

# Intimate Partner Violence in the United States

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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 homosexual 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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Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) of the FBI's **Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR)** as presented in **Homicide Trends in the United States**

#### **Press release**

**Print version:** PDF format (259K)

Production for this website was provided by Priscilla Middleton and Rhonda Keith of BJS. Erika Harrell, Ph.D. verified this report. Michael Rand and Marianne Zawitz, BJS statisticians, provided statistical review and edits.

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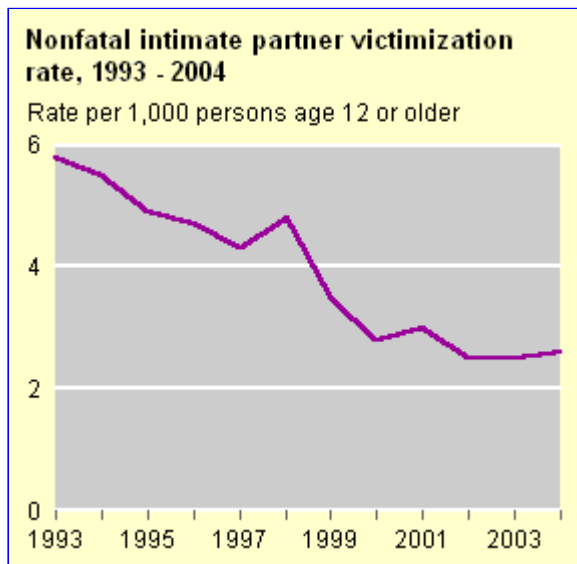
## *Intimate Partner Violence in the U.S.*

# Overview

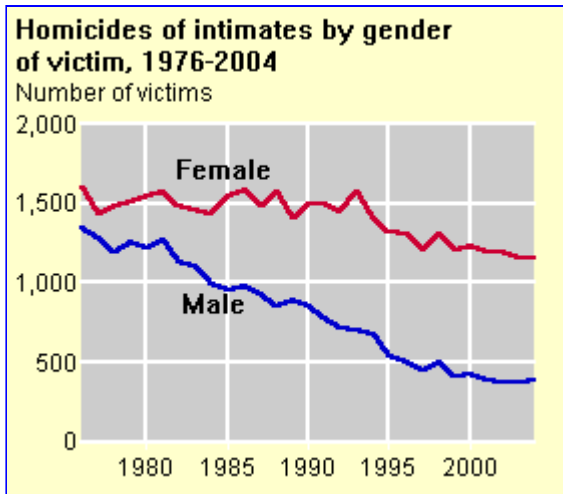
**Intimate partner violence has been declining.**

Nonfatal intimate partner violence has declined since 1993.

To view data, click on the chart.



There has been a decline in homicides of intimates, especially male victims.

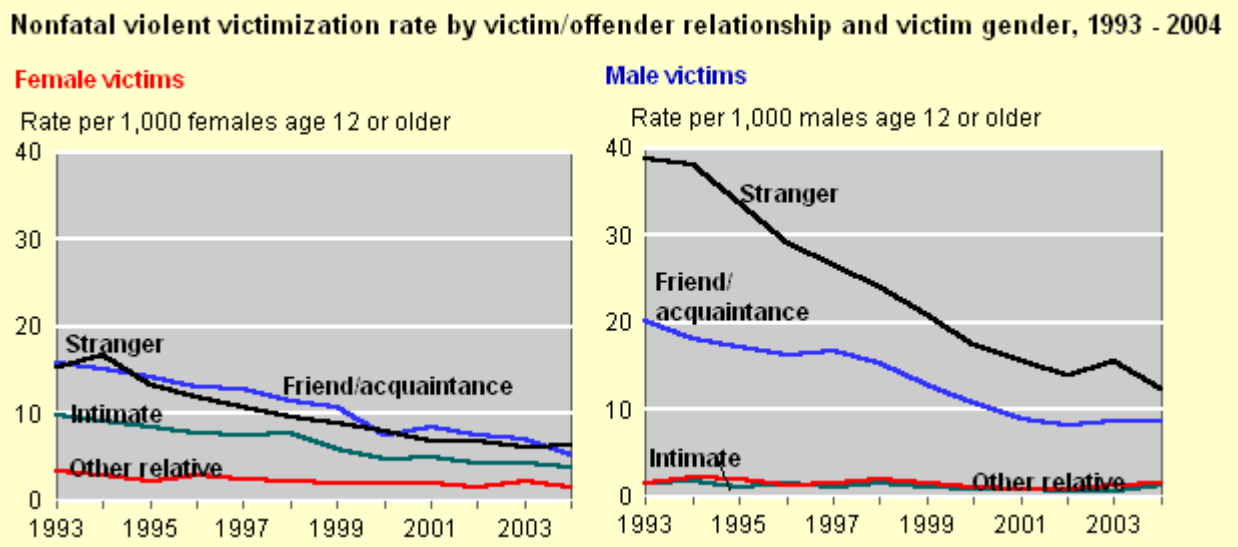


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See [Intimate homicide](#) in Homicide Trends in the United States.

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

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



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## Victim Characteristics

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### Gender

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

On average between 1993-2004, nonfatal intimate partner victimizations represented --

- 22% of nonfatal violent victimizations against females 12 and older
- 3% of nonfatal violent victimizations against males age 12 and older.

**Victim/offender relationship in nonfatal violent victimizations, by victim and gender, 1993-2004**

Victim/offender relationship	Average annual rate per 1,000 age 12 or older			
	Female		Male	
	Rate	Percent	Rate	Percent
		100%		100%
<b>Intimates</b>	6.4	22.0	1.1	2.9
<b>Other relatives</b>	2.2	7.7	1.4	3.7
<b>Friend/acquaintances</b>	10.6	36.4	13.3	33.8
<b>Stranger</b>	9.9	33.9	23.5	59.6

For homicides, intimate partners commit -

- 30% of homicides of females.

- 5% of homicides of males.

**Homicide victim/offender relationship by victim gender,  
1976-2004**

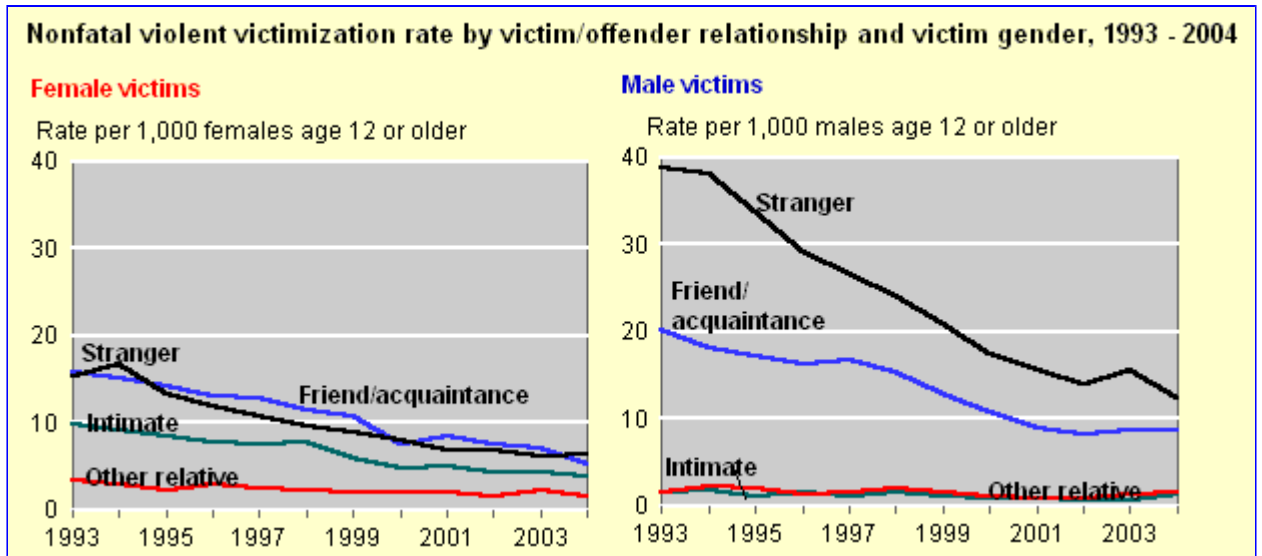
Victim/offender relationship	Percent of homicide victims by gender	
	Female	Male
<b>Total</b>	100 %	100 %
<b>Intimate</b>	30.1	5.3
<b>Other family</b>	11.7	6.7
<b>Acquaintance/Known</b>	21.8	35.5
<b>Stranger</b>	8.8	15.5
<b>Undetermined</b>	27.7	37.1

Trends for nonfatal intimate partner victimization differ by gender.

The rate of nonfatal intimate partner victimization for -

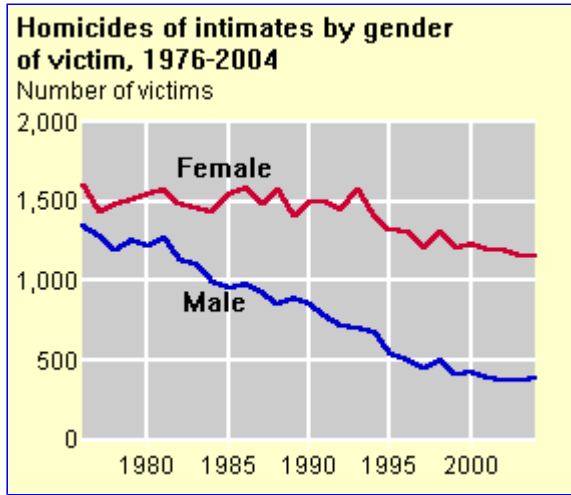
- females was about 4 victimizations per 1,000 person age 12 and older in 2004, down from about 10 in 1993.
- males increased between 2003 and 2004, returning to levels last seen in 1996.

To view data, click on the chart.



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There has been a decline in homicide of intimates, especially male victims.



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

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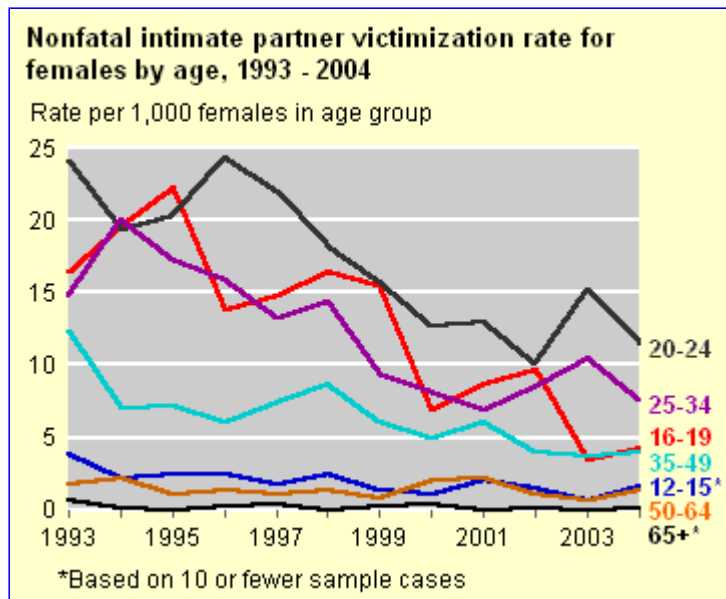


## Age

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

- In general, females in the oldest (50+) and youngest age (12-15) categories were at the lowest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence.
- For the most recent year, females age 20-24 and 25-34 were at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence.

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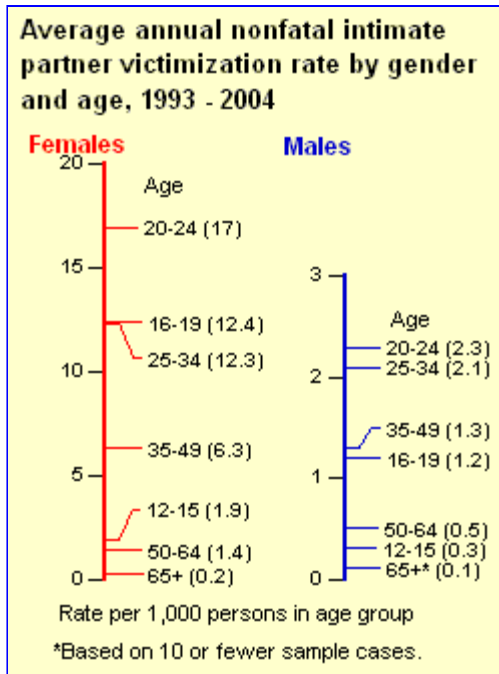


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For nonfatal intimate partner victimization, the average annual rates from 1993-2004 were higher for females than males.

- Females age 20-24 were at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence.
- Males age 12-15 and 65 years and older experienced the lowest rates of nonfatal intimate partner violence.

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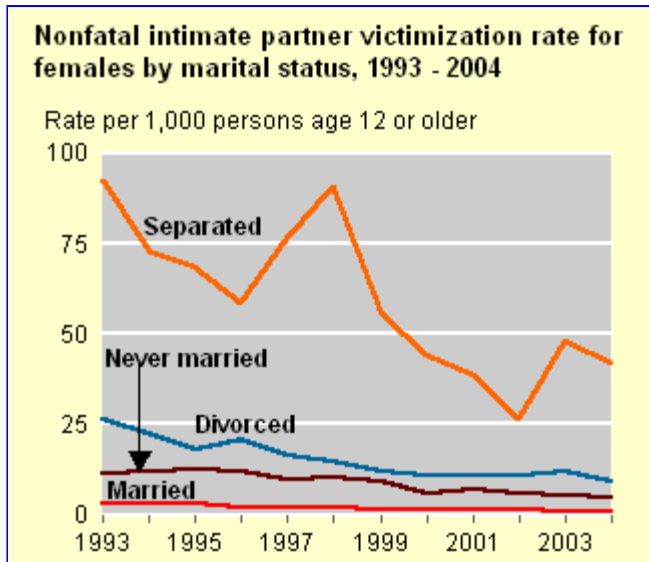
## Marital Status

Rates of nonfatal intimate partner violence for females in all marital statuses were lower in 2004 than in 1993.

Females who were --

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

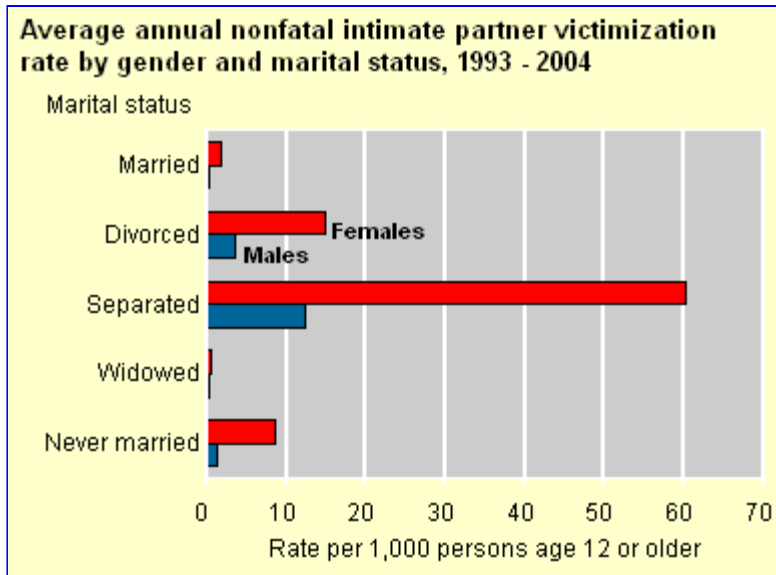
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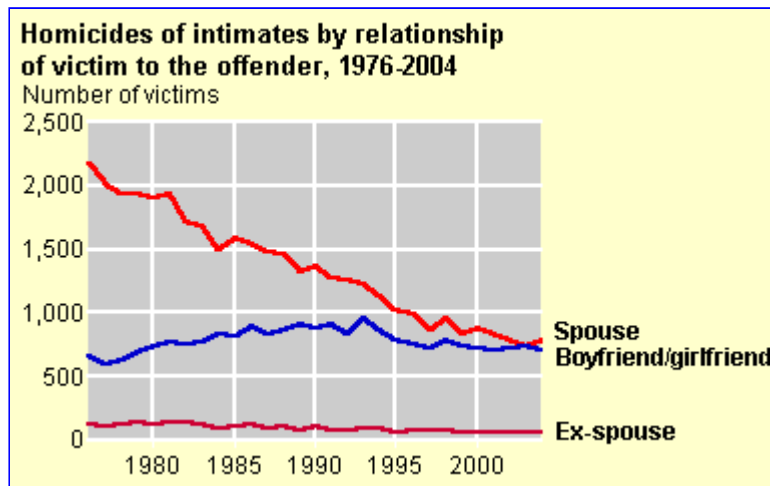
Both females and males who were separated or divorced faced the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence while persons who were married or widowed reported the lowest risk of violence.

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



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

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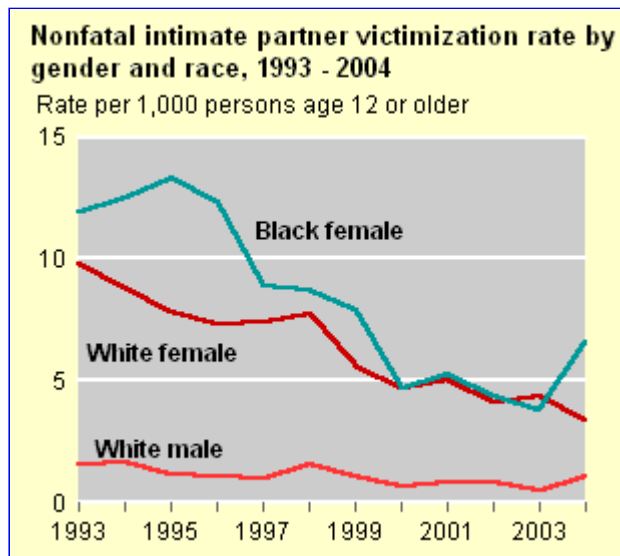
## Race

Between 1990 and 2003, rates of nonfatal intimate partner violence decreased for white females and males and black females.

Between 2003 and 2004 --

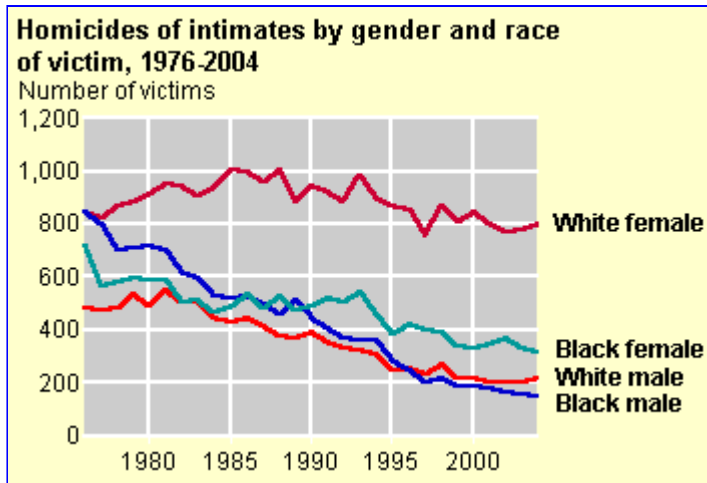
- The rate of nonfatal intimate partner violence for black females increased 3.8 to 6.6 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 years or older.
- Nonfatal intimate partner violence for white males increased between 2003 and 2004, from .5 to 1.1 victimizations per 1,000 males age 12 or older.

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In general, intimate partner homicide has declined for all race and gender groups.

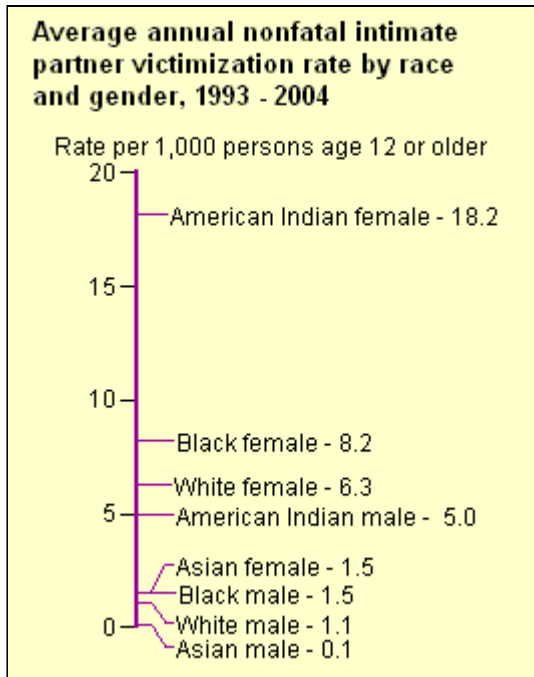


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See [Intimate homicide](#) in Homicide Trends in the U.S.

The average annual rate of nonfatal intimate partner violence from 1993 to 2004 was --

- highest for American Indian and Alaskan Native females.
- higher for black females than white females.
- highest for females in all racial groups than their male counterparts.



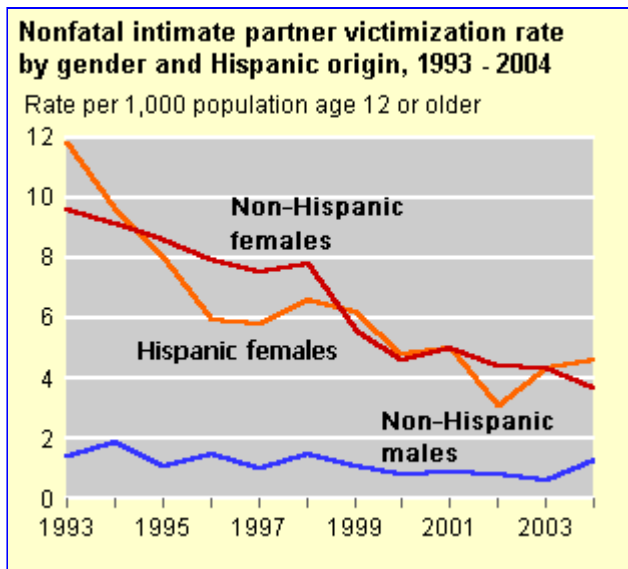
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## Hispanic origin

Between 1993 and 2004, the rate of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations declined for --

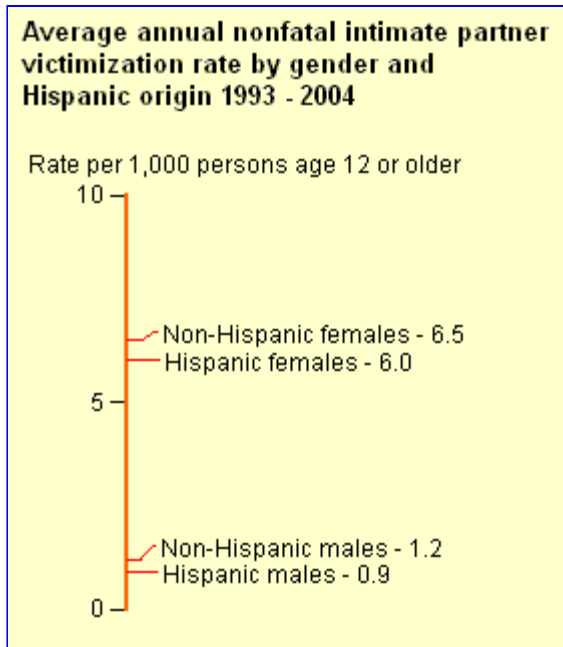
- Hispanic females by two-thirds.
- Non-Hispanic females by over half.



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The average annual rate from 1993 to 2004 was similar for Hispanic and non-Hispanic females. Higher annual average rates of intimate partner victimization were observed for non-Hispanic than Hispanic males.





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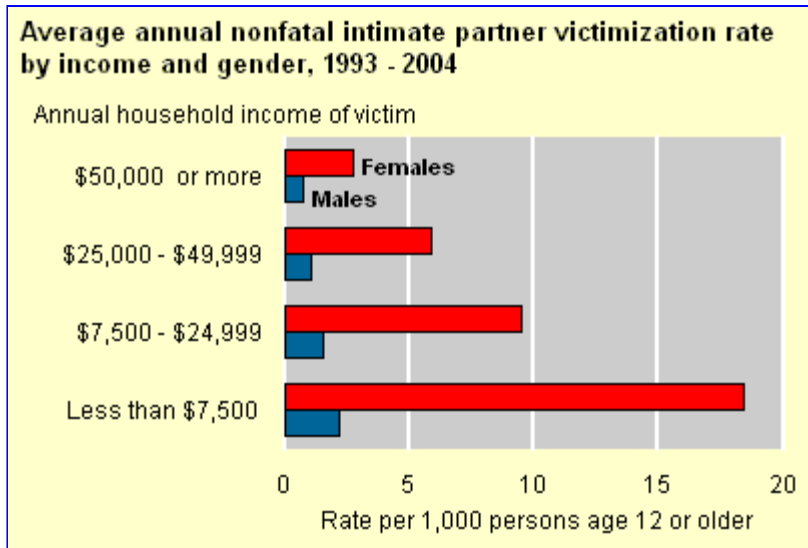
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## Income

From 1993 to 2004, for nonfatal intimate partner victimization --

- persons living in households with lower annual incomes experienced the highest average annual rates.
- persons living in households that earned higher incomes had lower average annual rates than those with less income.
- females remained at greater risk than males regardless of income level.

To view data, click on the chart.



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## Home ownership

From 1993-2004, for nonfatal intimate partner violence --

- average annual rates were considerably 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 that of females living in owned housing.
- males who resided in rental housing were victimized by an intimate partner at 3 times the rate of males living in purchased housing.

### Average annual rate of nonfatal intimate partner victimization by home ownership, 1993-2004

	Female	Male
<b>Home ownership</b>		
Owned	3.5	0.8

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## Children exposed to intimate partner violence

On average between 1993-2004, children were residents of the households experiencing intimate partner violence in --

- 43% of the incidents involving female victims.
- 25% 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, 1993-2004

Households with intimate partner violence victims	Annual average	
	Number	Percent
<b>All households with -</b>	871,510	100%
<b>Children</b>	349,020	40.0%
<b>No children</b>	389,300	44.7%
<b>Unknown</b>	133,200	15.3%
<b>Female victim households with -</b>	746,580	100%
<b>Children</b>	318,290	42.6%
<b>No children</b>	307,080	41.1%
<b>Unknown</b>	121,220	16.2%
<b>Male victim households with -</b>	124,930	100%
<b>Children</b>	30,730	24.6%
<b>No children</b>	82,220	65.8%
<b>Unknown</b>	11,990	9.6%

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

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### Gender

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

On average from 1993-2004 --

- about 97% of females experiencing nonfatal intimate partner violence were victimized by a male and about 2% reported that the offender was another female.
- about 84% of males experiencing nonfatal intimate partner violence were victimized by a female and about 12% of males reported that the offender was another male.

#### Average annual percent of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations by gender of victim and offender, 1993-2004

Gender of victim	Gender of offender			
	Total	Male	Female	Both*
Female	100%	96.9%	2.1%	0.9%
Male	100	12.0	83.9	4.1

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 1993-2004, most victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence report that the age of the offender was similar to their own.

**Average annual percent of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations by age of victim and offender**

Age of victim	Age of offender						
	12-14	15-17	18-20	21-29	30 or older	Mixed ages	Don't know
<b>12-14</b>	55.5 %	31.7 %	4.9 %	1.8 %	2.2	3.9	--
<b>15-17</b>	1.6	49.5	31.2	9.3	1.3	4.0	3.1
<b>18-20</b>	--	5.1	36.5	49.2	5.7	2.5	1.0
<b>21-29</b>	--	--	4.8	64.9	28.1	0.9	1.3
<b>30 and older</b>	0.1	0.1	0.1	10.2	87.6	0.6	1.2

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

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

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**Race**

As with other forms of nonfatal violent victimization, nonfatal intimate partner violence is primarily intraracial in nature.

- About 89% of white victims were victimized by white offenders.
- About 95% of black victims were victimized by black offenders.

**Percent of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations by race of victim and perceived race of offender, 1993-2004**

**Perceived race of offender**

Race of victim	Total	White	Black	Other
<b>White</b>	100 %	88.6 %	4.5 %	7.0 %
<b>Black</b>	100	2.9	94.5	2.7
<b>Other</b>	100	58.0	9.2	32.8

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 a discussion. Information about intimate partner victimization of persons of other races is not provided annually because the small number of cases in each category was not sufficient for reliable annual estimates.

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### Type of crime

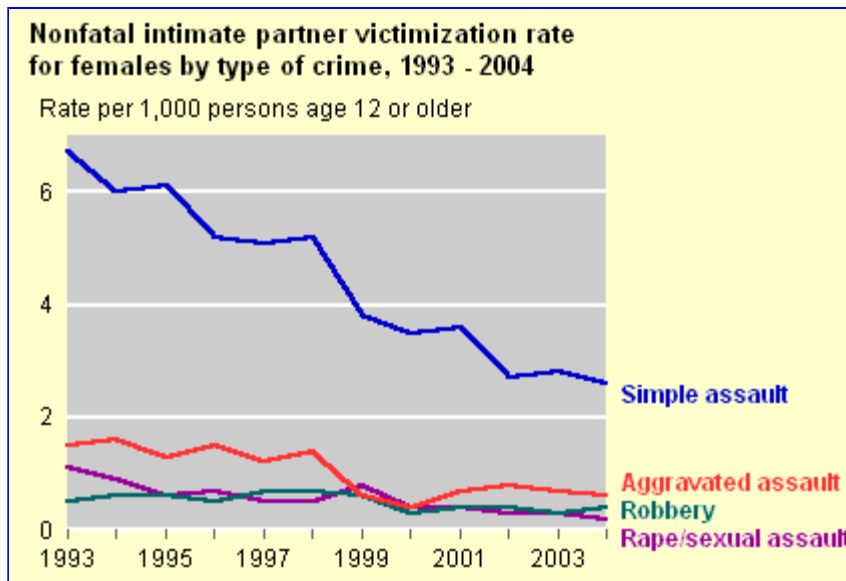
For nonfatal intimate partner violence, as for violent crime in general, simple assault is the most common type of violent crime.

The long term trend for female victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence shows that between 1993 and 2004 --

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

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

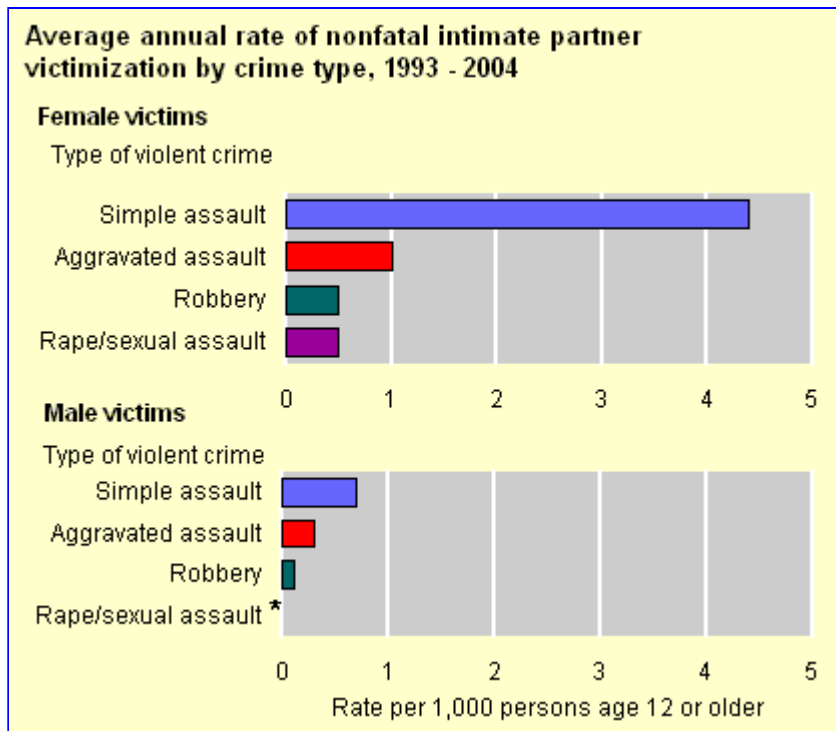




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On average between 1993-2004, females experienced higher rates of nonfatal intimate partner violence than males regardless of the type of crime.

To view data, click on the chart.



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\* Information about rape victimization of males is not provided because the small number of cases is insufficient for reliable estimates.

For fatal violence about 11% of all murder victims were determined to have been killed by an intimate.

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, 1993-2004**

	Average annual	
	Number	Percent
<b>Female victims</b>		
Daytime (6a.m. to 6 p.m.)	277,720	37.2%
Nighttime (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.)	447,700	60.0
Don't know	6,890	0.9
<b>Male victims</b>		
Daytime (6a.m. to 6 p.m.)	48,290	38.7%
Nighttime (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.)	73,480	58.8
Don't know	2,960	2.4

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

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## Place

On average between 1993-2004 --

- the majority of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations occurred at home; approximately two-thirds of females and half of males were victimized at home.
- about 12% of female and 13% of male victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence were victimized at a friend or neighbor's home.

**Average annual number and percent distribution of location of incident for nonfatal intimate partner violence, by gender of victim, 1993-2004**

	Average annual	
	Number	Percent
<b>Female victims</b>	746,580	100%
Victim's home	462,720	62.0

<b>Near victim's home</b>	68,670	9.2
<b>Friend/neighbor's home</b>	92,280	12.4
<b>Commercial place</b>	22,820	3.1
<b>Parking lot or garage</b>	28,310	3.8
<b>School</b>	10,430	1.4
<b>Open area/street/public place</b>	43,540	5.8
<b>Other</b>	17,820	2.4
<b>Male victims</b>	124,930	100%
<b>Victim's home</b>	67,520	54.0
<b>Near victim's home</b>	18,150	14.5
<b>Friend/neighbor's home</b>	16,490	13.2
<b>Commercial place</b>	4,590	3.7
<b>Parking lot or garage</b>	5,430	4.3
<b>School</b>	2,130	1.7*
<b>Open area/street/public place</b>	6,940	5.6
<b>Other</b>	3,710	3.0

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

\*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

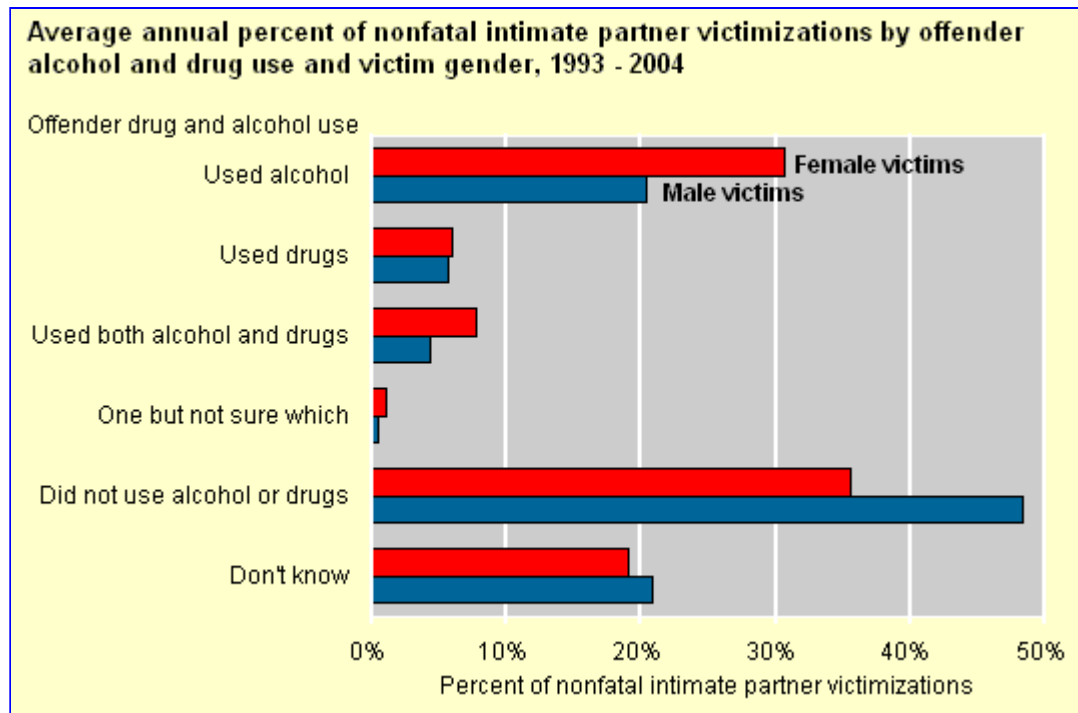
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## Alcohol and drugs

On average between 1993 and 2004 --

- the presence of any alcohol or drugs was reported by victims in about 43% of all nonfatal intimate partner violence.
- victims reported that approximately 7% of all nonfatal intimate partner victimizations occurred when a perpetrator was under the influence of both alcohol and drugs.
- female victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence were more likely than were male victims to report the presence of alcohol during their victimization, about one-third compared to one-fifth.
- 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.



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## Presence of weapons

On average between 1993 and 2004, for nonfatal intimate partner violence --

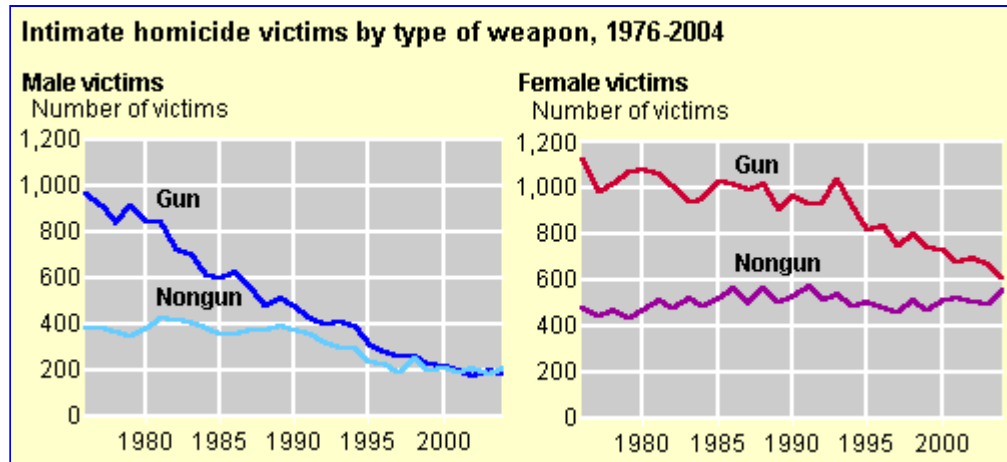
- male victims were more likely than female victims to face an offender armed with a weapon.
- female victims were more likely than male victims to face an offender armed with a firearm.
- male victims are more likely than female victims to be attacked with a blunt object or sharp weapon.
- about 4% of female and 9% 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, 1993-2004**

	<b>Nonfatal intimate partner violence average annual</b>			
	<b>Female</b>		<b>Male</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Total intimate partner victims</b>	746,580	100%	124,930	100%
<b>No weapon present</b>	604,140	80.9	87,210	69.8
<b>Weapon present</b>	112,330	15.0	34,090	27.3
<b>Firearm</b>	36,250	4.9	2,820	2.3
<b>Sharp weapon</b>	31,290	4.2	11,430	9.1
<b>Blunt objects</b>	44,790	6.0	19,840	15.9
<b>Do not know if offender had weapon</b>	30,110	4.0	3,630	2.9

Note: The firearm 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 as 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.



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See **Intimate homicide** in Homicide Trends in the U.S.

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### Location of residence (urban, suburban, rural)

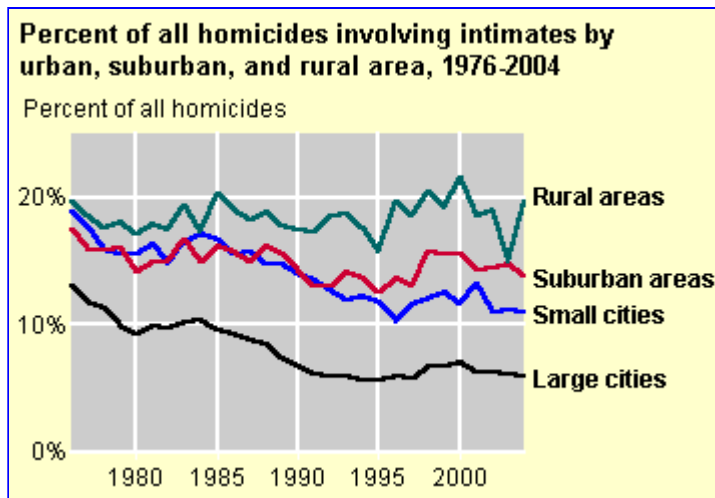
On average between 1993-2004--

- 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, 1993-2004

	Female	Male
Urban	7.6	1.5
Suburban	5.8	1.0
Rural	6.3	1.0

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



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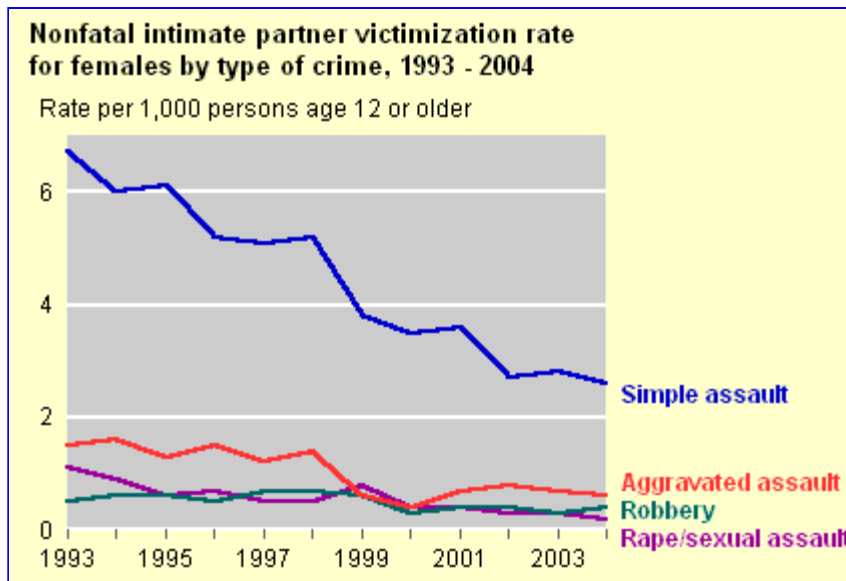
### Type of crime

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 2004 --

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

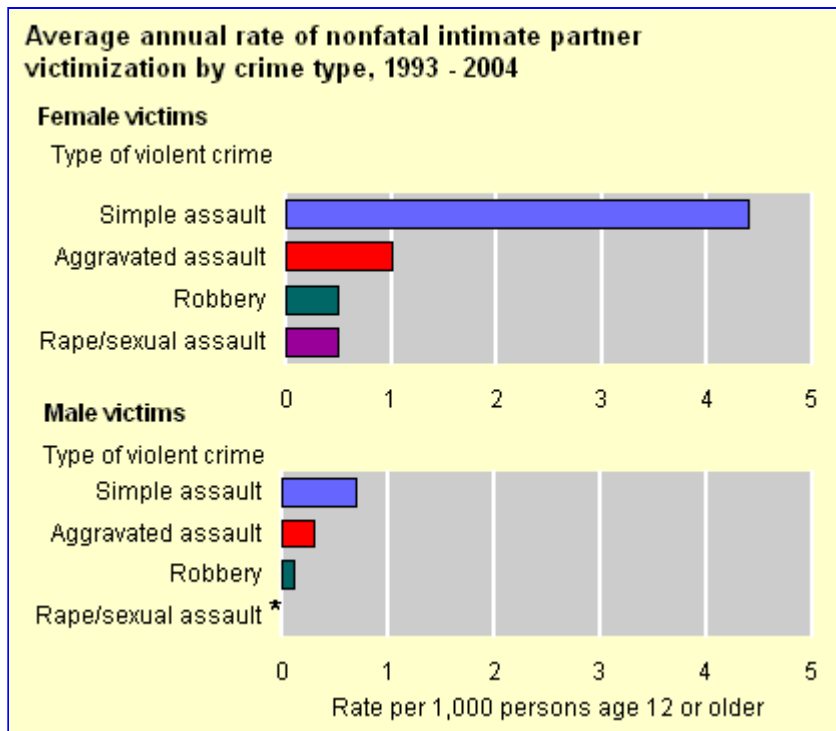
To view data, [click on the chart.](#)



[D]

On average between 1993-2004, females experienced higher rates of nonfatal intimate partner violence than males regardless of the type of crime.

To view data, click on the chart.



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\* Information about rape victimization of males is not provided because the small number of cases is insufficient for reliable estimates.

For fatal violence about 11% of all murder victims were determined to have been killed by an intimate.

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, 1993-2004**

	Average annual	
	Number	Percent
<b>Female victims</b>		
Daytime (6a.m. to 6 p.m.)	277,720	37.2%
Nighttime (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.)	447,700	60.0
Don't know	6,890	0.9
<b>Male victims</b>		
Daytime (6a.m. to 6 p.m.)	48,290	38.7%
Nighttime (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.)	73,480	58.8
Don't know	2,960	2.4

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

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## Place

On average between 1993-2004 --

- the majority of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations occurred at home; approximately two-thirds of females and half of males were victimized at home.
- about 12% of female and 13% of male victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence were victimized at a friend or neighbor's home.

**Average annual number and percent distribution of location of incident for nonfatal intimate partner violence, by gender of victim, 1993-2004**

	Average annual	
	Number	Percent
<b>Female victims</b>	746,580	100%
Victim's home	462,720	62.0

<b>Near victim's home</b>	68,670	9.2
<b>Friend/neighbor's home</b>	92,280	12.4
<b>Commercial place</b>	22,820	3.1
<b>Parking lot or garage</b>	28,310	3.8
<b>School</b>	10,430	1.4
<b>Open area/street/public place</b>	43,540	5.8
<b>Other</b>	17,820	2.4
<b>Male victims</b>	124,930	100%
<b>Victim's home</b>	67,520	54.0
<b>Near victim's home</b>	18,150	14.5
<b>Friend/neighbor's home</b>	16,490	13.2
<b>Commercial place</b>	4,590	3.7
<b>Parking lot or garage</b>	5,430	4.3
<b>School</b>	2,130	1.7*
<b>Open area/street/public place</b>	6,940	5.6
<b>Other</b>	3,710	3.0

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

\*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

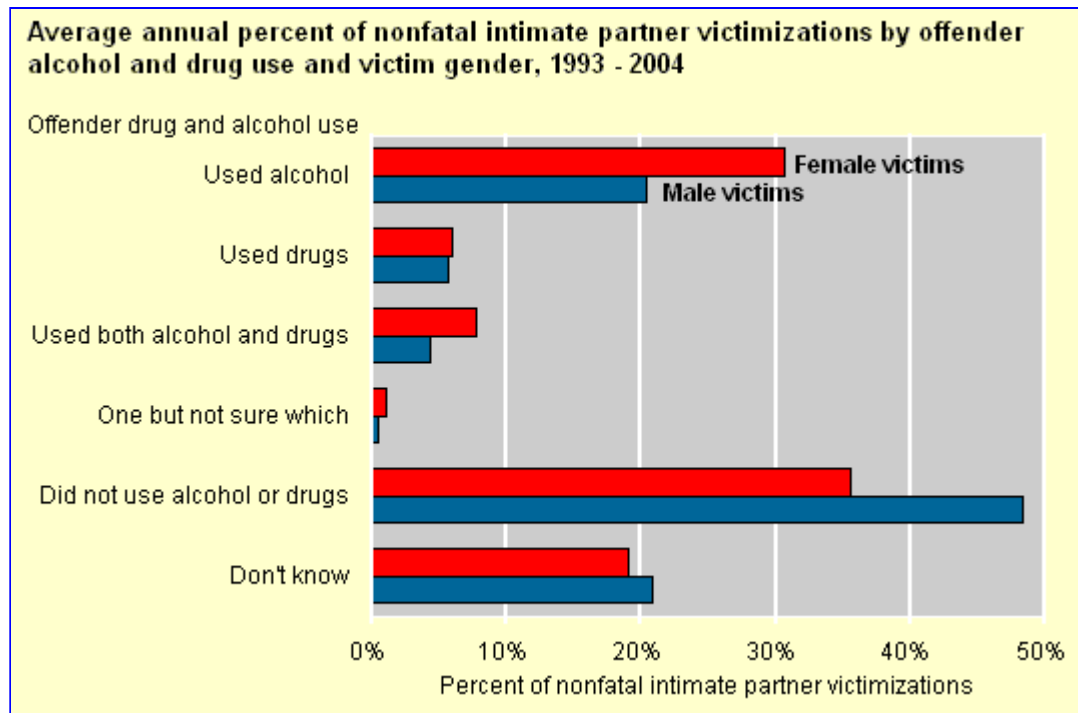
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## Alcohol and drugs

On average between 1993 and 2004 --

- the presence of any alcohol or drugs was reported by victims in about 43% of all nonfatal intimate partner violence.
- victims reported that approximately 7% of all nonfatal intimate partner victimizations occurred when a perpetrator was under the influence of both alcohol and drugs.
- female victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence were more likely than were male victims to report the presence of alcohol during their victimization, about one-third compared to one-fifth.
- 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.



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## Presence of weapons

On average between 1993 and 2004, for nonfatal intimate partner violence --

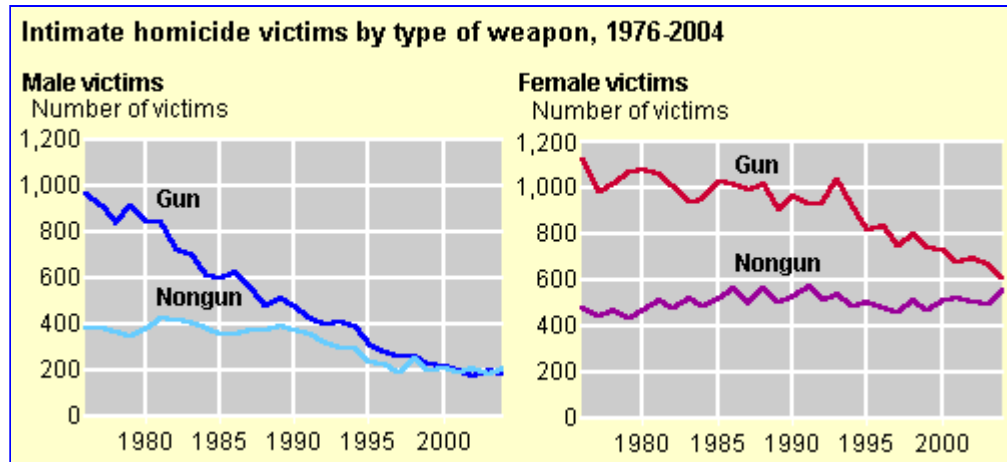
- male victims were more likely than female victims to face an offender armed with a weapon.
- female victims were more likely than male victims to face an offender armed with a firearm.
- male victims are more likely than female victims to be attacked with a blunt object or sharp weapon.
- about 4% of female and 9% 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, 1993-2004**

	<b>Nonfatal intimate partner violence average annual</b>			
	<b>Female</b>		<b>Male</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Total intimate partner victims</b>	746,580	100%	124,930	100%
<b>No weapon present</b>	604,140	80.9	87,210	69.8
<b>Weapon present</b>	112,330	15.0	34,090	27.3
<b>Firearm</b>	36,250	4.9	2,820	2.3
<b>Sharp weapon</b>	31,290	4.2	11,430	9.1
<b>Blunt objects</b>	44,790	6.0	19,840	15.9
<b>Do not know if offender had weapon</b>	30,110	4.0	3,630	2.9

Note: The firearm 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 as 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.



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See **Intimate homicide** in Homicide Trends in the U.S.

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### Location of residence (urban, suburban, rural)

On average between 1993-2004--

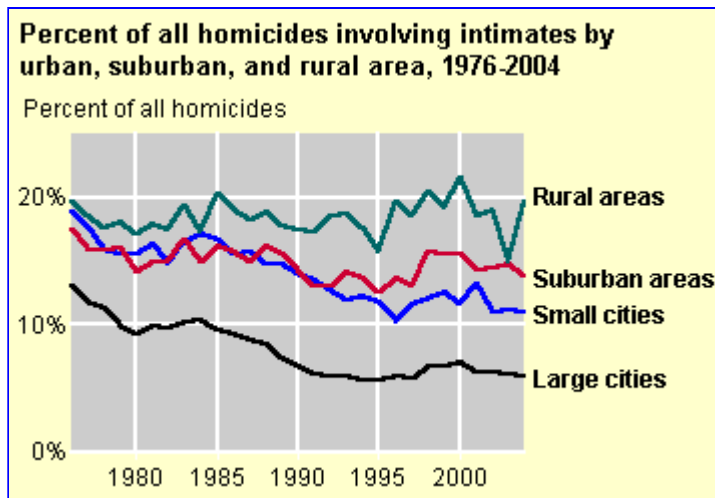
- males and females living in urban areas reported the highest levels of nonfatal intimate partner violence.
- males and females residing in rural and suburban areas were equally likely to experience nonfatal intimate partner violence.

**Average annual rate of nonfatal intimate partner violence by location of residence, 1993-2004**

	Female	Male
Urban	7.6	1.5
Suburban	5.8	1.0
Rural	6.3	1.0

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





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

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## Injury and Treatment

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### Threats and attacks

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On average since 1993, 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, 1993-2004

Type of violence	Percent of victims of intimate partner violence	
	Female	Male
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%
<b>Attempt or threat</b>	67.8	63.9
<b>Physically attacked</b>	32.2	36.1

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### Type of threat

Between 1993 and 2004, for nonfatal intimate partner violence --

- one-third of female victims and one-quarter of male victims reported that the offender threatened to kill the victim.

- 24% of male victims were threatened with a weapon and 10% 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, 1993-2004**

Type of threat	Percent of victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence, 1993-2004	
	Female	Male
Threatened to kill	31.5%	25.0%
Threatened to rape	0.9	--
Threatened with harm	54.2	44.6
Threatened with a weapon	17.6	23.6
Threw object at victim	4.4	10.7
Followed/surrounded victim	4.0	2.1
Tried to hit, slap, or knock down victim	13.0	11.9

Note: Detail may not add to 100% 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 1993 and 2004, for nonfatal intimate partner violence --

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

**Average annual percent of attacks, by type, in nonfatal intimate partner violent crime, 1993-2004**

**Percent of victims of**

**nonfatal intimate partner  
violence who were  
attacked**

Type of attack	Female	Male
Raped	7.4%	0.9%
Sexual assault	1.6	0.3
Attacked with firearm	0.7	0.3
Attacked with knife	2.0	7.0
Hit by thrown object	3.0	8.2
Attacked with other weapon	0.7	1.4
Hit, slapped, knocked down	63.8	67.0
Grabbed, held, tripped	52.8	27.3

Note: A total of the detail may exceed 100% because victims may have reported more than one type of attack.

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## Injury

On average between 1993 and 2004, 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 43% 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, 1993-2004**

Intimate partner victim	Average annual	
	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	746,580	100%
<b>Not injured</b>	369,670	49.5%

<b>Injured</b>	376,910	50.5%
<b>Serious injury</b>	33,490	4.5%
<b>Gunshot wound</b>	490	0.1*
<b>Knife wounds</b>	4,530	0.6
<b>Internal injuries</b>	7,650	1.0
<b>Broken bones</b>	13,660	1.8
<b>Knocked unconscious</b>	5,690	0.8
<b>Other serious injuries</b>	1,480	0.2*
<b>Rape/sexual assault without additional injuries</b>	25,430	3.4
<b>Minor injuries only</b>	317,020	42.5
<b>Injuries unknown</b>	970	0.1*

\*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Note: Total may not add to previous totals due to rounding.

On average between 1993 and 2004, more than one-third of male victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence were injured; 5% were seriously injured and 31% suffered minor injuries.

**Average annual number and percent of injuries sustained by male victims as a result of nonfatal intimate partner violence, 1993-2004**

	Average annual	
	Number	Percent
<b>Total intimate partner victims</b>	124,930	100%
<b>Not injured</b>	79,570	63.7%
<b>Injured</b>	45,360	36.3%
<b>Serious injury</b>	5,840	4.7
<b>Minor injuries only</b>	38,580	30.9
<b>Rape/sexual assault without other injuries</b>	460	0.4*
<b>Injuries unknown</b>	490	0.4%*

\*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 1993 and 2004 for nonfatal intimate partner violence --

- less than one-fifth of victims reporting an injury sought treatment following the injury.
- about 9% of female and 8% of male victims were treated at the scene of the injury or in their home.
- females experiencing an injury were slightly 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, 1993-2004**

	Average annual	
	Female	Male
<b>Not injured</b>	49.5%	63.7%
<b>Injured</b>	50.5	36.3%
<b>Injured, not treated</b>	31.3	22.7
<b>Treated for injury</b>	19.2	13.4
<b>At scene or home</b>	9.1	7.8
<b>Doctor's office or clinic</b>	2.4	1.0
<b>Hospital</b>	7.2	4.4
<b>Not admitted</b>	6.7	4.4
<b>Admitted</b>	0.5	--
<b>Other locale</b>	>0.5	0.1
<b>Don't know</b>	--	0.2%*

\*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 1993, about 21% of female victims of nonfatal intimate partner violence and 10% of male victims contacted an outside agency for assistance. Additionally --

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- female victims were more likely to contact a government agency for assistance than a private agency.
- 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, 43% of females and 46% of males contacted a private agency for assistance regarding the victimization.

### Among victims who sought assistance, type of aid sought, 1993-2004

Source of aid	Average annual percent	
	Female	Male
Government	56.9%	53.7%
Private	43.1	46.3

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## Reporting to the Police

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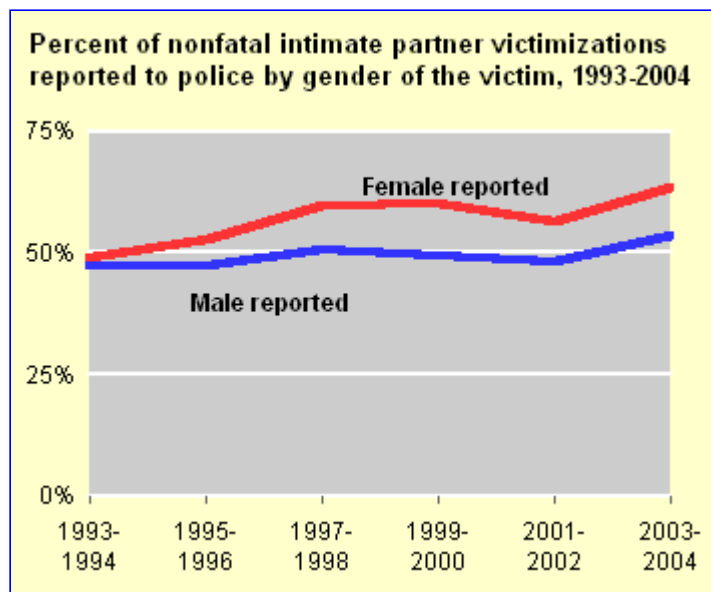
[Gender differences](#) | [Racial differences](#) | [Differences by Hispanic origin](#) | [Reasons for not reporting](#)

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### Gender differences

Reporting to police of nonfatal intimate partner victimization has increased for both female and male victims between 1994 and 2004.

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.

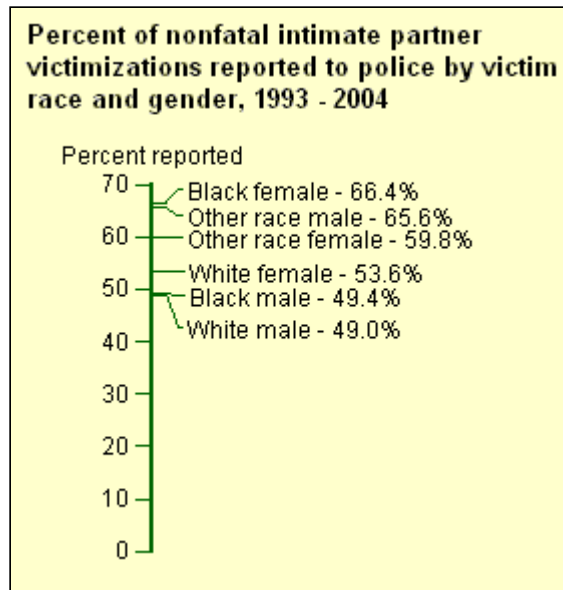


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## Racial differences

For the 1993 to 2004 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.



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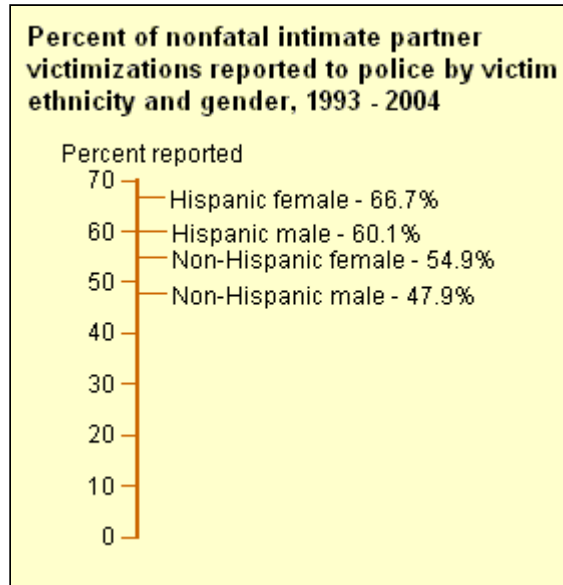
Note: Beginning in 2003 the racial categories are white/black/other "only" and "two or more races." "Other race" includes American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asians, and Native Hawaiians/other Pacific Islanders identifying a single racial background. See [National Crime Victimization Survey Methodology](#)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

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## Differences by Hispanic origin

Between 1993 and 2004, the percentage of nonfatal intimate partner victimizations reported to the police was -

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



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Note: Individual categories may not add to total because data on ethnicity does not include data on persons whose ethnicity is not ascertained. These data are not shown separately. See **National Crime Victimization Survey Methodology** for discussion.

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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 1993 and 2004, almost 41% of male and 27% of female victims gave this reason.

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

- fear of reprisal for 15% of female victims.

- to protect the offender for 12% of female and 11% of male victims.
- because the police would not do anything for 6% of female and 5% of male victims.

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

Total victimizations not reported	Percent of victims who did not report the victimization	
	Female victims	Male victims
<b>Private or personal matter</b>	27.4%	41.1%
<b>Afraid of reprisal</b>	15.2	2.5*
<b>Protect offender</b>	11.9	11.1
<b>Minor crime</b>	6.3	11.2
<b>Police will not do anything</b>	5.6	4.6
<b>Police ineffectiveness</b>	2.8	1.2*
<b>Inconvenient</b>	2.5	3.2*
<b>Reported to another official</b>	2.3	2.1*
<b>Police biased</b>	2.1	1.1*
<b>Not clear a crime occurred</b>	1.4	4.5
<b>Don't know why I did not report it</b>	1.1	1.8*
<b>Other reason given</b>	21.3	15.7

\*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 not sufficient for reliable estimates.

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## Additional Information about data

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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 1976-2004, contributing agencies provide supplemental data for 523,329 of the estimated 577,574 murders. Supplemental data are also reported for 580,307 of the estimated 640,722 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 2004, 84,360 households and 149,000 individuals age 12 and older were interviewed. Between 1993 and 2003, response rates varied between 92% and 96% of eligible households and between 87% 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, 1992-2001](#). 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

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### 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	NCVS categories	SHR categories
Intimate	Spouse Ex-spouse Boyfriend/girlfriend Ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend Homosexual relationship	Husband/wife Common-law husband or wife Ex-husband/ex-wife Boyfriend/girlfriend Homosexual relationship
Friend/acquaintance	Friend/ex-friend	Acquaintance

	Roommate/boarder Schoolmate Neighbor Someone at work/customer Other non-relative	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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