



## Bureau of Justice Statistics

# Family Violence Statistics

Including Statistics on Strangers and Acquaintances

**Reported and unreported family violence**

**Murder of family members**

**Family violence reported to police**

**Family violence recorded by police**

**State prosecution of family assault**

**Federal prosecution of domestic violence**

**Family violence offenders in prison**

**Family violence offenders in jail**

Rates of victimization from family violence were relatively high for American Indians and Alaska Natives, and relatively low for Asians and Pacific Islanders. Together, American Indians and Alaska Natives made up 0.4% of the U.S. population age 12 or older between 1998 and 2002 but 1.6% of the victims of family violence. Corresponding figures for Asians and Pacific Islanders were 3.6% of the 12 or older population but 0.5% of family violence victims.

**Age**

The average age of the 3.5 million victims of family violence was 34.

Victims of nonfamily violence were slightly younger overall, with an average age of just under 29 years. Average ages for other victims were age 35 for persons victimized by their spouses; age 21 for sons and daughters victimized by their parents; age 35 for those victimized by other family members; age 27 for victims of violence against a boyfriend or girlfriend; age 27 for persons victimized by friends and acquaintances; and age 30 for victims of stranger violence.

Adults between ages 25 and 54 comprised two-thirds of the victims of family violence. Persons age 25-34 were 16.7% of the U.S. population age 12 or older but 24.5% of family violence

victims, and persons age 35-54 were 36% of the population age 12 or older but 41.2% of family violence victims.

Young adults age 18-24 also represented a segment of family violence victims larger than their corresponding percentage in the U.S. population. Persons from 18 to 24 years old were 11.7% of the population age 12 or older between 1998 and 2002 but 17.6% of family violence victims.

The oldest adults — those 55 or older — were the least likely to be family violence victims between 1998 and 2002: they comprised 25% of the U.S. population age 12 or older during those years but 6% of the victims.

**Table 2.3. Demographic characteristics of family violence victims compared to nonfamily violence victims between 1998 and 2002, by relationship**

Victim characteristic	All violent crimes	Percent of crimes in which the victim was the offender's —							
		Family member				Nonfamily member			
		Total	Spouse	Son or daughter	Other family	Total	Boyfriend or girlfriend	Friend or acquaintance	Stranger
<b>All offenses</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Gender</b>									
Male	54.9%	26.6%	15.7%	37.1%	37.1%	58.4%	14.1%	53.6%	68.3%
Female	45.1	73.4	84.3	62.9	62.9	41.6	85.9	46.4	31.7
<b>Race/Hispanic origin</b>									
White	72.3%	74.0%	76.8%	78.5%	69.5%	72.1%	71.0%	74.5%	70.3%
Black	14.3	13.6	10.9	12.6	17.1	14.3	17.2	14.6	13.7
Hispanic	10.5	10.1	9.8	8.0	11.1	10.6	9.0	8.9	12.2
Other	2.9	2.3	2.6	0.9	2.3	2.9	2.8	2.0	3.7
American Indian/ Alaska Native	1.1	1.6	2.1	0*	1.4*	1.0	1.5	1.0	0.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	0.5*	0.4*	0.8*	0.5*	1.9	1.0*	0.9	2.7
<b>Age</b>									
Under 18	23.3%	10.8%	0.8%*	50.1%	12.6%	24.8%	9.4%	35.4%	18.5%
18 - 24	24.5	17.6	14.7	27.2	18.6	25.3	42.0	20.8	26.6
25 - 34	19.7	24.5	33.5	13.6	16.6	19.1	25.3	15.7	21.0
35 - 54	27.4	41.2	47.8	7.9	41.7	25.7	21.4	23.8	27.9
55 or older	5.1	6.0	3.2	1.3*	10.6	5.0	2.0	4.3	6.0
<b>Total offenses</b>	32,163,870	3,544,900	1,733,960	371,890	1,439,060	28,618,970	2,037,800	11,775,660	14,805,510
<b>Percent of all offenses</b>	100%	11.0%	5.4%	1.2%	4.5%	89.0%	6.3%	36.6%	46.0%

Note: Data identifying the victim's relationship to the offender were reported for 95.9% of 33,501,120 nonfatal violent crimes and for 58.4% of 80,319 murders. Of these 32,163,870 crimes with known relationships, victim characteristics were reported for virtually all victims. Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

\*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Source: BJS, 1998 – 2002 National Crime Victimization Survey; FBI, 1998 – 2002 Supplementary Homicide Reports.