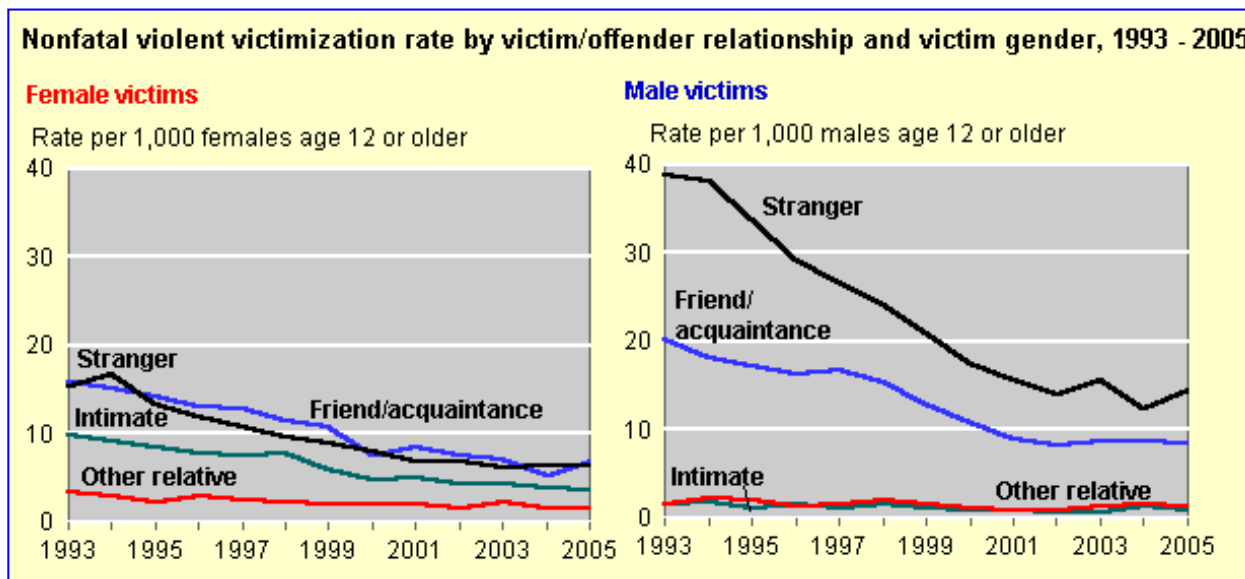
Victim/offender relationship	Percent of homicide victims by gender	
	Female	Male
Total	100 %	100 %
Intimate	30.1	5.3
Other family	11.7	6.7
Acquaintance/Known	21.8	35.5
Stranger	8.8	15.5
Undetermined	27.7	37.1

Trends for nonfatal intimate partner victimization differ by gender.

The rate of nonfatal intimate partner victimization for —

- females was about 4 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older in 2005, down from about 10 in 1993.
- males remained stable between 2004 and 2005.

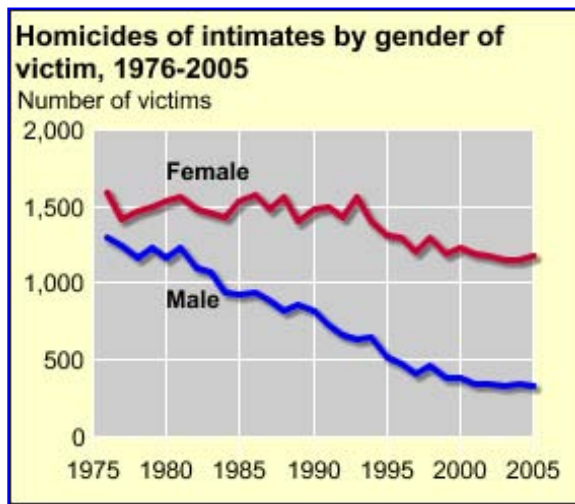
To view data, click on the chart.



[D]

Homicides of intimates have declined, especially among male victims.

[D]



See [Intimate homicide](#) in Homicide Trends in the United States.

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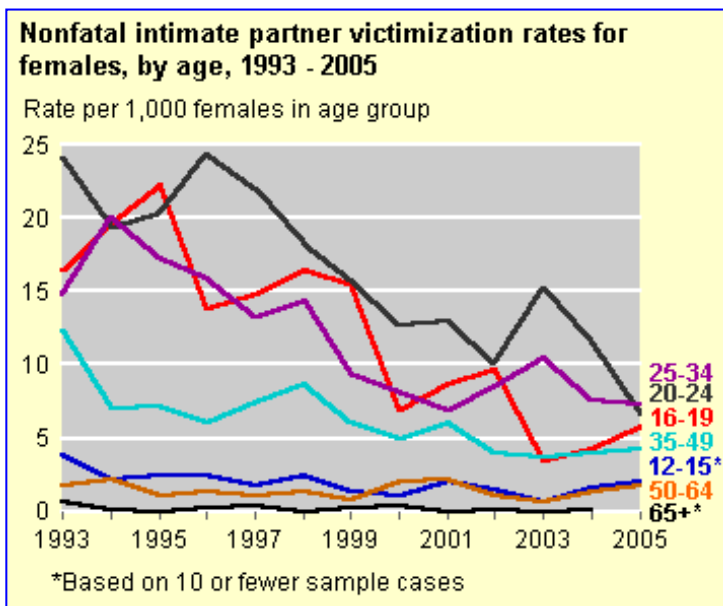
Age

For females of most age categories, nonfatal intimate partner victimization declined over time.

- In general, females ages 12 to 15 and age 50 or older were at the lowest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence.
- During 2005, females ages 35 to 49 were at a greater risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence than older females.

To view data, [click on the chart](#).

[D]

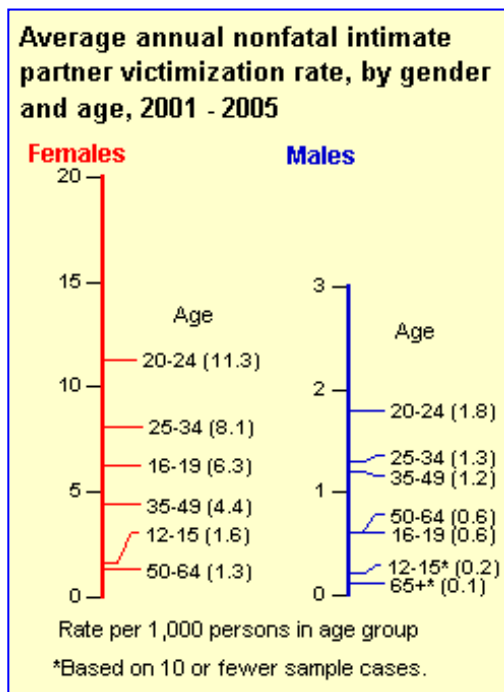


With the exception of males and females age 65 or older, average annual rates from 2001 through 2005 for nonfatal intimate partner victimization were higher for females than males within each age category.

- Females ages 20 to 24 were at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence.
- In general, males ages 12 to 15 and age 65 or older experienced the lowest rates of nonfatal intimate partner violence.

To view data, click on the chart.

[D]



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Marital Status

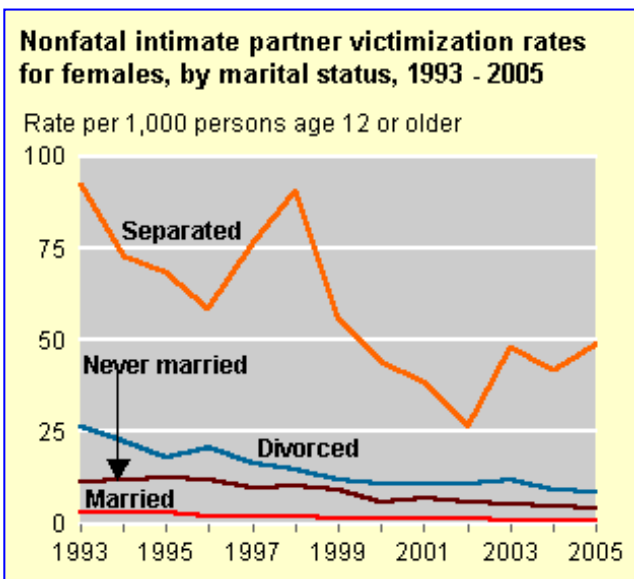
Rates of nonfatal intimate partner violence for females who were married, divorced, separated, or never married were lower in 2005 than in 1993.

Females who were —

- separated reported higher rates than females of other marital status
- married reported the lowest rates of nonfatal intimate partner violence.

[To view data, click on the chart.](#)

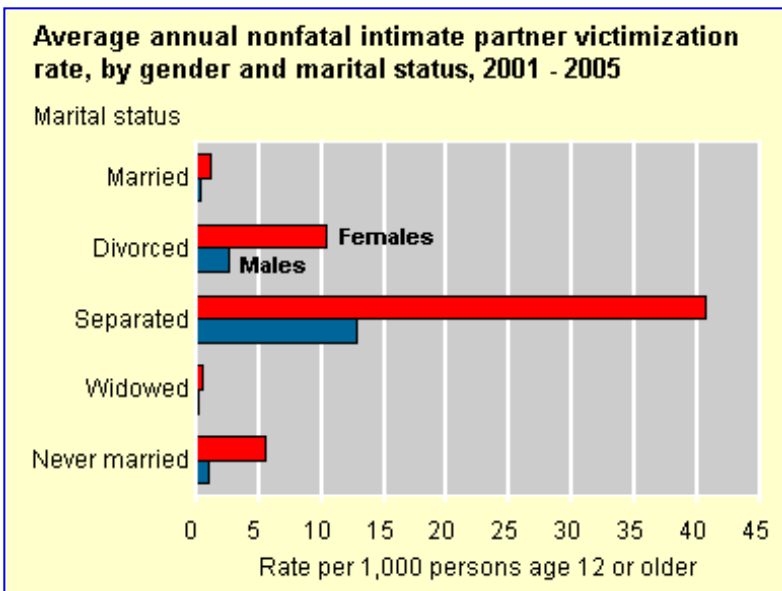
[D]



On average from 2001 to 2005, both females and males who were separated or divorced had the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence while persons who were married or widowed reported the lowest risk of violence.

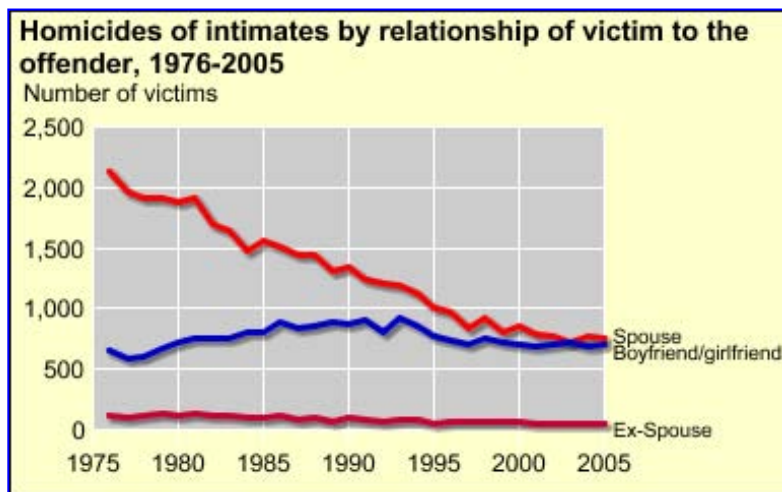
To view data, click on the chart.

[D]



Most intimate homicides involved spouses, although in recent years the number of deaths by boyfriends and girlfriends was about the same.

[D]



See [Intimate homicide](#) in Homicide Trends in the U.S.

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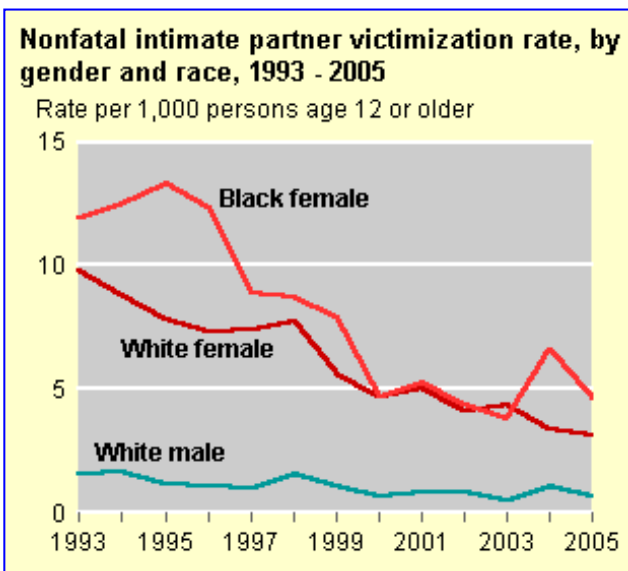
Race

Between 1993 and 2005, rates of nonfatal intimate partner violence decreased for white females, white males, and black females.

Between 2004 and 2005, rates of intimate partner violence remained stable for —

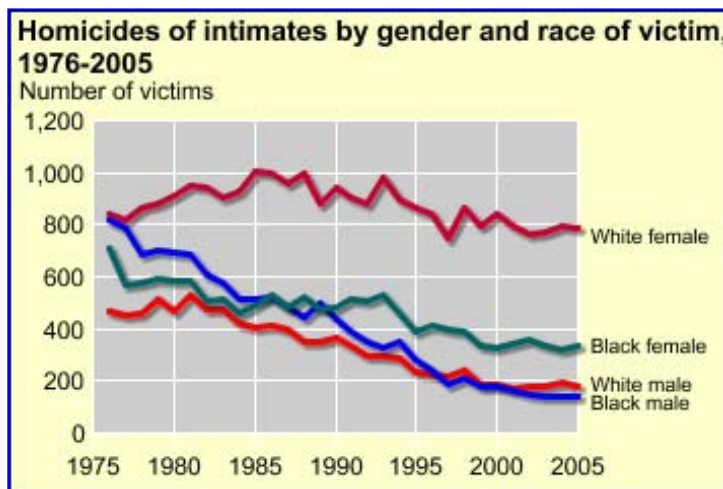
- white females at 3.1 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older
- black females at 4.6 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older
- white males at .7 per 1,000 persons age 12 or older

To view data, [click on the chart.](#)



[D]

Intimate homicide rate has fallen for blacks in every relationship category, while the rate for whites has not changed for all categories.

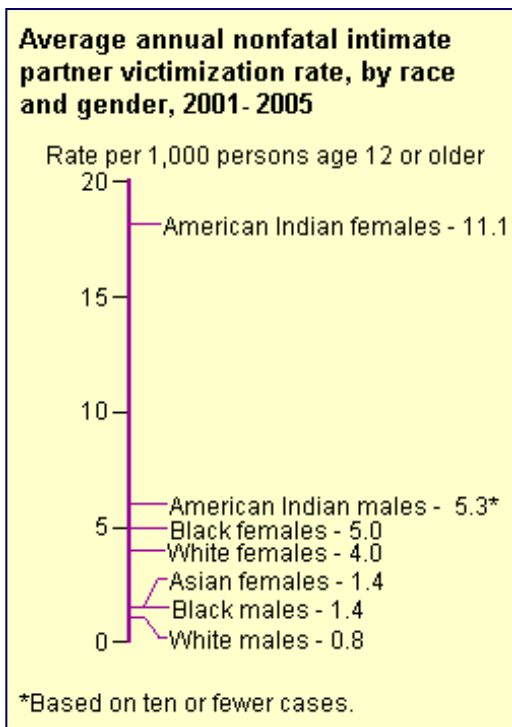


[D]

See [Intimate homicide](#) in Homicide Trends in the U.S.

The average annual rate of nonfatal intimate partner violence from 2001 to 2005 was —

- generally higher for American Indian and Alaskan Native females.
- similar for black females and white females.



[D]

Note: In 2003 racial categories were changed. Caution is warranted when examining these categories over time. See [National Crime Victimization Survey Methodology](#) in Additional Information about the data for more details. Information about nonfatal intimate partner victimization of persons of other races is provided as average annual estimates because the small number of cases in each category was not sufficient for reliable annual estimates. Information is not provided for Asian males because the small number of cases is insufficient for reliable analysis.

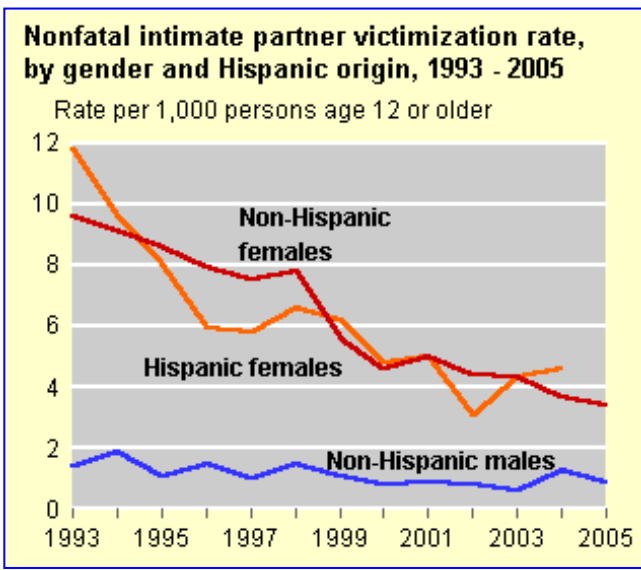
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Hispanic origin

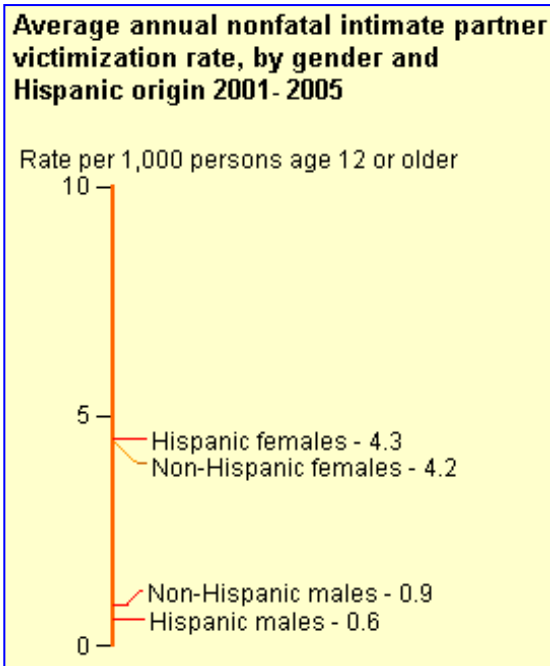
Between 1993 and 2005, the rate of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations declined for —

- Hispanic females by two-thirds.
- Non-Hispanic females by over half.

[D]



On average from 2001 to 2005, rates of intimate partner violence were similar for both Hispanic and non-Hispanic females and males.



[D]

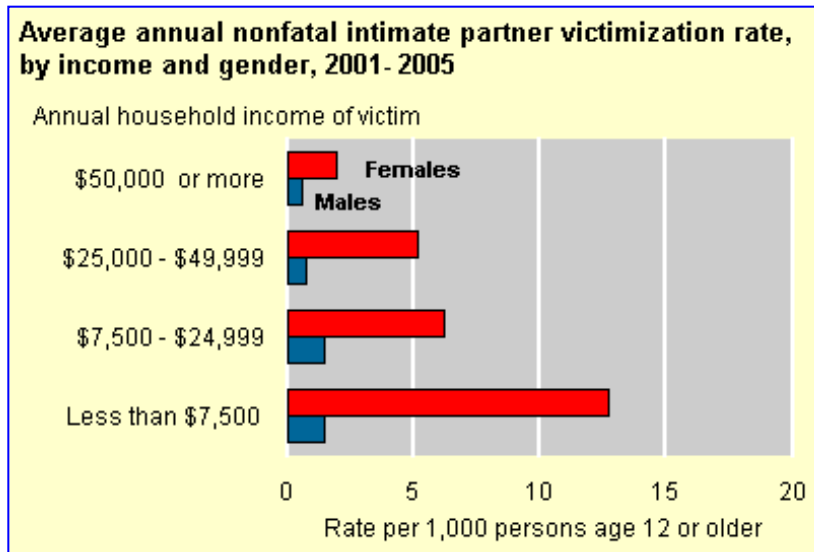
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Income

From 2001 to 2005, for nonfatal intimate partner victimization —

- females living in households with lower annual incomes experienced the highest average annual rates.
- females remained at greater risk than males within each income level.

To view data, click on the chart.



[D]

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Home ownership

From 2001 to 2005, for nonfatal intimate partner violence —

- average annual rates were higher for persons living in rental housing than other types of housing regardless of the victim's gender.
- females residing in rental housing were victimized at an average annual rate more than 3 times the rate of females living in owned housing.
- males residing in rental housing were victimized by an intimate partner about 3 times the rate of males living in owned housing.

Average annual rate of nonfatal intimate partner

victimization by home ownership, 1993-2005

	Female	Male
Home ownership		
Owned	2.3	0.6
Rented	9.0	1.7

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Children exposed to intimate partner violence

On average between 2001 and 2005, children were residents of the households experiencing intimate partner violence in —

- 38% of the incidents involving female victims.
- 21% of the incidents involving male victims.

Average annual number and percentage of households experiencing nonfatal intimate partner violence where children under age 12 resided, by gender of victims, 2001-2005

Households with intimate partner violence victims	Annual average	
	Number	Percent
All households with -	615,795	100%
Children	216,490	35.2
No children	303,615	49.3
Unknown	95,685	15.5
Female victim households with -	510,970	100%
Children	194,455	38.1
No children	235,940	46.2
Unknown	80,580	15.8
Male victim households with -	104,820	100%
Children	22,040	21.0
No children	67,680	64.6
Unknown	15,105	14.4

The NCVS does not ask about the extent to which young children may have witnessed the violence.

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Nonfatal intimate partner violence is most frequently committed by individuals of opposite genders.

On average from 2001 to 2005 —

- about 96% of females experiencing nonfatal intimate partner violence were victimized by a male and about 3% reported that the offender was another female.
- about 82% of males experiencing nonfatal intimate partner violence were victimized by a female and about 16% of males reported that the offender was another male.

Average annual percent of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations by gender of victim and offender, 2001-2005

Gender of victim	Gender of offender			
	Total	Male	Female	Both*
Female	100%	95.7%	3.1%	1.2%
Male	100	16.0	82.4	1.6

Note: Detail may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*A respondent may report intimate partner violence by both genders if victimized by the intimate in association with another individual.

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Age

On average, from 2001 to 2005, most victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence report that the age of the offender was similar to

their own age.

Average annual percent of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations by age of victim and offender, 2001-2005

Age of victim	Age of offender						
	12-14	15-17	18-20	21-29	30 or older	Mixed ages	Don't know
12-14	16.7 %	75.5 %	--	--	7.8 %	--	--
15-17	--	58.9	23.4 %	10.8 %	--	3.4 %	3.5 %
18-20	--	3.9	37.5	46.3	6.1	3.0	3.3
21-29	--	--	4.5	65.7	26.0	1.6	2.2
30 and older	0.2	--	0.1	8.7	88.7	0.3	2.0

--Information is not provided because the small number of cases is insufficient for reliable estimates.

Note: Detail may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Race

Similar to other types of nonfatal violent victimization, nonfatal intimate partner violence is primarily intraracial in nature.

- About 84% of white victims were victimized by white offenders.
- About 93% of black victims were victimized by black offenders.

Percent of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations by race of victim and perceived race of offender, 2001-2005

Race of victim	Perceived race of offender			
	Total	White	Black	Other
White	100 %	84.3	6.0	9.7
Black	100 %	2.8	93.1	4.2
Other	100 %	39.9	22.1	37.9

Note: Detail may not add to 100% due to rounding. In 2003 racial categories were changed so caution is warranted when examining racial categories over time. See [National Crime Victimization Survey Methodology](#) in Additional Information about the data for more details. Information about intimate partner victimization of persons of other races is not provided annually because the small number of cases in each category was insufficient for reliable annual estimates.

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Type of crime

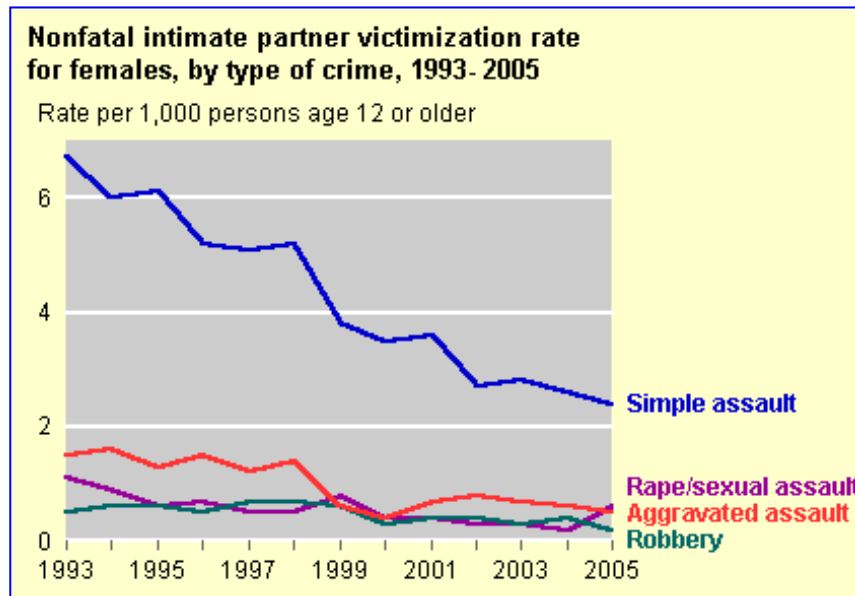
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For nonfatal intimate partner violence, as for violent crime in general, simple assault is the most common type of violent crime.

The long term trend for female victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence shows that between 1993 and 2005 —

- the rate of simple assault declined by about two-thirds.
- the rate of aggravated assault declined by two-thirds.

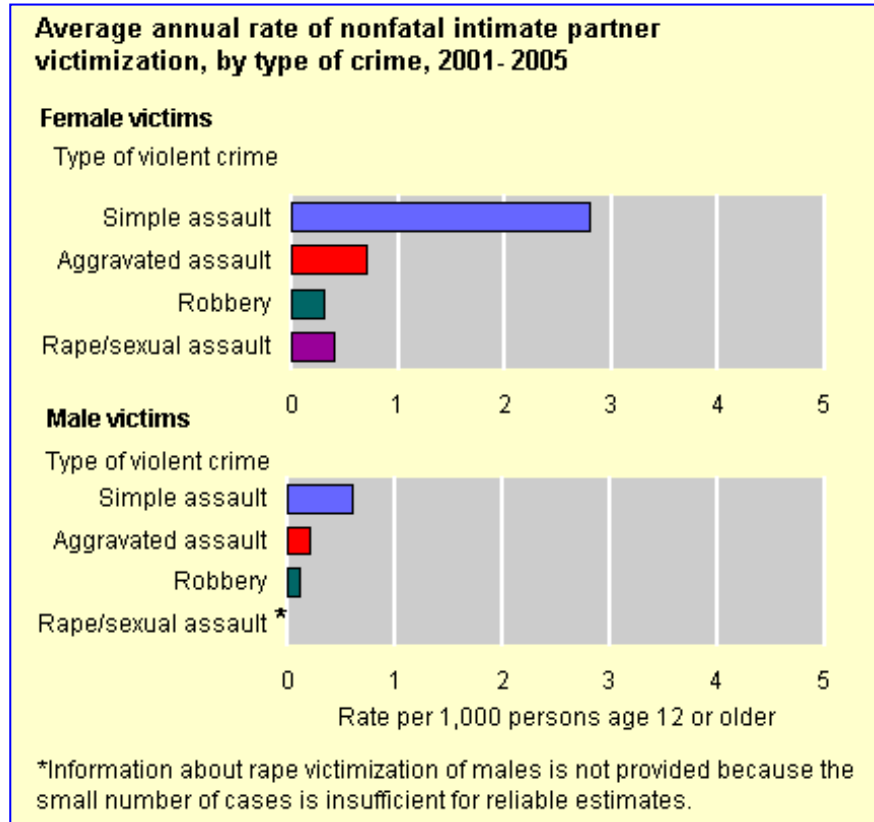
To view data, click on the chart.



[D]

On average between 2001 and 2005, females experienced higher rates of nonfatal intimate partner violence than males in each type of crime.

To view data, click on the chart.



[D]

See [Intimate homicides](#) in Homicide Trends in the U.S.

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Time

Nonfatal intimate partner violence is more likely to occur between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m.

- Females and males experienced nonfatal intimate partner victimization at similar times during the day and night.

Average annual number and percent distributions of time of incident for nonfatal intimate partner violence, by gender of victim, 2001-2005

Average annual

	Number	Percent
Female victims		
Daytime (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.)	192,425	37.7%
Nighttime (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.)	302,485	59.2
Don't know	10,775	2.1
Male victims		
Daytime (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.)	38,360	36.6%
Nighttime (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.)	62,070	59.2
Don't know	4,390	4.2

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding.

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Place

On average between 2001 and 2005 —

- the majority of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations occurred at home; approximately two-thirds of females and males were victimized at home.
- about 11% of female and 10% of male victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence were victimized at a friend's or neighbor's home.

Average annual number and percent distribution of location of incident for nonfatal intimate partner violence, by gender of victim, 2001-2005

	Average annual	
	Number	Percent
Female victims	510,970	100%
Victim's home	319,945	62.6
Near victim's home	48,075	9.4
Friend/neighbor's home	56,920	11.1
Commercial place	17,305	3.4
Parking lot or garage	21,535	4.2
School	9,750	1.9
Open area/street/public place	23,575	4.6
Other	13,870	2.7
Male victims	104,820	100%
Victim's home	63,075	60.2
Near victim's home	9,915	9.5
Friend/neighbor's home	10,660	10.2

Commercial place	6,245	6
Parking lot or garage	4,295	4.1
School	570	0.5*
Open area/street/public place	4,730	4.5
Other	5,330	5.1

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Note: Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.

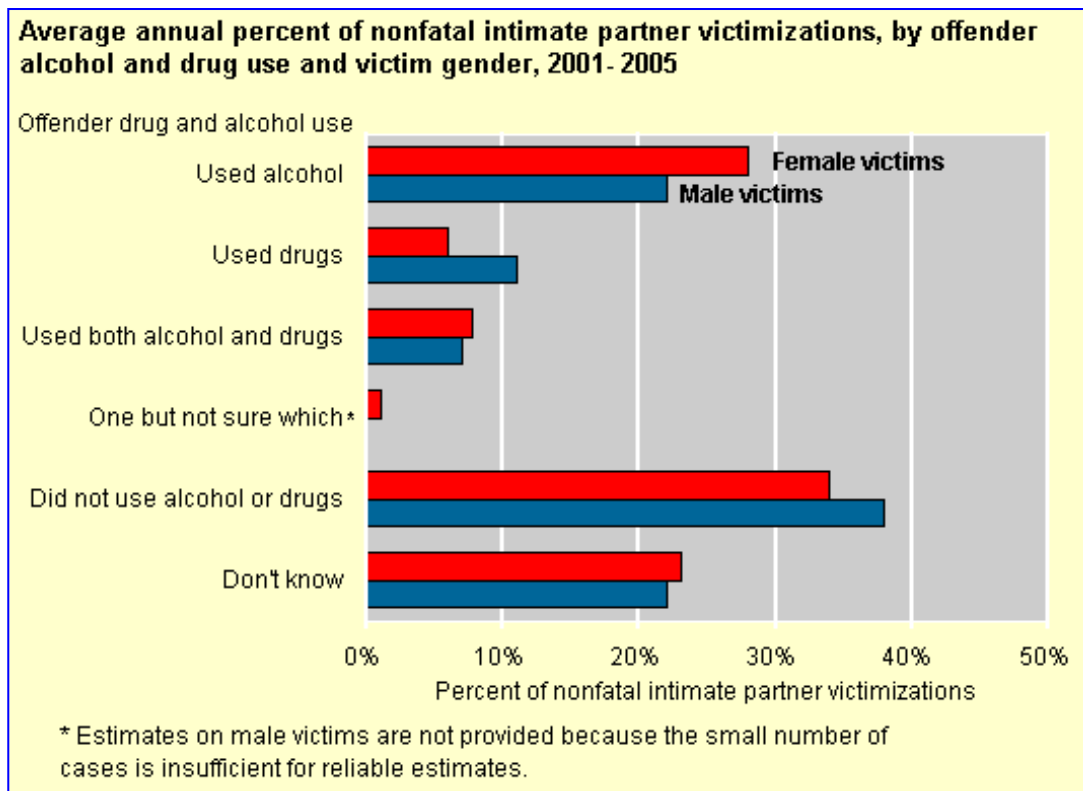
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Alcohol and drugs

On average between 2001 and 2005 —

- the presence of any alcohol or drugs was reported by victims in about 42% of all nonfatal intimate partner violence.
- victims reported that approximately 8% of all nonfatal intimate partner victimizations occurred when a perpetrator was under the influence of both alcohol and drugs.
- female and male victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence were equally likely to report the presence of alcohol during their victimization.
- female and male victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence both reported their attacker was under the influence of drugs in about 6% of all victimizations.

To view data, click on the chart.



[D]

Note: Responses are based on perception of victim as to whether offender used alcohol or drugs.

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Presence of weapons

On average between 2001 and 2005, for nonfatal intimate partner violence —

- male victims were more likely than female victims to face an offender armed with a weapon.
- female victims were more likely than male victims to face an offender armed with a firearm.
- about 6% of female and 10% of male victims faced an offender armed with a sharp weapon, such as a knife.

Average annual number and percent distribution of type of weapon used in incidents where victim faced an armed offender, by gender, 2001-2005

Average annual number and percent of weapons used in nonfatal intimate partner violence

	Female		Male	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total intimate partner victims	510,970	100%	104,820	100%
No weapon present	411,140	80.5	71,825	68.5
Weapon present	79,715	15.6	29,430	28.1
Firearm	18,485	3.6	515	0.5
Sharp weapon	28,625	5.6	10,350	9.9
Blunt objects	32,605	6.4	18,560	17.7
Do not know if offender had weapon	20,120	3.9	3,565	3.4

Note: The firearms category includes handguns, other guns, and incidents where the gun type was unknown. Sharp objects include knives and any other sharp objects. Blunt objects include other weapon types and those classified as a blunt object. The "other" weapon category refers to items not generally considered weapons but that were used as a weapon such bottles, rocks, and sticks.

The number of female and male nonfatal intimate partner victims killed with guns has fallen. For female victims, the number of intimate partner victims killed by other weapons has remained stable.



[D]

See [Intimate homicide](#) in Homicide Trends in the U.S.

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Location of residence (urban, suburban, rural)

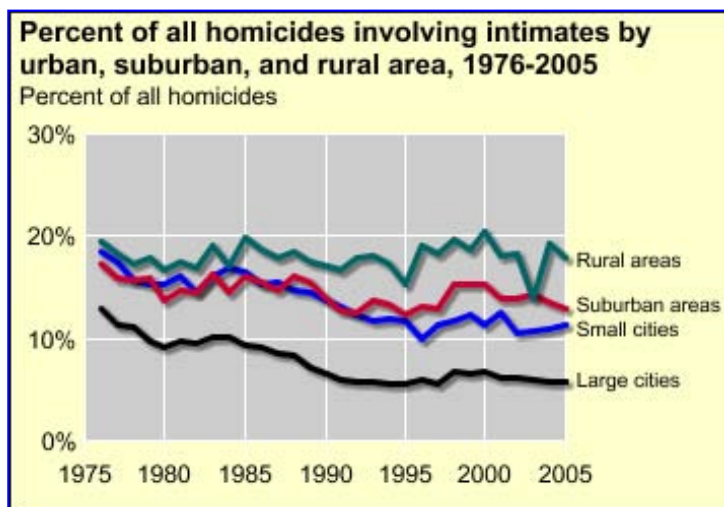
On average between 2001 and 2005 —

- males and females living in urban areas reported the highest levels of nonfatal intimate partner violence.
- males and females residing in rural and suburban areas were equally likely to experience nonfatal intimate partner violence.

Average annual rate of nonfatal intimate partner violence, by location of residence, 2001-2005

	Female	Male
Urban	5.5	1.4
Suburban	3.5	0.7
Rural	3.9	0.8

Intimate homicides made up a larger percentage of murders in rural areas than in suburban or urban areas.



[D]

See [Trends by city size](#) in Homicide Trends in the U.S.

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On average since 2001, for nonfatal intimate partner violence —

- about one-third of female and male victims reported that they were physically attacked.
- approximately two-thirds of female and male victims stated that they were threatened with attack.

Average annual percent of threats, attempted attacks, and physical attacks in nonfatal intimate partner victimization, 2001-2005

Type of violence	Percent of victims of intimate partner violence	
	Female	Male
Total	100%	100%
Attempt or threat	67.2	66.3
Physically attacked	32.8	33.7

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Type of threat

Between 2001 and 2005, for nonfatal intimate partner violence —

- 27% of female victims and 15% of male victims reported that the offender threatened to kill them.
- 23% of male victims were threatened with a weapon and 7% had an object thrown at them.
- about 1 in 10 female and male victims reported that the offender tried to hit, slap, or knock them down.

Average annual percent of threats, by type, in nonfatal intimate partner violence crime, by gender, 2001-2005

Type of threat	Percent of victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence, 2001-2005	
	Female	Male
Threatened to kill	26.9%	15.1%*
Threatened to rape	0.5*	--
Threatened with harm	59.3	55.3
Threatened with a weapon	17.6	22.9
Threw object at victim	7.5	7.4*
Followed/surrounded victim	5.9	1.8*
Tried to hit, slap, or knock down victim	14.1	12.6*

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Note: Detail may not add to total because victims may have reported more than one type of threat.

--Information is not provided because the small number of cases is insufficient for reliable estimates.

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Type of attack

On average between 2001 and 2005, for nonfatal intimate partner violence —

- about two-thirds of female and male victims reported they were hit, slapped, or knocked down.
- male victims were more likely than female victims to be grabbed, held, or tripped.

Average annual percent of attacks, by type, in nonfatal intimate partner violent crime, 2001-2005

Type of attack	Percent of victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence who were attacked	
	Female	Male
Raped	7.2%	0.8%*
Sexual assault	1.9	0.9

Attacked with firearm	0.5*	--
Attacked with knife	2.5	8*
Hit by thrown object	2.1	4.5*
Attacked with other weapon	0.8*	1.8*
Hit, slapped, knocked down	62.7	62.2
Grabbed, held, tripped	54.9	26

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

--Information is not provided because the small number of cases is insufficient for reliable estimates.

Note: Detail may not add to total because victims may have reported more than one type of attack.

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Injury

On average between 2001 and 2005, half of all females experiencing nonfatal intimate partner violence suffered an injury from their victimization.

Of female victims —

- about 5% were seriously injured and about 44% suffered minor injuries.
- about 3% were raped or sexually assaulted.

Average annual number and percent of injuries sustained by female victims as a result of nonfatal intimate partner violence, 2001-2005

Intimate partner victim	Average annual	
	Number	Percent
Total	510,970	100%
Not injured	248,805	48.7%
Injured	262,170	51.3%
Serious injury	25,710	5%
Gunshot wound	595	0.1*
Knife wounds	4,940	1*
Internal injuries	3,440	0.7*
Broken bones	12,155	2.4
Knocked unconscious	3,730	0.7*
Other serious injuries	855	0.2*
Rape/sexual assault without additional injuries	13,350	2.6
Minor injuries only	222,670	43.6
Injuries unknown	435	0.1*

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Note: Total may not add to 100% due to rounding.

On average between 2001 and 2005, more than one-third of male victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence were injured; 4% were seriously injured and 36% suffered minor injuries.

Average annual number and percent of injuries sustained by male victims as a result of nonfatal intimate partner violence, 2001-2005

	Average annual	
	Number	Percent
Total intimate partner victims	104,820	100%
Not injured	61,285	58.5%
Injured	43,540	41.5%
Serious injury	4,335	4.1*
Minor injuries only	38,050	36.3
Rape/sexual assault without other injuries	580	0.6*
Injuries unknown	570	0.5%*

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Note: Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.

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Medical care

On average between 2001 and 2005 for nonfatal intimate partner violence —

- less than one-fifth of victims reporting an injury sought treatment following the injury.
- about 8% of female and 10% of male victims were treated at the scene of the injury or in their home.
- females experiencing an injury were more likely than their male counterparts to seek treatment at a hospital.

Average annual percent of medical treatment sought as a result of nonfatal intimate partner violence, by gender, 2001-2005

	Average annual	
	Female	Male
Not injured	48.7%	58.5%
Injured	51.3%	41.5%

Injured, not treated	32.8	27.9
Treated for injury	18.5	13.1
At scene or home	8.3	9.8
Doctor's office or clinic	1.3	0.6*
Hospital	8.7	2.8*
Not admitted	8.4	2.8*
Admitted	0.3	--
Other locale	0.2	--
Don't know	--	0.5%*

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.
 -- Information is not provided because the small number of cases was insufficient for reliable estimates.
 Note: Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.

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Victim assistance

On average since 2001, about 23% of female victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence and 9% of male victims contacted an outside agency for assistance. Additionally —

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- despite apparent differences, male victims were equally likely to contact a government or private agency for assistance regarding the victimization.
- of those victims contacting an outside agency, 38% of females and males contacted a private agency for assistance regarding the victimization.

Among victims who sought assistance, by type
of aid sought, 2001-2005

Average annual percent

Source of aid	Female	Male
Government	61.8 %	62.1 %
Private	38.2 *	37.9

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

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Reporting to the Police

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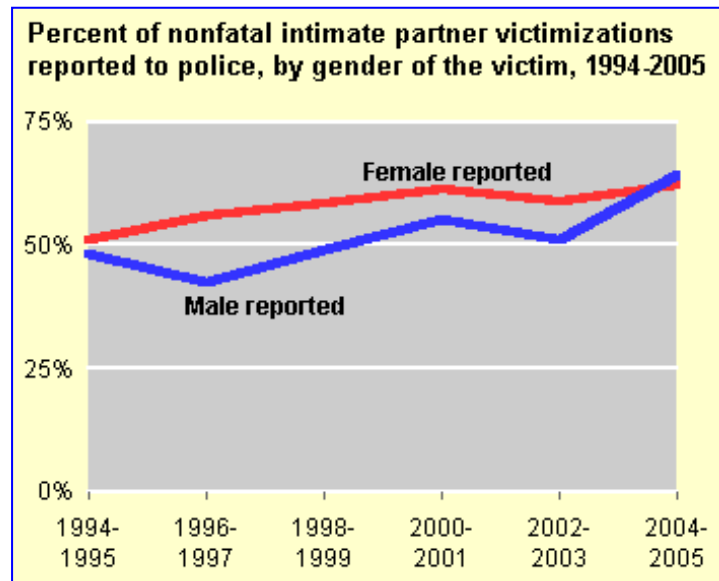
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Between 1994 and 2005, reporting to police of nonfatal intimate partner victimization increased for female victims.

To view data, click on the chart.



[D]

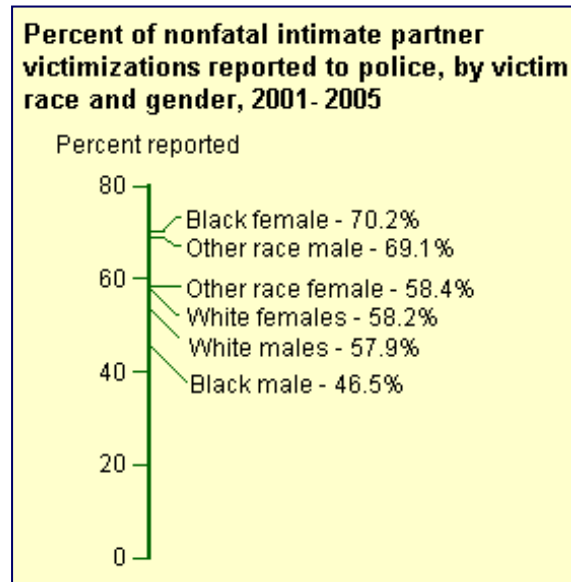
Note: See [National Crime Victimization Survey Methodology](#) for discussion of estimating change in the reporting of victimizations to the police.

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Race

For the 2001 to 2005 period, the percentage of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations reported to the police was —

- higher for black females than white females.
- higher for black females than black males.
- about the same for black and white males.



[D]

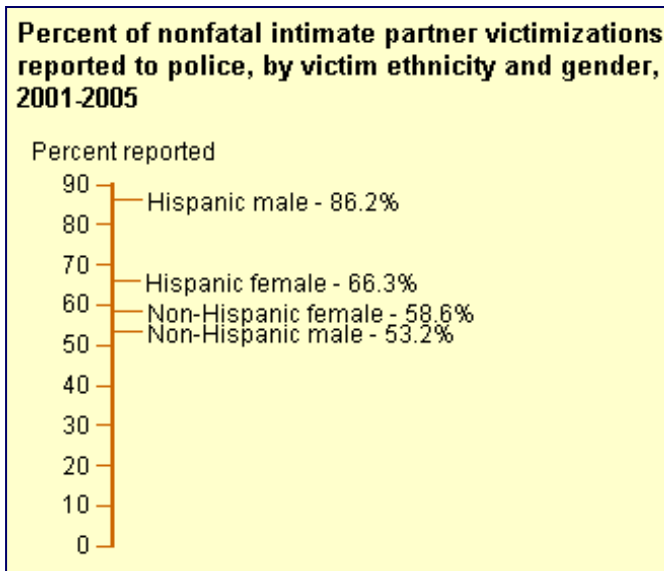
Note: Beginning in 2003 the racial categories are white/black/other "only" and "two or more races." "Other race" includes American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asians, and Native Hawaiians/other Pacific Islanders identifying a single racial background. See [National Crime Victimization Survey Methodology](#) in Additional Information about the data for more details.

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Hispanic origin

Between 2001 and 2005, the percentage of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations reported to the police was -

- about the same for Hispanic and non-Hispanic females.
- higher for male Hispanic victims than non-Hispanic males.



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Reasons for not reporting

Private or personal matter was the most frequent reason given for not reporting nonfatal intimate partner violence to police. On average between 2001 and 2005, almost 40% of male and 22% of female victims gave this reason.

The reasons stated for not notifying police about the nonfatal intimate partner victimization were --

- fear of reprisal for 12% of female victims.
- to protect the offender for 14% of female and 16% of male victims.
- because the police would not do anything for 8% of female victims.

Average annual percent of reasons nonfatal intimate partner violence was not reported to the police, by gender of the victim

Reason victimizations not reported	Percent of victims who did not report the victimization	
	Female victims	Male victims
Private or personal matter	21.8%	39.2%
Afraid of reprisal	12.4	5.3*
Protect offender	14.4	15.6
Minor crime	8.4	8.5*
Police will not do anything	7.9	--

Police ineffectiveness	2.7	2*
Inconvenient	3.4	1.4*
Reported to another official	3.1	--*
Police biased	1.3*	1.2*
Not clear a crime occurred	1.9*	8.6*
Don't know why I did not report it	0.6*	1.2*
Other reason given	22.0	17.1

--Information is not provided because the small number of cases is insufficient for reliable estimates.

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Note: Detail may not add to 100% because victims may report more than one reason and because of values not shown in instances when the small number of cases in category is insufficient for reliable estimates.

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Data Sources

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) gathers data about crimes using an ongoing, nationally representative sample of households in the United States. NCVS data include information about crime victims (age, gender, race ethnicity, marital status, income, and educational level), criminal offenders (gender, race, approximate age, and victim-offender relationships) and the nature of the crime (for example, time and place of occurrence, use of weapons and nature of injury). NCVS victimization data include incidents reported and not reported to police.

The tables on nonfatal intimate partner victimization in this report include data from the re-designed National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) for 1993-2004. Interviews are conducted with households and individuals regarding their experiences with crime. The victims recall the incidents and the data are not verified through other data sources. The survey relies on the victim's ability to accurately recall the characteristics of each incident.

The experiences and estimates of intimate partner violence reflect those of the individuals residing in households. It does not capture the experiences of homeless individuals or those living in institutional settings such shelters for homeless or battered persons.

The FBI's, Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program collects data about homicide incidents submitted monthly by local law enforcement agencies with details on victim and offender characteristics. These reports include information on the month and year of an offense, on the reporting agency and its residential population, county and Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) codes, geographic division, and population group, on the age, race, and sex of victims and offenders, victim/offender relationship, weapon use, and circumstance of the crime. For the years 1976-2005, contributing agencies provide supplemental data for 538,210 of the estimated 594,277 murders. Supplemental data are also reported for 597,359 of the estimated 659,862 offenders. For more on methods used with these data, see [Homicide Trends About the data](#).

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National Crime Victimization Survey Methodology

Data on rape, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault come from the [National Crime Victimization](#)

Survey (NCVS). The NCVS gathers data on crimes against persons age 12 or older, reported and not reported to the police, from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. The NCVS provides information about victims (age, gender, race, ethnicity, marital status, income, and educational level), offenders (gender, race, approximate age, and victim-offender relations) and the nature of the crime (time and place of occurrence, use of weapons, nature of injury, and economic consequences).

In 2005, 77,200 households and 134,000 individuals age 12 and older were interviewed. Between 1993 and 2005, response rates varied between 91% and 96% of eligible households and between 84% and 93% of eligible individuals.

Standard error computations

Comparisons of percentages and rates are tested to determine if observed differences are statistically significant. Only those comparisons that are statistically significant are reported. Differences described as higher, lower, or different pass a hypothesis test at the .05 level of statistical significance (95% confidence level). The tested difference is greater than twice the standard error of that difference. For comparisons that are statistically significant at the 0.10 level (90% confidence level), "somewhat," "slightly," or "marginally" is used to note the nature of the difference.

In some instances, the sample size used to generate an estimate is small. While the estimate is reliable, it is also likely associated with a relatively large confidence interval and should be viewed with caution.

Caution is required when comparing estimates not explicitly discussed. What may appear to be large or small differences may or may not test as statistically significant at the 95% or the 90% confidence level. Significance testing calculations are conducted at the Bureau of Justice Statistics using statistical programs developed specifically for the NCVS by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. These programs take into consideration many aspects of the complex NCVS sample design when calculating generalized variance estimates.

For additional information about NCVS methodology visit:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvict.htm#ncvs>

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvus/cvus04mt.pdf>

Series crimes

This report includes data on series victimizations. A series crime incident is defined by the NCVS as a crime in which a respondent experiences at least six similar victimization incidents during the given reference period (previous six months) but can not report the date and details of each clearly enough to report them separately. These incidents are recorded as one incident and included in all tables. The characteristics of the incident are based on those represented in the last incident in the series.

Series data are included for analyses where repeat victimization is an important aspect of the subject being analyzed. This report includes series victimizations in estimates of intimate partner violence, counting a series as one victimization.

Marital Status

Marital status is based on the respondent's situation at the time of the interview, not necessarily at the time of the victimization. The survey is not able to determine whether a victim's marital status changed between the victimization and the interview, not necessarily at the time of the victimization. The survey is not able to determine whether a victim's marital status changed between the victimization and the interview.

Caution is warranted when interpreting intimate partner violence and marital status in the NCVS because marital status may be related to a respondent's willingness or ability to disclose violence by an intimate partner. For example, a married woman may not view, may not wish to view, or may be unable to report the behavior of her partner as violent or criminal. That same woman, if separated or divorced, may view or may be able to report the same behavior as violent.

Race and Hispanic Origin Categories

In 1997 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) introduced new guidelines for the collection and reporting of race and ethnicity data in government surveys. These methodological changes were implemented for all demographic surveys as of January 1, 2003. Individuals are now allowed to choose more than one racial category. In prior years they were asked to select a single primary race.

Racial categories presented in this report now consist of the following:

- White only,
- Black only,
- American Indian/Alaska Native only
- Asian/Pacific Islander only (if only one of these races is given),
- Two or more races (all persons of any race indicating two or more races).

About 0.9% of persons in the NCVS sample and about 2.6% of victims of violence identified two or more races. Individuals are now asked whether they are of Hispanic origin before being asked about their race, and are now asked directly if they are Hispanic or Latino.

Victimization rates as compared to victimization counts

These analyses incorporate rates per 1,000 persons age 12 or older. Because populations may vary over time, using rates takes into account the size of the population being examined. This allows for accurate comparisons of groups of differing sizes as well as changes in populations over time. Examining counts alone ignores these differences in populations and can lead to misleading conclusions.

Estimating change in the reporting of intimate partner victimizations to police

Since 1995, the NCVS has undergone sample reductions because of the escalating costs of data collection. At the same time, the rate of violence has continued to decline. The combination of fewer survey respondents and less crime has resulted in a diminished ability to detect statistically significant year-to-year changes in rates of relatively rare crimes such as intimate partner violence against males.

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Additional sources

This list is in order of the most recent publication first. Additional titles are listed on other topical pages and a comprehensive list is

contained on the BJS publications page. To see a full abstract of a publication with links to electronic versions of the publication, click on the title below.

[Homicide Trends in the United States](#)

[Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001](#). NCJ 197838 (February 2003)

[Reporting Crime to the Police](#). NCJ 195710 (March 2003)

[Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim, 1993-1999](#). NCJ 187635 (Oct. 2001)

[Intimate Partner Violence](#). NCJ 178247 (May 2000)

[Violence by Intimates](#). NCJ 167237 (March 1998)

[Violence against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey](#). NCJ 154348 (August 1995)

[Violence between Intimates](#). NCJ 149259 (November 1994)

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Definitions

Definitions of relationships used in this report

Intimates --

spouses or ex-spouses
 boyfriends and girlfriends
 ex-boyfriends and ex-girlfriends

Other relatives --

parents or step parents
 children or stepchildren
 brothers or sisters
 some other relative

Acquaintances --

friends or former friends
 roommates or boarders
 schoolmates
 neighbors
 someone at work
 some other known non-relative

A stranger is anyone not previously known by the victim

The FBI, through the SHR, and BJS, using the NCVS, gather information about the relationship between the victim and offender using different relationship categories. In this report responses to the victim-offender question from both datasets are collapsed into four relationship groups: intimate, friend/acquaintance, other family, and stranger. These groups are created from the following original response categories:

Report category

Intimate

NCVS categories

Spouse
 Ex-spouse
 Boyfriend/girlfriend
 Ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend
 Same sex relationship

SHR categories

Husband/wife
 Common-law husband or wife
 Ex-husband/ex-wife
 Boyfriend/girlfriend
 Same sex relationship

Friend/acquaintance	Friend/ex-friend Roommate/boarder Schoolmate Neighbor Someone at work/customer Other non-relative	Acquaintance Friend Neighbor Employee Employer Other known
Other family	Parent or step parent Own child or stepchild Brother/sister Other relative	Mother/father Son/daughter Brother/sister In-law Stepfather/stepmother Stepson/stepdaughter Other family
Stranger	Stranger Known by sight only	Stranger

Definitions of violent crimes:

Homicide: murder and non-negligent manslaughter is defined as the willful killing of one human being by another.

Rape: forced sexual intercourse, including both psychological coercion and physical force. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal, or oral penetration by the offender(s). This category includes incidents where the penetration is from a foreign object such as a bottle. This definition includes attempted rapes, male and female victims, and heterosexual and homosexual rape.

Sexual assault: includes a wide range of victimizations, distinct from rape or attempted rape. These crimes include completed or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact between the victim and offender. Sexual assaults may or may not involve force and include such things as grabbing or fondling. Sexual assault also includes verbal threats.

Robbery: completed or attempted theft, directly from a person, of property or cash by force or threat of force, with or without a weapon, and with or without injury.

Assault: the unlawful physical attack or threat of attack. Assaults may be classified as aggravated or simple. Rape, attempted rape, and sexual assaults are excluded from this category, as well as robbery and attempted a robbery. The severity of assaults ranges from minor threat to incidents which are nearly fatal.

Aggravated assault: the attack or attempted attack with a weapon, regardless of whether or not an injury occurred and attack without a weapon when serious injury results.

Simple assault: an attack without a weapon resulting either in no injury, minor injury (for example, bruises, black eyes, cuts or in undetermined injury requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization. Also includes attempted assault without a weapon.

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