

*Nowhere to Run,  
Nowhere to Hide:  
A Profile of Domestic Violence  
In South Carolina*

Prepared by:

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## INTRODUCTION

*Nowhere to Run, Nowhere to Hide: A Profile of Domestic Violence in South Carolina* is intended to provide basic information about domestic violence. This publication seeks to provide statistical information about the nature and extent of domestic violence, including the victims, offenders and circumstances surrounding the events.

This publication would not have been possible without the assistance and active cooperation of SLED and SCDPPPS. Copies of this report or information regarding this publication can be obtained by writing, calling or sending electronic mail requests to the following:

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## **Counting Domestic Violence**

These notes are intended to provide a brief overview of how information about domestic violence is collected and how it is compiled for the purpose of this report. They are not intended to be a comprehensive description of crime reporting methods, but instead seek to give the reader a working knowledge of the uses and limitations of crime data and provide an understanding of how this information can be used to describe the nature and extent of domestic violence in South Carolina.

Most of the information in this report starts with the statewide uniform incident report. The statewide uniform incident report is filled out whenever a criminal event is reported to law enforcement. The responding officer fills out the incident report which contains detailed information about the incident, the victim and associated arrests. This information is then entered into the South Carolina Incident Based Reporting System (SCIBRS), which is maintained by SLED. SCIBRS data for the years 1991 through 2004 provide the primary source of crime incident data for this report.

## **Methodological Notes**

**Violence:** For this report, violence consists of: murder, negligent homicide, rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, forcible fondling, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault and intimidation. Murder and negligent homicide are combined into a single offense, homicide. Rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object and forcible fondling are combined into sexual violence. Robbery is defined as taking or attempting to take anything of value from a person by force or the threat of force, by violence, or by fear. Aggravated assault is defined as an attack for the purpose of inflicting serious injury, often involving a deadly weapon or carrying the risk of death or great bodily harm. Simple assault is defined as an attack where the offender does not display a weapon, and the victim does not suffer severe or aggravated bodily injury. Intimidation is defined as placing a person in fear of bodily harm through words or conduct without displaying a weapon or attacking the person.

**Victim to offender relationships:** The easiest way to understand this is to substitute the phrase “the victim was” followed by the relationship. SCIBRS has 27 victim to offender relationship categories, each of which details the specific relationship between the victim and the offender. Since multiple victim to offender relationships occur when there is more than one victim or offender, SCIBRS collects information concerning up to ten such relationships per victim. Because of situations involving more than one victim or offender, the number of victim to offender relationships can exceed the number of victims.

**Domestic Relationship:** For this report, a domestic relationship is defined as one in which the relationship between the victim and the offender was that of a family member, a spouse or common-law spouse, a romantic relationship or an ex-spouse.

**Domestic Violence:** Domestic violence is defined as a crime of violence in which there was a domestic relationship between a victim and an offender.

**Rates:** Rates are calculated by dividing the number of crimes, victims or offenders by the population or sub-population of interest and multiplying the result by 10,000. Rates provide meaningful comparisons over time, among jurisdictions or special populations of interest, where comparing percentages or raw numbers might lead to inaccurate or misleading conclusions.

The method of calculating rates is demonstrated by the following equation:

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Victims, Offenses or Offenders}}{\text{Population or Sub-population}} \times 10,000$$

All rates in this report are expressed as the rate per 10,000 unit of population.

**Data sources:** South Carolina crime data are taken from SCIBRS, which was made available by SLED. SCIBRS data collection was started in 1991 as part of a national program of crime reporting. Population estimates used to calculate victimization rates were provided by ORS. SCDPPPS provided information about offenders under their supervision. Information from the computerized criminal history records (CCHR) of SCDPPPS offenders was made available by SLED and compiled by SCDPPPS.

**Data limitations/caveats:** To understand crime incident data, it is important to understand what is being counted at any given time; i.e., the unit of count. This report uses the following units of count: victim, non-hierarched offense and arrests. The unit of count, victim refers to the number of people who were victims of domestic violence. The unit of count non-hierarched offense represents occurrences of domestic violence offenses. The unit of count arrest represents individuals arrested for domestic violence.

It is also important to note that some information is reported by looking at multiple fields within a record. As an example, SCIBRS allows for information to be recorded concerning up to five offenses per victim, ten victim to offender relationships per victim and up to three weapons per offense. These and similar situations, in combination with missing data, often result in totals that seemingly “don’t add up.” Footnotes are used throughout the report as a means of providing as detailed explanations of such circumstances as possible.

Age data are sometimes entered into SCIBRS as a range. In order to include this information, the front end or younger portion of the age range was used. For example 10 – 12 would be counted as 10 years of age. Seemingly incongruous age ranges; e.g., 10 – 25 were treated as missing data as were age ranges that crossed age categories of interest.

SCIBRS data for 1995 were incomplete, making the use of data from that year in trend analysis questionable. Consequently, 1995 SCIBRS data were omitted from trend analyses. Since specific jurisdiction was a factor in the completeness of 1995 data, data from that year were also excluded from the computation and comparison of county domestic violence rates. Additionally, arrest data for 2001 are also incomplete and therefore were also excluded from any trend analyses.

Additional information concerning domestic violence offenders and dual arrests is provided in the sections of the report respective to each topic.



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
TRENDS AND  
PATTERNS**

***There were 650,803 domestic violence offenses reported in South Carolina from 1991 through 2004. Simple assault was the most common domestic violence offense.***

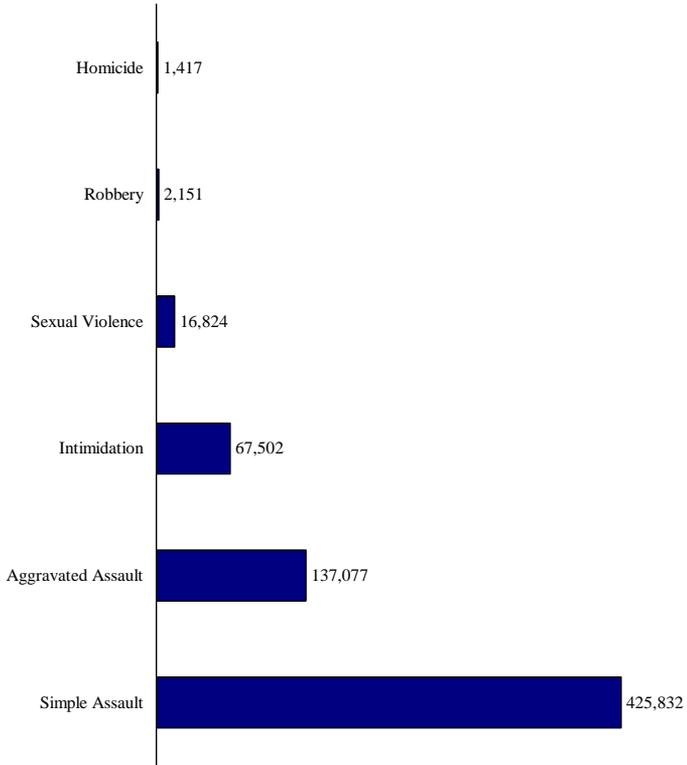
**Domestic Violence:** Includes murder, negligent homicide, kidnapping, rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, forcible fondling, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault or intimidation, where the victim to offender relationship is based on marriage, family ties, a romantic relationship or a former marriage.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES  
1991 - 2004**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Homicide	1,417	0.2%
Sexual Violence	16,824	2.6%
Robbery	2,151	0.3%
Aggravated Assault	137,077	21.1%
Simple Assault	425,832	65.4%
Intimidation	67,502	10.4%
Total	650,803	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victims. Up to five offenses reported per victim.  
Sources: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Domestic Violence Offenses 1991 - 2004



*South Carolina's domestic violence rate peaked at 139.4 in 1997. The lowest rate was 83.5 in 1991. From 1991 through 2004, domestic violence accounted for 41.1% of all reported violence.*

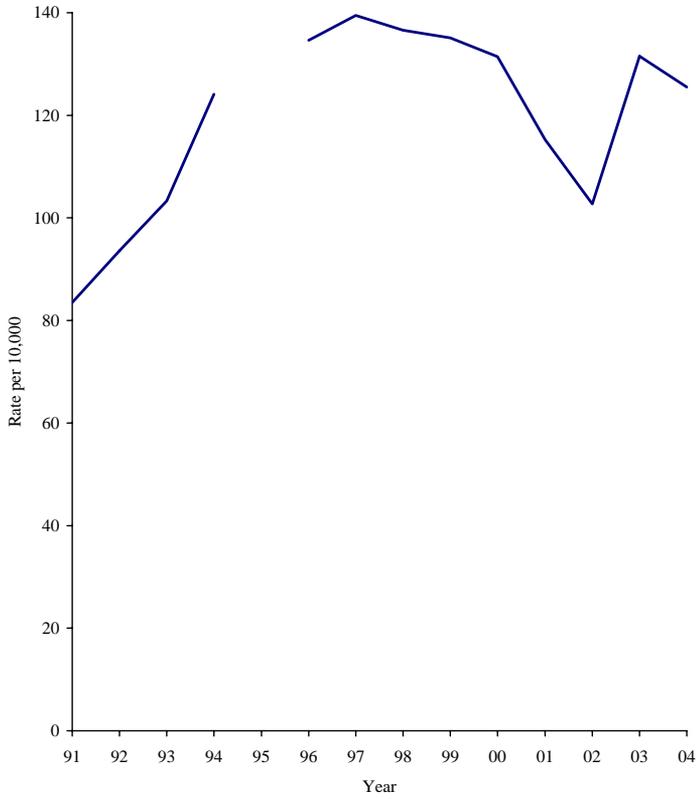
## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1991	29,799	34.5%	83.5
1992	33,887	37.2%	93.6
1993	37,850	38.3%	103.3
1994	45,984	42.1%	124.1
1995	Inc.	NA	NA
1996	51,086	42.9%	134.6
1997	53,821	42.6%	139.4
1998	53,530	42.4%	136.6
1999	53,691	42.1%	135.1
2000	52,743	41.4%	131.5
2001	46,824	41.8%	115.2
2002	42,170	40.5%	102.7
2003	54,376	42.1%	131.5
2004	52,420	40.8%	125.5

Notes: Unit of count – victim. 1995 data are incomplete and therefore are excluded from trend analysis, but are included in computing the overall percent of total violence accounted for by domestic violence. The percent column shows the proportion of total violence that is accounted for by domestic violence.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

## Domestic Violence Rate



*The highest annual domestic homicide victimization rate was 0.38 in 1993, the lowest was 0.18 in 2002. From 1991 through 2004, domestic homicides accounted for 29.9% of all homicides.*

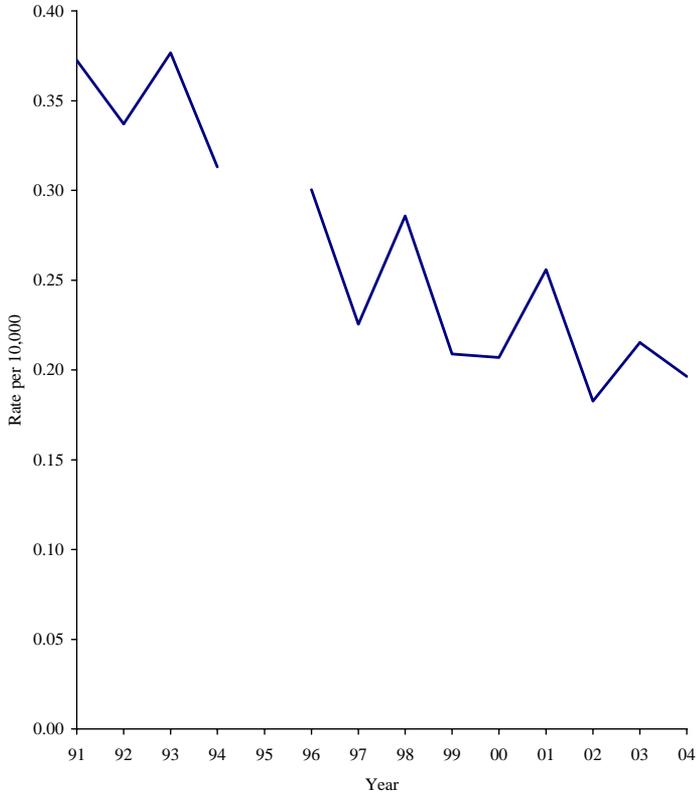
### DOMESTIC HOMICIDE

Year	Number	Percent	Rate
1991	133	31.7%	0.37
1992	122	29.6%	0.34
1993	138	34.0%	0.38
1994	116	30.3%	0.31
1995	Inc.	NA	NA
1996	114	31.6%	0.30
1997	87	26.0%	0.23
1998	112	35.9%	0.29
1999	83	28.6%	0.21
2000	83	27.7%	0.21
2001	104	30.9%	0.26
2002	75	24.1%	0.18
2003	89	27.7%	0.22
2004	82	27.8%	0.20

Notes: Unit of count – victim. 1995 data are incomplete and therefore are excluded from trend analysis, but are included in computing the overall percent of total homicide accounted for by domestic homicide. The percent column shows the proportion of total homicide that is accounted for by domestic homicide.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

## Domestic Homicide Rate



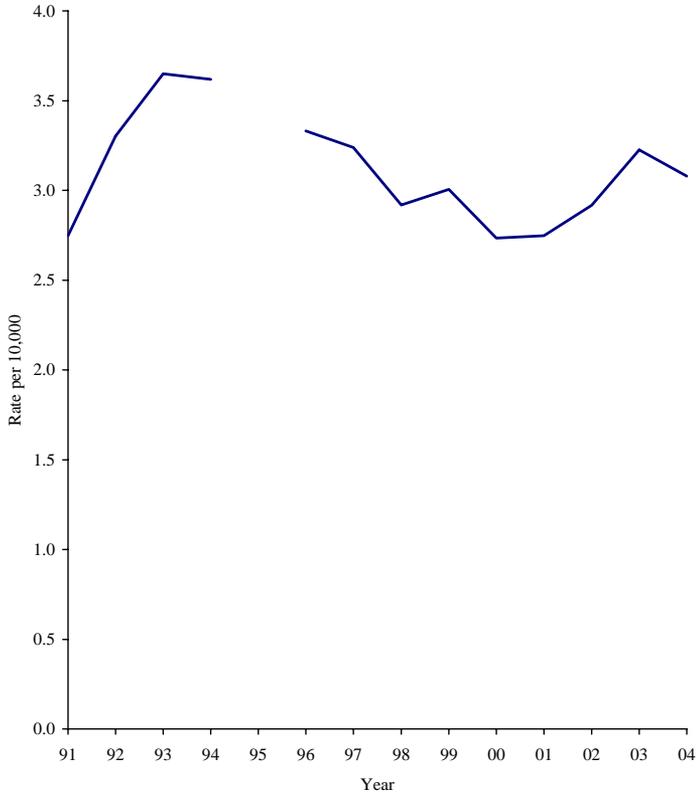
***The highest annual domestic sexual violence victimization rate was 3.6 in 1993 and 1994. The lowest rate was 2.7 in 1991, 2000 and 2001. From 1991 through 2004, 29.3% of all sexual violence was domestic.***

### **DOMESTIC SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1991	981	26.4%	2.7
1992	1,196	28.7%	3.3
1993	1,337	31.4%	3.6
1994	1,341	30.7%	3.6
1995	Inc.	NA	NA
1996	1,265	30.1%	3.3
1997	1,250	29.4%	3.2
1998	1,144	29.1%	2.9
1999	1,195	29.1%	3.0
2000	1,097	27.5%	2.7
2001	1,116	28.1%	2.7
2002	1,198	28.7%	2.9
2003	1,334	30.1%	3.2
2004	1,286	30.0%	3.1

Notes: Unit of count – victim. 1995 data are incomplete and therefore are excluded from trend analysis, but are included in computing the overall percent of total sexual violence accounted for by domestic sexual violence. The percent column shows the proportion of total sexual violence that is accounted for by domestic sexual violence. Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

## Domestic Sexual Violence Rate



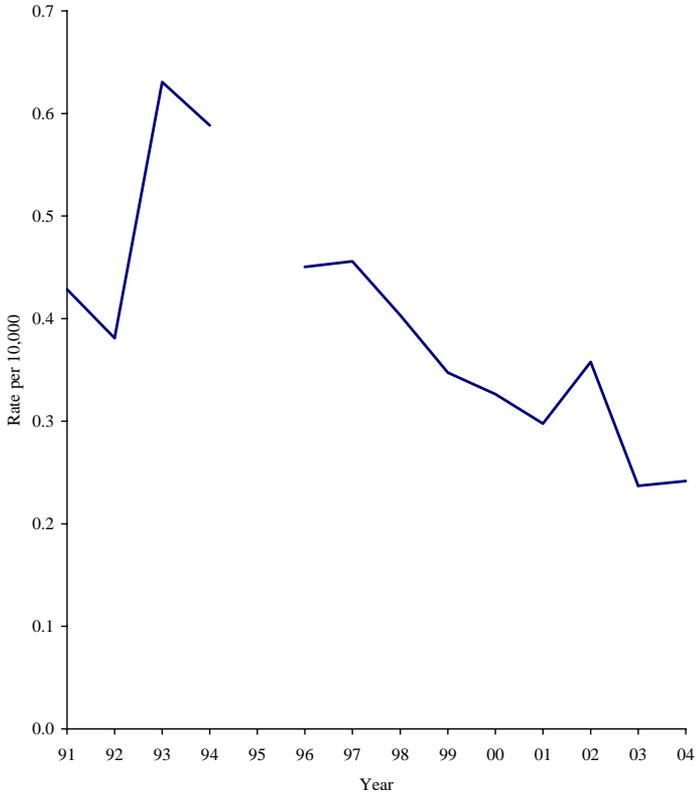
*The highest annual domestic robbery victimization rate was 0.63 in 1993; the lowest was 0.24 in 2003 and 2004. From 1991 through 2004, domestic robbery accounted for 2.2% of all robbery.*

**DOMESTIC ROBBERY**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1991	153	2.5%	0.43
1992	138	2.0%	0.38
1993	231	3.1%	0.63
1994	218	2.9%	0.59
1995	Inc.	NA	NA
1996	171	2.3%	0.45
1997	176	2.3%	0.46
1998	158	2.2%	0.40
1999	138	1.9%	0.35
2000	131	1.7%	0.33
2001	121	1.7%	0.30
2002	147	2.0%	0.36
2003	98	1.3%	0.24
2004	101	1.5%	0.24

Notes: Unit of count – victim. 1995 data are incomplete and therefore are excluded from trend analysis, but are included in computing the overall percent of total robbery accounted for by domestic robbery. The percent column shows the proportion of total robbery that is accounted for by domestic robbery.  
Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

## Domestic Robbery Rate



*The highest annual domestic aggravated assault victimization rate was 29.6 in 1994, the lowest was 22.3 in 1991. From 1991 through 2004, domestic aggravated assault accounted for 36.6% of all aggravated assault.*

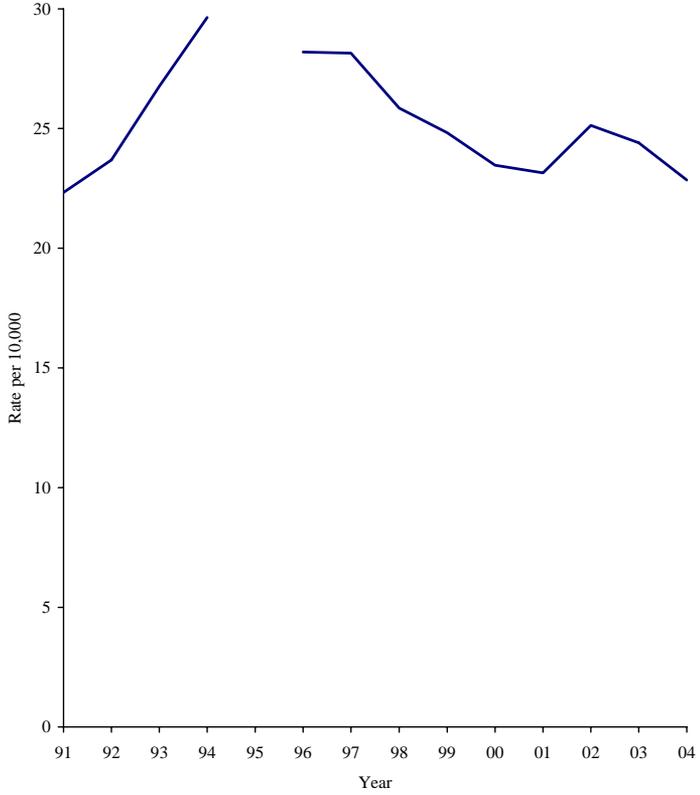
### DOMESTIC AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1991	7,969	30.2%	22.3
1992	8,575	31.7%	23.7
1993	9,805	33.7%	26.8
1994	10,984	36.7%	29.6
1995	Inc.	NA	NA
1996	10,704	37.3%	28.2
1997	10,867	37.8%	28.2
1998	10,132	37.5%	25.9
1999	9,867	38.0%	24.8
2000	9,416	37.5%	23.5
2001	9,404	39.1%	23.1
2002	10,324	39.2%	25.1
2003	10,096	39.2%	24.4
2004	9,542	37.4%	22.8

Notes: Unit of count – victim. 1995 data are incomplete and therefore are excluded from trend analysis, but are included in computing the overall percent of total aggravated assault accounted for by domestic aggravated assault. The percent column shows the proportion of total aggravated assault that is accounted for by domestic aggravated assault.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

## Domestic Aggravated Assault Rate



*The highest annual domestic simple assault victimization rate was 93 in 1997, the lowest was 54.1 in 1991. From 1991 though 2004, domestic simple assault accounted for 50.6% of all simple assault.*

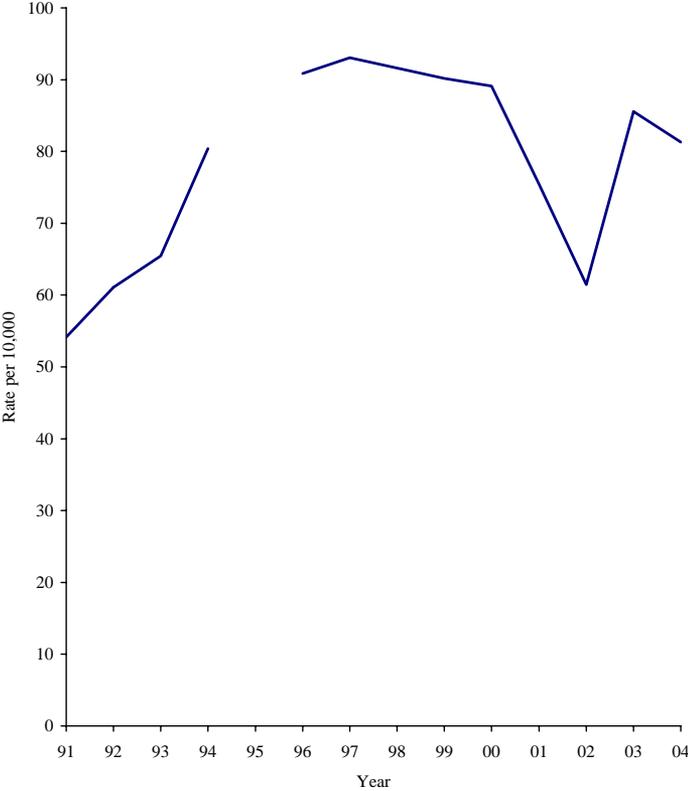
### DOMESTIC SIMPLE ASSAULT

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1991	19,333	42.4%	54.1
1992	22,108	46.6%	61.1
1993	23,987	47.8%	65.5
1994	29,784	52.1%	80.4
1995	Inc.	NA	NA
1996	34,483	52.6%	90.8
1997	35,913	51.8%	93.0
1998	35,903	51.4%	91.6
1999	35,846	51.6%	90.2
2000	35,743	51.0%	89.1
2001	30,646	52.0%	75.4
2002	25,246	51.1%	61.5
2003	35,378	51.6%	85.5
2004	33,972	50.4%	81.3

Notes: Unit of count – victim. 1995 data are incomplete and therefore are excluded from trend analysis, but are included in computing the overall percent of total simple assault accounted for by domestic simple assault. The percent column shows the proportion of total simple assault that is accounted for by domestic simple assault.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

# Domestic Simple Assault Rate



*The highest annual domestic intimidation victimization rate was 17.9 in 2003 and the lowest was 3.9 in 1991. From 1991 through 2004, domestic intimidation accounted for 32.5% of all domestic intimidation.*

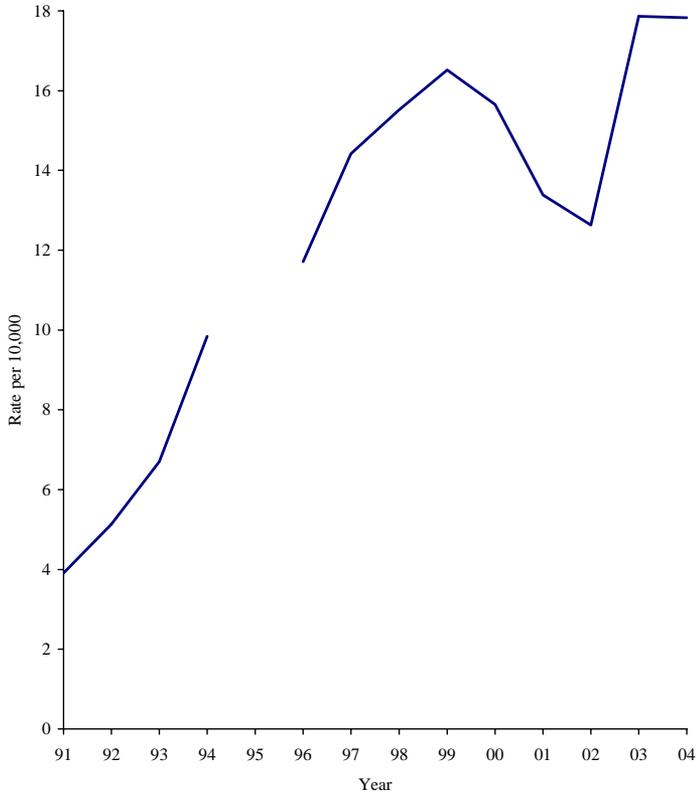
### DOMESTIC INTIMIDATION

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1991	1,397	30.2%	3.9
1992	1,857	33.4%	5.1
1993	2,455	32.2%	6.7
1994	3,647	35.9%	9.8
1995	Inc.	NA	NA
1996	4,448	33.4%	11.7
1997	5,564	34.4%	14.4
1998	6,083	33.3%	15.5
1999	6,565	32.0%	16.5
2000	6,278	30.9%	15.6
2001	5,439	30.9%	13.4
2002	5,190	31.6%	12.6
2003	7,387	32.3%	17.9
2004	7,446	30.9%	17.8

Notes: Unit of count – victim. 1995 data are incomplete and therefore are excluded from trend analysis, but are included in computing the overall percent of total intimidation accounted for by domestic intimidation. The percent column shows the proportion of total intimidation that is accounted for by domestic intimidation.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

## Domestic Intimidation Rate



*Charleston County reported the most domestic violence victims, McCormick County reported the fewest domestic violence victims.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY COUNTY  
1991 – 2004**

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Abbeville	3,667	105.6	Greenwood	19,773	223.0
Aiken	18,356	93.1	Hampton	2,340	82.6
Allendale	1,328	87.3	Horry	38,079	138.2
Anderson	27,308	123.0	Jasper	3,681	132.9
Bamberg	1,601	76.0	Kershaw	4,838	67.9
Barnwell	3,045	96.8	Lancaster	10,547	131.3
Beaufort	18,740	110.5	Laurens	12,331	131.4
Berkeley	19,408	97.1	Lee	2,558	96.0
Calhoun	1,670	82.9	Lexington	27,794	93.1
Charleston	52,627	127.3	McCormick	1,018	74.6
Cherokee	7,919	112.2	Marion	6,432	138.2
Chester	6,469	144.2	Marlboro	6,566	178.5
Chesterfield	4,345	77.7	Newberry	4,446	92.2
Clarendon	3,187	73.8	Oconee	6,354	69.8
Colleton	9,021	175.2	Orangeburg	17,979	147.6
Darlington	11,590	131.3	Pickens	8,357	54.8
Dillon	5,259	133.5	Richland	37,826	88.3
Dorchester	13,576	99.8	Saluda	1,605	64.0
Edgefield	3,271	99.5	Spartanburg	45,647	132.7
Fairfield	5,951	189.9	Sumter	15,851	110.2
Florence	22,555	134.3	Union	2,766	71.4
Georgetown	9,888	131.6	Williamsburg	3,102	64.3
Greenville	44,892	87.6	York	32,618	143.5

Notes: Unit of count – victim. 1995 data are incomplete and therefore are excluded from computation of annualized county rates.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

***Greenwood County had the highest domestic violence victimization rate in the state.***

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:  
THE TOP TEN COUNTIES**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Greenwood	19,773	223.0
Fairfield	5,951	189.9
Marlboro	6,566	178.5
Colleton	9,021	175.2
Orangeburg	17,979	147.6
Chester	6,469	144.2
York	32,618	143.5
Marion	6,432	138.2
Horry	38,079	138.2
Florence	22,555	134.3

Notes: Unit of count – victim. 1995 data are incomplete and therefore are excluded from computation of annualized county rates.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

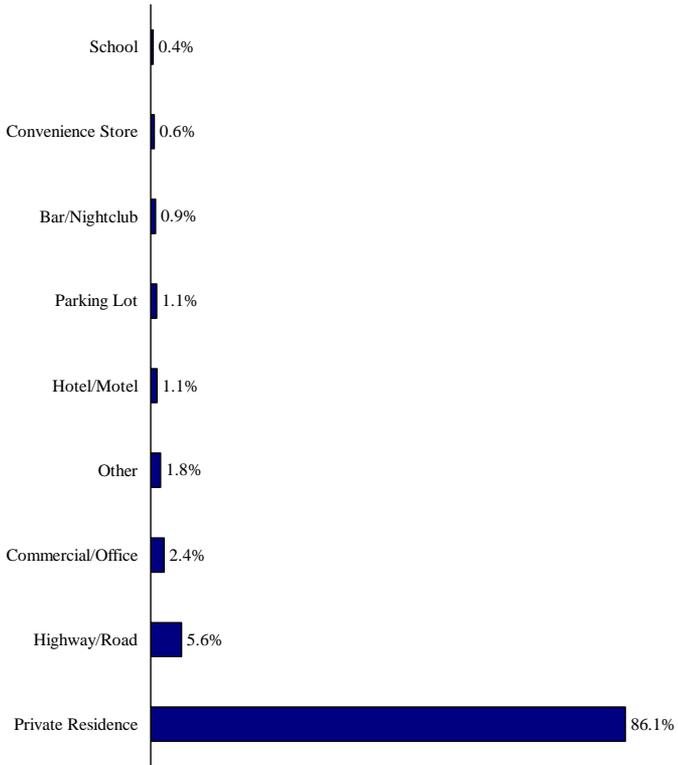
*Domestic violence occurred most frequently in private residences such as homes or apartments.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY LOCATION  
1991 - 2004**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Bar/Nightclub	6,374	0.9%
Commercial/Office	16,753	2.4%
Convenience Store	4,269	0.6%
Educational Institution	3,008	0.4%
Highway/Roads	39,495	5.6%
Hotel/Motel	7,938	1.1%
Other	12,661	1.8%
Parking Lot	7,523	1.1%
Private Residence	605,952	86.1%
Total	703,973	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – non-hierarched offense. 4 cases missing location data.  
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Domestic Violence by Location 1991 - 2004



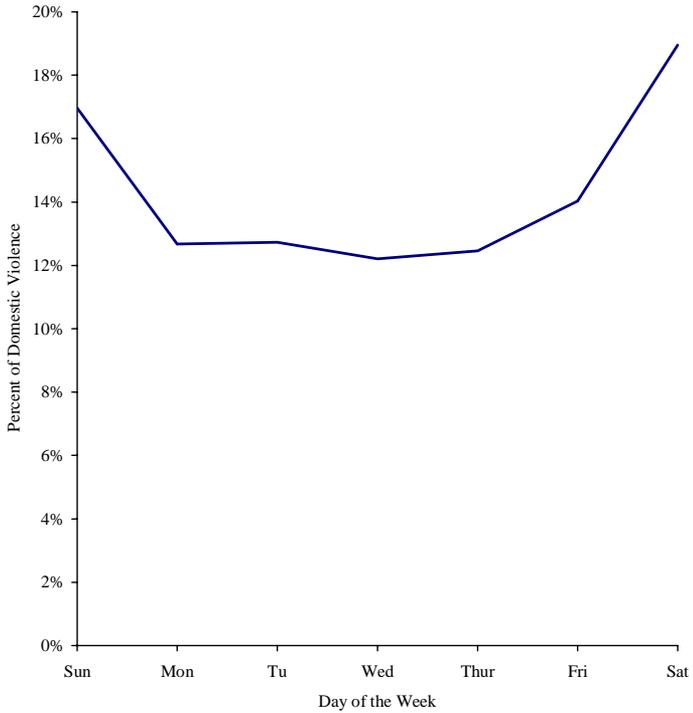
*Domestic violence occurred most frequently on Saturday and least frequently on Wednesday.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
BY DAY OF THE WEEK  
1991 - 2004**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Sunday	110,247	17.0%
Monday	82,373	12.7%
Tuesday	82,720	12.7%
Wednesday	79,333	12.2%
Thursday	80,962	12.5%
Friday	91,206	14.0%
Saturday	123,157	18.9%
Total	649,998	100.0%

Note: Unit of count – victim.  
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Domestic Violence by Day of the Week 1991 - 2004



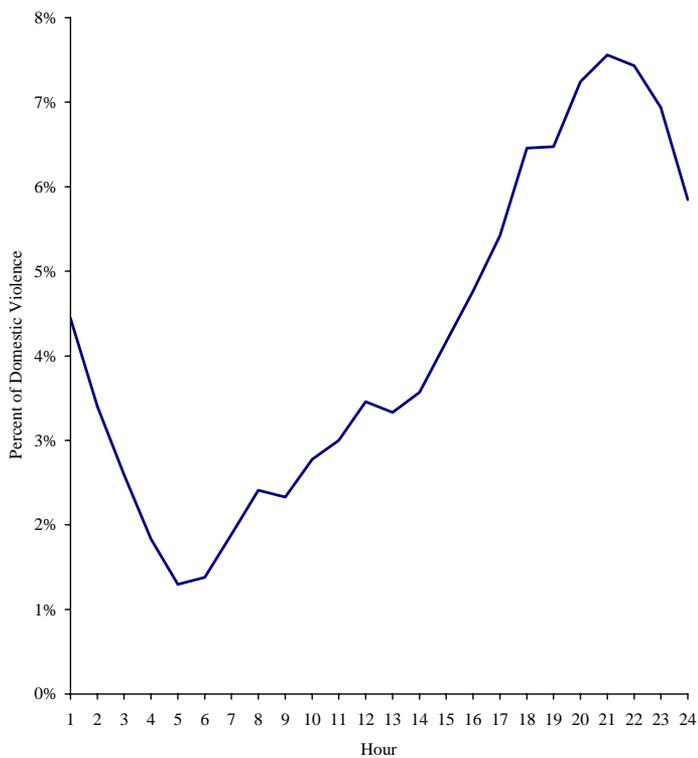
*Domestic violence occurred most frequently in the late evening and early morning hours.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
BY TIME OF DAY  
1991 - 2004**

<b>Time of Day</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1 - 1:59 AM	28,337	4.4%
2 - 2:59 AM	21,662	3.4%
3 - 3:59 AM	16,541	2.6%
4 - 4:59 AM	11,678	1.8%
5 - 5:59 AM	8,255	1.3%
6 - 6:59 AM	8,788	1.4%
7 - 7:59 AM	12,019	1.9%
8 - 8:59 AM	15,359	2.4%
9 - 9:59 AM	14,829	2.3%
10 - 10:59 AM	17,694	2.8%
11 - 11:59 AM	19,121	3.0%
Noon - 12:59 PM	22,034	3.5%
1 - 1:59 PM	21,232	3.3%
2 - 2:59 PM	22,736	3.6%
3 - 3:59 PM	26,549	4.2%
4 - 4:59 PM	30,370	4.8%
5 - 5:59 PM	34,566	5.4%
6 - 6:59 PM	41,151	6.5%
7 - 7:59 PM	41,273	6.5%
8 - 8:59 PM	46,171	7.2%
9 - 9:59 PM	48,180	7.6%
10 - 10:59 PM	47,353	7.4%
11 - 11:59 PM	44,201	6.9%
Mid - 12:59 AM	37,272	5.8%

Notes: Unit of count – victim. 12,627 cases missing time of day data.  
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Domestic Violence by Time of Day 1991 - 2004



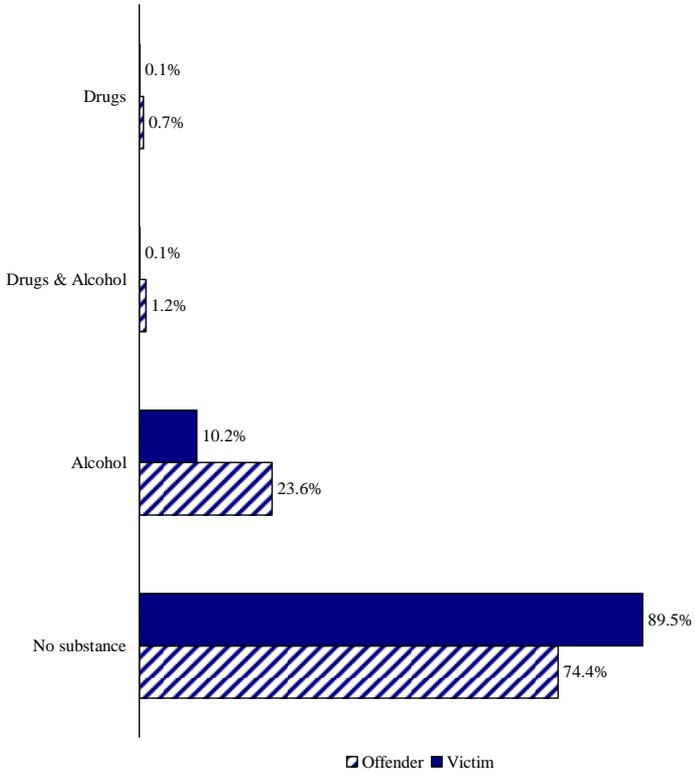
*Substance use by the offender was reported in 25.5% of domestic violence cases. Substance use by domestic violence victims was less common than substance use by offenders.*

**SUBSTANCE USE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Offender</b>	<b>Victim</b>
Alcohol	23.6%	10.2%
Drugs	0.7%	0.1%
Drugs & Alcohol	1.2%	0.1%
No Substance	74.5%	89.6%

Note: Unit of count – non-hierarched offense.  
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Substance Use in Domestic Violence 1991 - 2004



*Among those victims reporting injuries, minor injuries were the most common. There were 1,471 domestic violence deaths.*

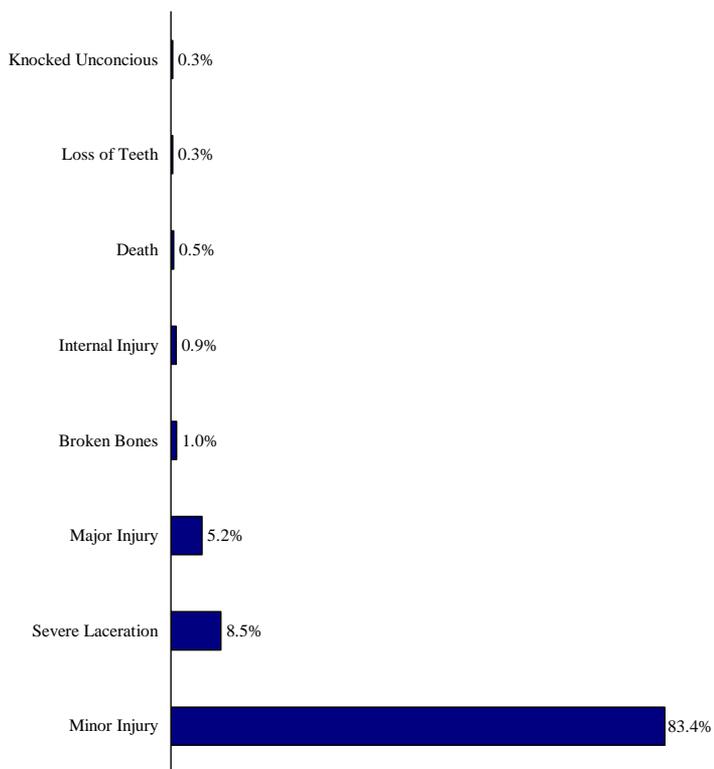
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INJURIES  
1991 - 2004**

<b>Injury</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Broken Bones	2,901	1.0%
Death	1,471	0.5%
Internal Injuries	2,607	0.9%
Knocked Unconscious	854	0.3%
Loss of Teeth	949	0.3%
Major Injury	15,803	5.2%
Minor Injury	251,587	83.4%
Severe Laceration	25,531	8.5%
Total	301,703	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victim. Up to three injuries can be reported per victim. 287,050 cases reported no injury, 68,444 cases were missing injury data. The percent column does not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Domestic Violence Injuries 1991 - 2004



*Personal weapons such as hands, feet and fists were the most frequently reported weapon in domestic violence. Firearms accounted for 12.2% of weapons used.*

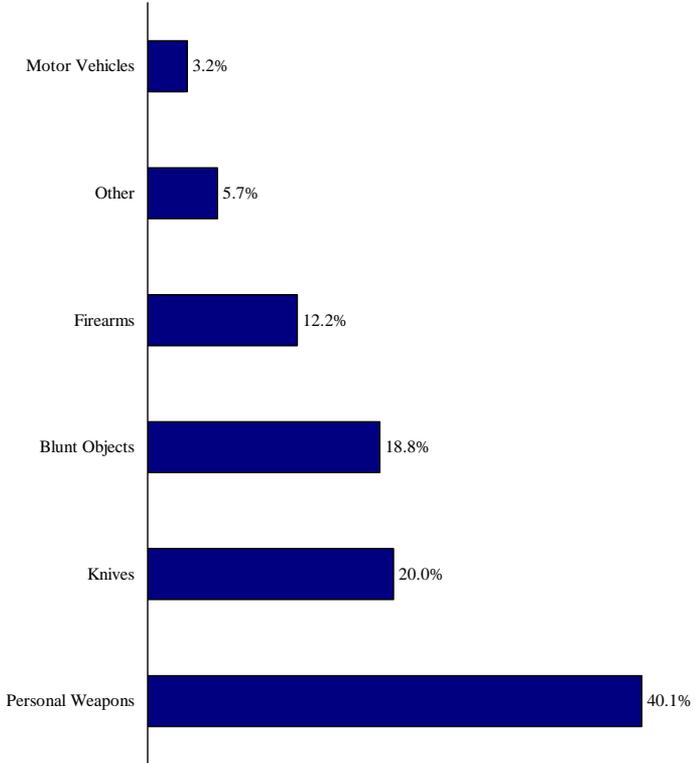
**WEAPON USE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
1991 - 2004**

<b>Weapon</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Blunt Objects	36,956	18.8%
Firearms	23,848	12.2%
Knives	39,161	20.0%
Motor Vehicles	6,317	3.2%
Other	11,161	5.7%
Personal Weapons	78,643	40.1%
Total	196,086	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count - non-hierarched offense. Up to three weapons reported per offense. Excludes simple assault and intimidation which by definition do not include the use of weapons or deadly force.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Weapon Use in Domestic Violence 1991 - 2004



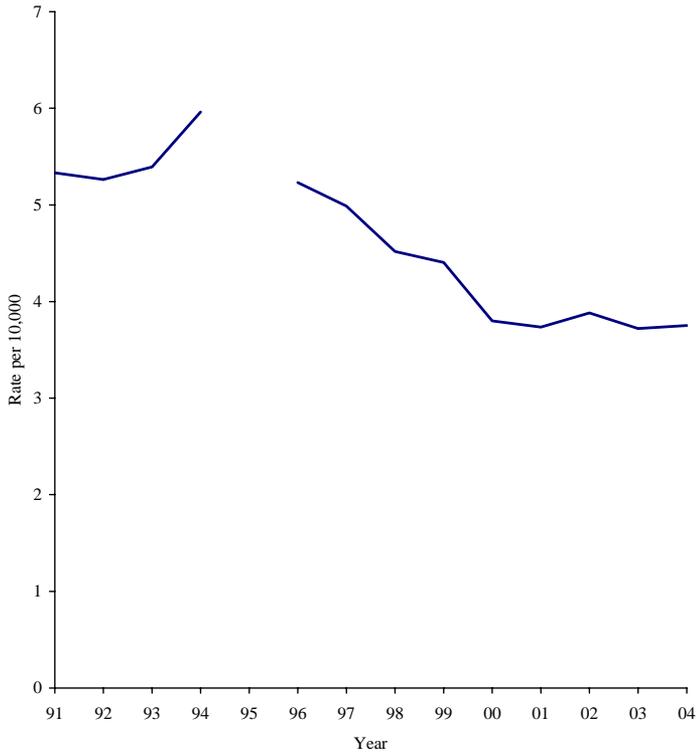
*The domestic firearm violence rate decreased 28.3% from 1991 to 2004.*

**DOMESTIC FIREARM VIOLENCE  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1991	1,903	5.3
1992	1,905	5.3
1993	1,975	5.4
1994	2,209	6.0
1995	Inc.	NA
1996	1,986	5.2
1997	1,925	5.0
1998	1,771	4.5
1999	1,751	4.4
2000	1,524	3.8
2001	1,518	3.7
2002	1,594	3.9
2003	1,539	3.7
2004	1,567	3.8

Note: Unit of count – non-hierarched offense.  
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Domestic Firearm Violence Rate 1991 - 2004



*Among firearms used in domestic violence, handguns accounted for 66.5% of the total.*

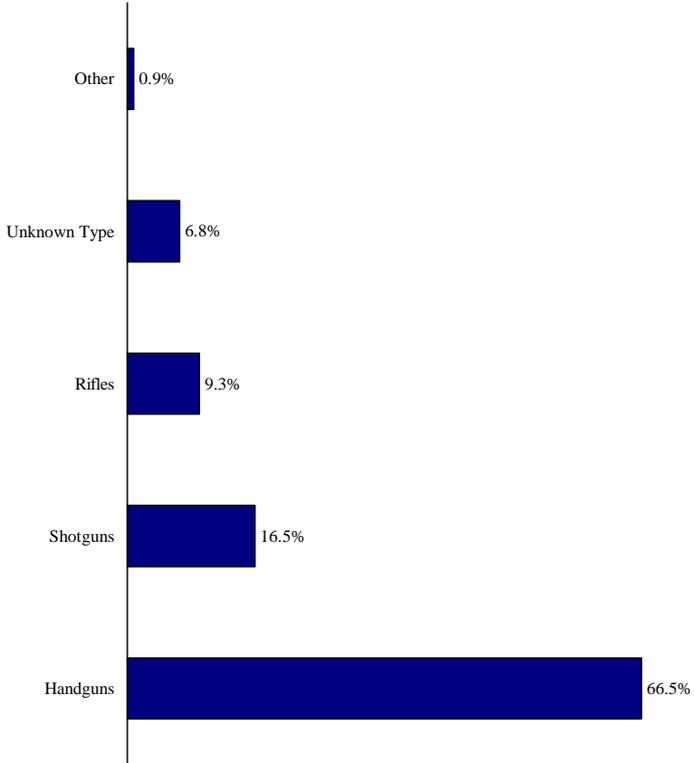
**FIREARM USE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Firearm</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Handguns	15,864	66.5%
Other	204	0.9%
Rifles	2,225	9.3%
Shotguns	3,940	16.5%
Unknown Type	1,615	6.8%
Total	23,848	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count - non-hierarched offense. Up to 3 weapons per offense. Excludes simple assault and intimidation which by definition do not include weapons or deadly force.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Firearm Use in Domestic Violence 1991 - 2004





# **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS**

*Marital relationships are the most frequent victim to offender relationship involved in domestic violence.*

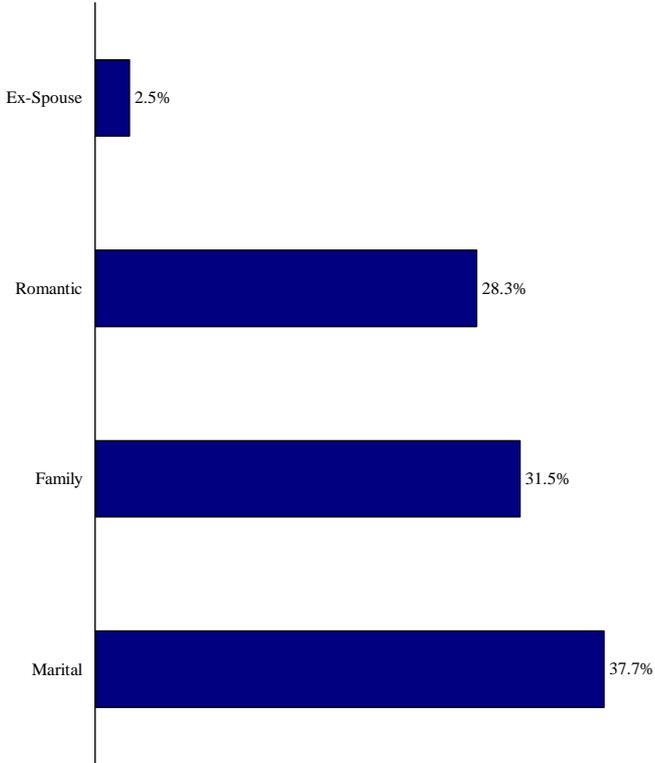
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY RELATIONSHIP  
1991 - 2004**

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Ex-Spouse	16,566	2.5%
Family	206,192	31.5%
Marital	246,933	37.7%
Romantic	184,866	28.3%
Total	654,557	100.0%

Notes: Unit of count – victim. Multiple victim to offender relationships result in victims being reported more than once when more than one victim to offender relationship category applies.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Domestic Violence by Relationship 1991 - 2004



***The ex-spouse domestic violence rate increased 75% from 1991 to 2004.***

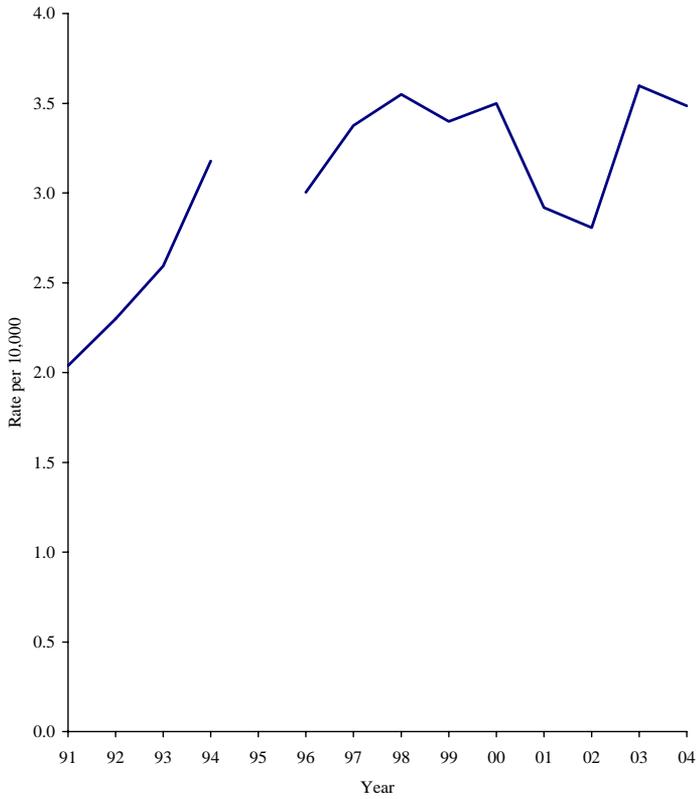
**EX-SPOUSE VIOLENCE  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1991	728	2.0
1992	832	2.3
1993	950	2.6
1994	1,177	3.2
1995	Inc.	NA
1996	1,140	3.0
1997	1,303	3.4
1998	1,391	3.5
1999	1,351	3.4
2000	1,404	3.5
2001	1,186	2.9
2002	1,153	2.8
2003	1,488	3.6
2004	1,456	3.5

Note: Unit of count – victim.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

## Ex-Spouse Violence Rate



*The family violence rate increased 28.6% from 1991 through 2004.*

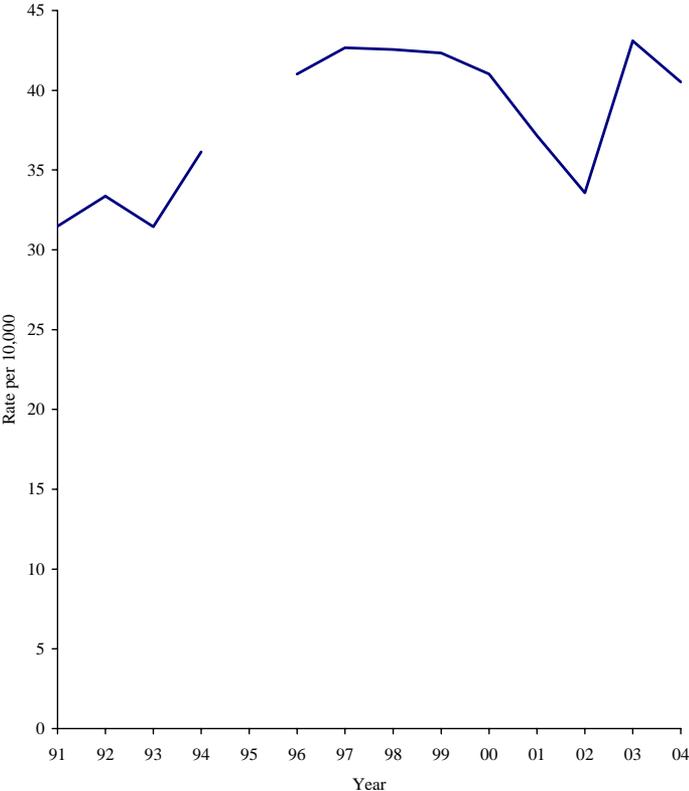
**FAMILY VIOLENCE  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1991	11,236	31.5
1992	12,077	33.4
1993	11,518	31.4
1994	13,392	36.1
1995	Inc.	NA
1996	15,567	41.0
1997	16,468	42.7
1998	16,677	42.6
1999	16,829	42.3
2000	16,456	41.0
2001	15,095	37.2
2002	13,790	33.6
2003	17,823	43.1
2004	16,921	40.5

Note: Unit of count – victim.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

# Family Violence Rate



*The marital violence rate increased 27.5% from 1991 to 2004.*

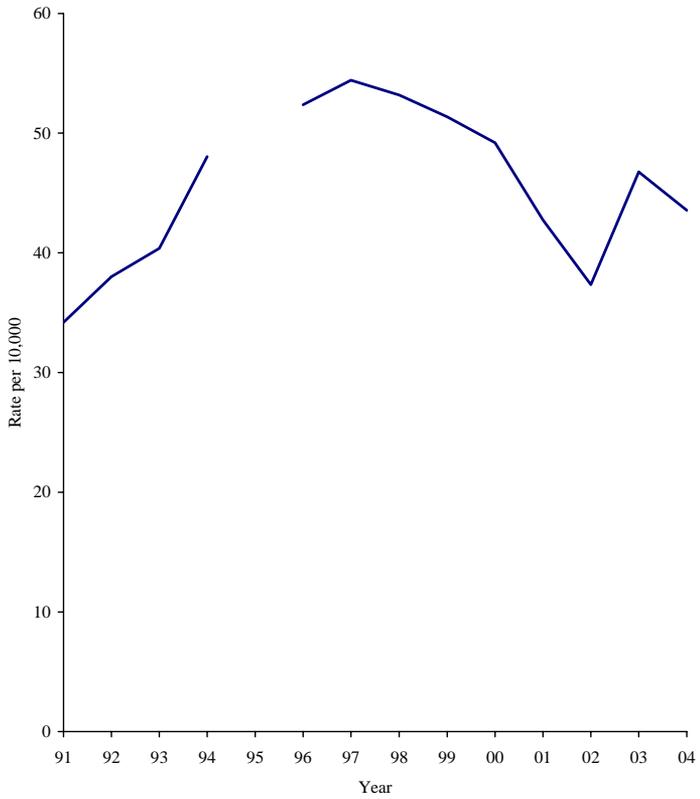
**MARITAL VIOLENCE  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1991	12,209	34.2
1992	13,757	38.0
1993	14,786	40.4
1994	17,802	48.0
1995	Inc.	NA
1996	19,877	52.4
1997	21,010	54.4
1998	20,841	53.2
1999	20,418	51.4
2000	19,731	49.2
2001	17,370	42.8
2002	15,331	37.3
2003	19,342	46.8
2004	18,191	43.6

Note: Unit of count – victim.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

## Marital Violence Rate



***The romantic partner violence rate increased 113.3% from 1991 to 2004.***

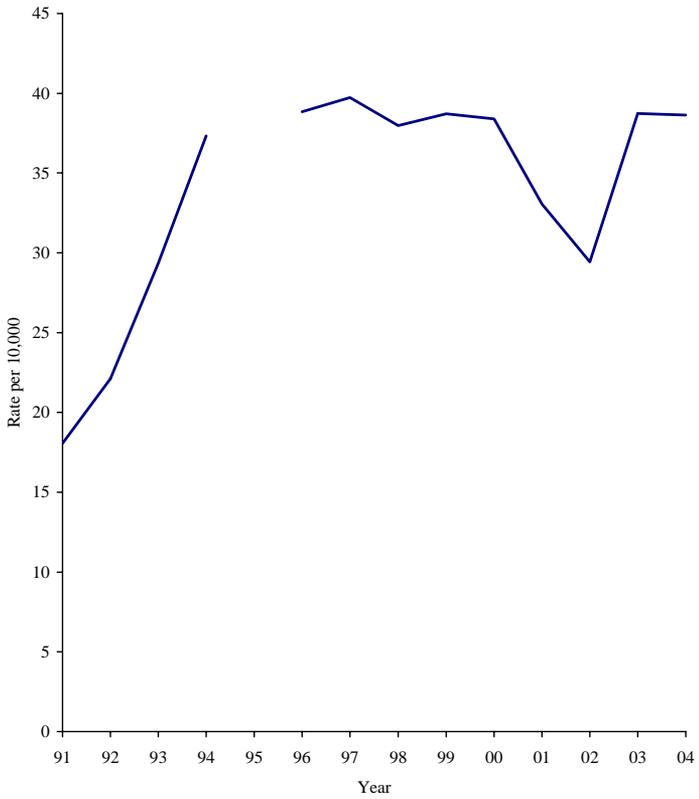
**ROMANTIC PARTNER VIOLENCE  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1991	6,447	18.1
1992	8,007	22.1
1993	10,752	29.4
1994	13,827	37.3
1995	Inc.	NA
1996	14,745	38.8
1997	15,335	39.7
1998	14,883	38.0
1999	15,389	38.7
2000	15,401	38.4
2001	13,431	33.1
2002	12,093	29.4
2003	16,020	38.7
2004	16,131	38.6

Note: Unit of count – victim.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

## Romantic Partner Violence Rate



*The median age for domestic violence victims was 30 years old. The highest victimization rate was among 18 – 24 year olds.*

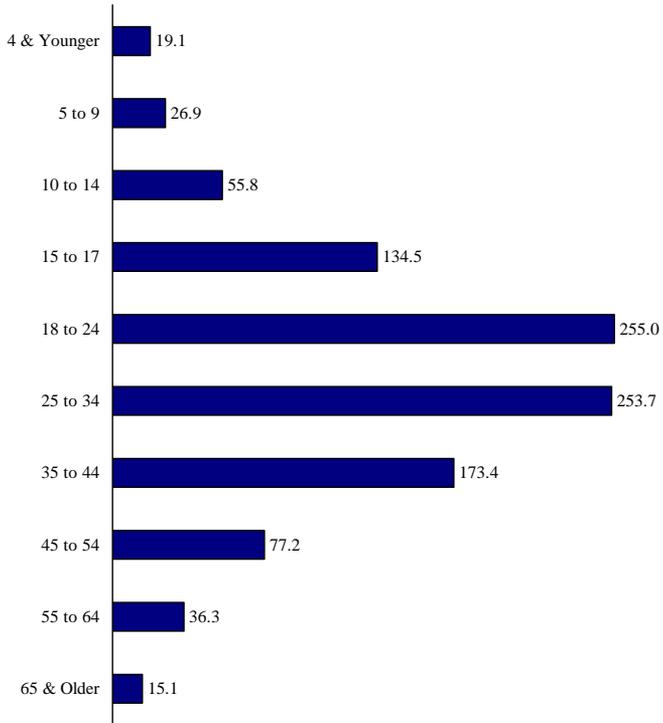
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS  
BY AGE  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rate</b>
4 & Younger	7,166	1.1%	19.1
5 to 9	10,242	1.6%	26.9
10 to 14	21,814	3.4%	55.8
15 to 17	31,892	4.9%	134.5
18 to 24	144,558	22.4%	255.0
25 to 34	203,659	31.5%	253.7
35 to 44	145,454	22.5%	173.4
45 to 54	53,867	8.3%	77.2
55 to 64	17,859	2.8%	36.3
65 & Older	9,899	1.5%	15.1
Total	646,410	100.0%	120.2

Note: Unit of count – victim.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

## Domestic Violence Victimization Rate by Age 1991 - 2004



*Women and girls made up 76% of domestic violence victims. The victimization rate among females was 198.8% higher than the victimization rate among males.*

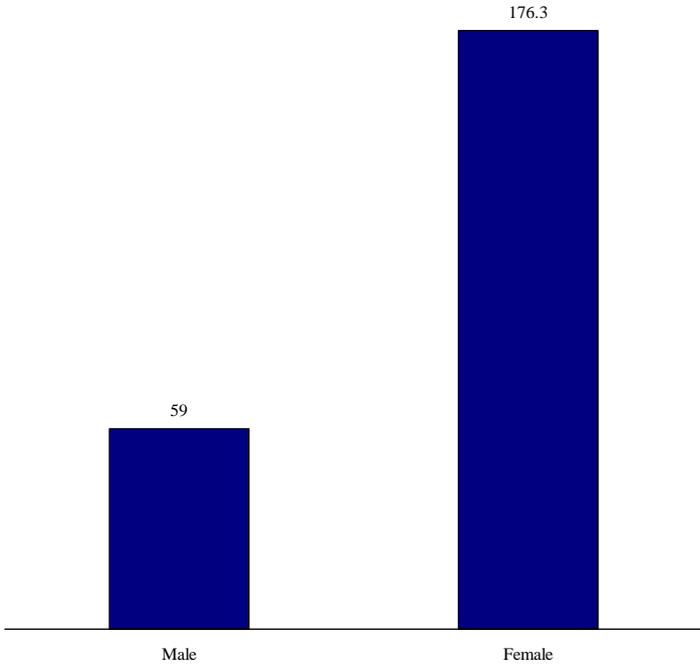
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS  
BY SEX  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Female	494,111	76.0%	176.3
Male	155,729	24.0%	59.0
Total	649,840	100.0%	120.2

Note: Unit of count – victim.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

**Domestic Violence Victimization Rate  
by Sex  
1991 - 2004**



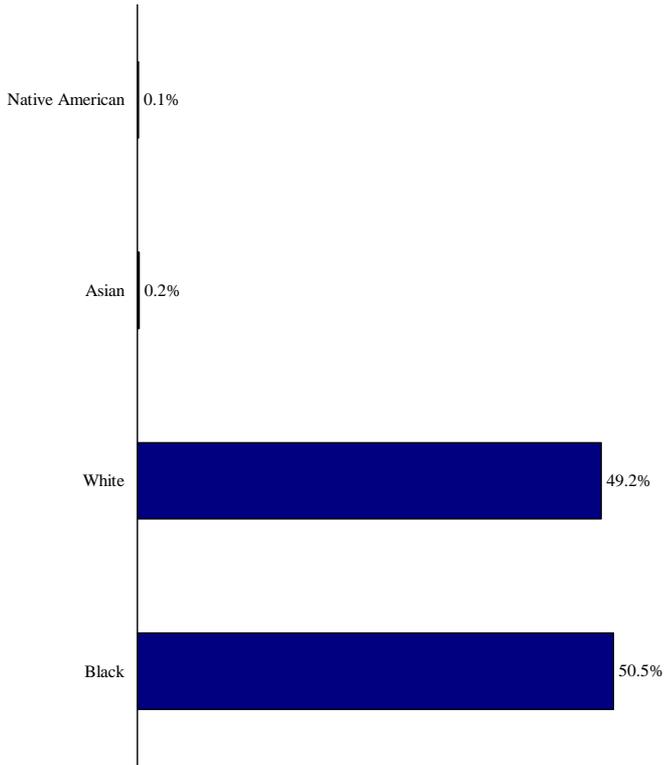
***Black victims accounted for 50.5% of domestic violence victims. White victims accounted for 49.2% of domestic violence victims.***

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS  
BY RACE  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Asian	1,206	0.2%
Black	327,923	50.5%
Native American	638	0.1%
White	319,610	49.2%
Total	649,377	100.0%

Note: Unit of count – victim.  
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Domestic Violence Victims by Race 1991 - 2004



*The domestic violence victimization rate among Non-Whites was 115.8% higher than among Whites.*

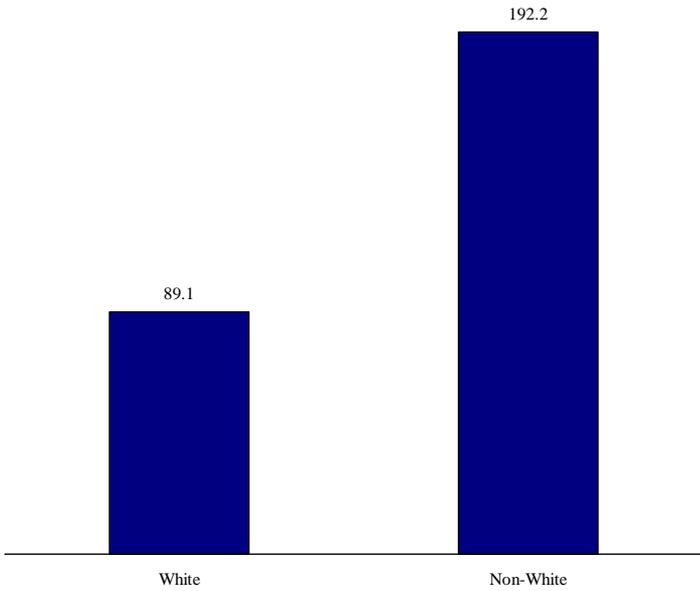
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS  
BY RACIAL CATEGORY  
1991 - 2004**

<b>Racial Category</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Non-White	329,767	50.8%	192.2
White	319,610	49.2%	89.1
Total	649,377	100.0%	120.2

Notes: Unit of count – victim. The category Non-White includes Asian, Black and Native American.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

**Domestic Violence Victimization Rate  
by Racial Category  
1991 - 2004**



*In 2004, Hispanics accounted for 1.9% of domestic violence victims. The domestic violence victimization rate among Non-Hispanics was 67.9% higher than the rate among Hispanics.*

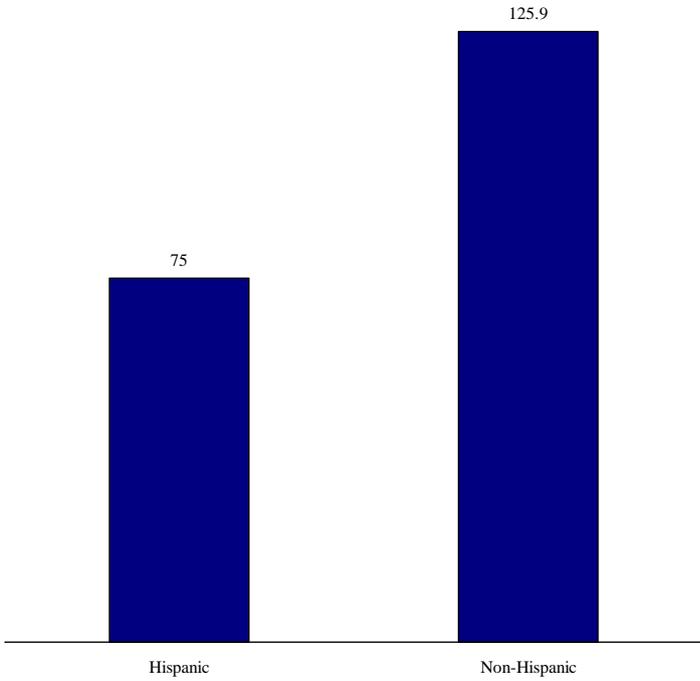
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS  
BY ETHNICITY  
2004**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Hispanic	978	1.9%	75.0
Non-Hispanic	51,207	97.7%	125.9
Unknown	235	0.4%	NA
Total	52,420	100.0%	120.2

Notes: Unit of count – victim. Because of the rapid growth of the Hispanic population in South Carolina, only 2004 data were used. The rationale was to provide the most representative perspective of domestic violence by ethnicity.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

# Domestic Violence Victimization Rate by Ethnicity 2004





# **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS**



**Domestic Violence Offenders** – For this report, domestic violence offenders were defined as individuals under active supervision by SCDPPPS on June 30, 2005, the end of the 2004 – 2005 fiscal year (FY 05), who had been convicted at some point in time of a statute which identifies the offense as domestic violence. Data concerning domestic violence offenders were provided by SCDPPPS and includes offenders with current or previous convictions for domestic violence. SCDPPPS offender records were linked with CCHR data to identify prior domestic violence convictions. It is important to note that the CCHR only contains information concerning South Carolina convictions. Although SCIBRS collects data concerning offenders, these data were limited, for the most part, to basic demographic information such as age, race, sex and ethnicity. However, SCDPPPS data contains data concerning education, employment, treatment referrals, drug testing and other information that is not readily available from other sources.

SCDPPPS domestic violence offenders represent a different population from domestic violence offenders that would be identified using SCIBRS. SCDPPPS domestic violence offenders include only adults, individuals who are under community correctional supervision and have been convicted of offenses that can be identified as domestic by the associated statute rather than the circumstances of the offense.

*Greenville County had more domestic violence offenders under supervision than any other county.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS  
BY COUNTY  
FY 05**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Abbeville	42	15.7	Greenwood	126	18.5
Aiken	141	9.3	Hampton	14	6.4
Allendale	6	5.1	Horry	125	5.9
Anderson	278	16.3	Jasper	24	11.3
Bamberg	17	10.5	Kershaw	37	6.8
Barnwell	24	9.9	Lancaster	82	13.3
Beaufort	65	5.0	Laurens	122	16.9
Berkeley	74	4.8	Lee	24	11.7
Calhoun	6	3.9	Lexington	210	9.1
Charleston	323	10.2	McCormick	3	2.9
Cherokee	64	11.8	Marion	24	6.7
Chester	28	8.1	Marlboro	14	4.9
Chesterfield	21	4.9	Newberry	72	19.4
Clarendon	16	4.8	Oconee	123	17.6
Colleton	26	6.6	Orangeburg	76	8.1
Darlington	52	7.7	Pickens	91	7.8
Dillon	17	5.6	Richland	289	8.8
Dorchester	64	6.1	Saluda	24	12.4
Edgefield	31	12.3	Spartanburg	471	17.8
Fairfield	21	8.7	Sumter	113	10.2
Florence	150	11.6	Union	65	21.8
Georgetown	40	6.9	Williamsburg	24	6.5
Greenville	597	15.2	York	204	11.7

Sources: SCDPPPS, unpublished data; SLED, CCHR; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

*Union County had the highest rate of domestic violence offenders under supervision in the state.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS:  
THE TOP TEN COUNTIES  
FY 05**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Union	65	21.8
Newberry	72	19.4
Greenwood	126	18.5
Spartanburg	471	17.8
Oconee	123	17.6
Laurens	122	16.9
Anderson	278	16.3
Abbeville	42	15.7
Greenville	597	15.2
Lancaster	82	13.3

Sources: SCDPPPS, unpublished data; SLED, CCHR; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

*Offenders between the ages of 25 and 44 accounted for 69.2% of the domestic violence offenders under supervision.*

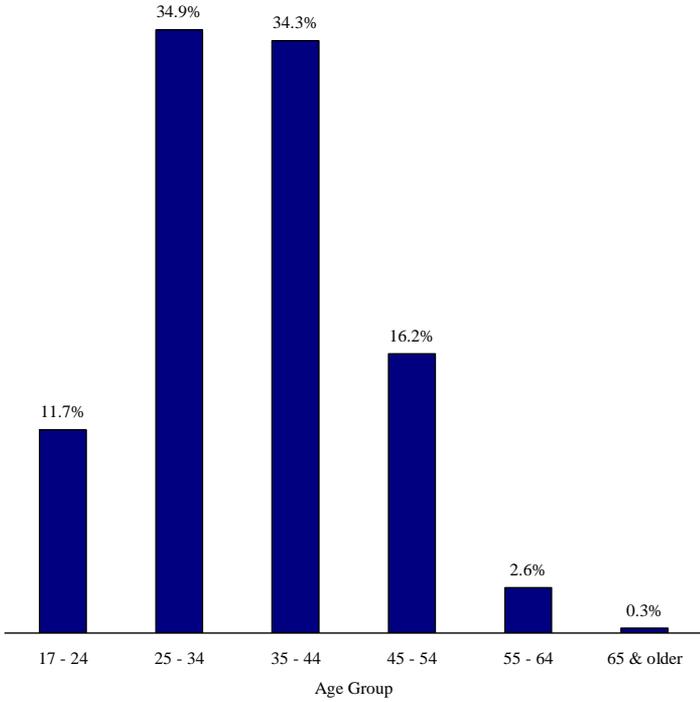
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS  
BY AGE  
FY 05**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
17 - 24	527	11.7%
25 - 34	1,566	34.9%
35 - 44	1,538	34.3%
45 - 54	725	16.2%
55 - 64	118	2.6%
65 & Older	13	0.3%
Total	4,487	100.0%

Notes: 3 offenders missing age data. The age of adult criminal responsibility in South Carolina, under most circumstances, is 17 years of age. SCDPPPS only supervises adults.

Sources: SCDPPPS, unpublished data; SLED, CCHR.

## Domestic Violence Offenders by Age FY 05



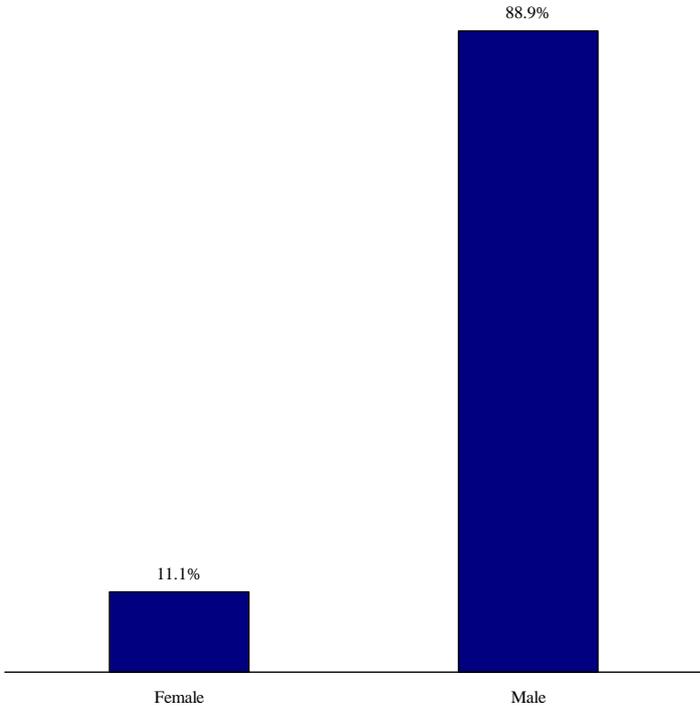
*Males accounted for 88.9% of domestic violence offenders under supervision.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS  
BY SEX  
FY 05**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Female	500	11.1%
Male	3,990	88.9%
Total	4,490	100.0%

Sources: SCDPPPS, unpublished data; SLED, CCHR.

## Domestic Violence Offenders by Sex FY 05



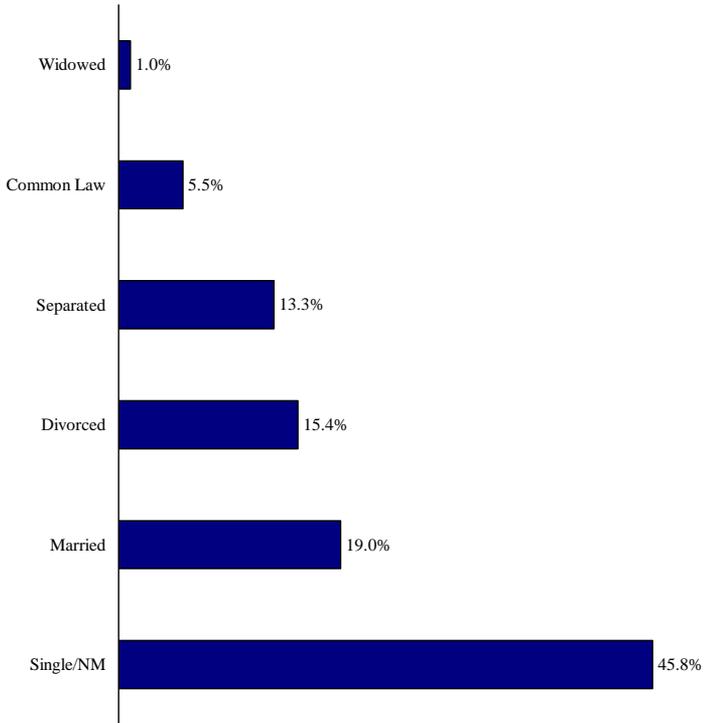
*The most frequently reported marital status among domestic violence offenders under supervision was single and never married.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS  
BY MARITAL STATUS  
FY 05**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Common Law	241	5.5%
Divorced	671	15.4%
Married	831	19.0%
Separated	581	13.3%
Single/Never Married	1,999	45.8%
Widowed	44	1.0%
Total	4,367	100.0%

Note: 133 offenders were missing marital status data.  
Sources: SCDPPPS, unpublished data; SLED, CCHR.

# Domestic Violence Offenders by Marital Status FY 05



*Among domestic violence offenders under supervision, 54.8% were Black and 44.2% were White.*

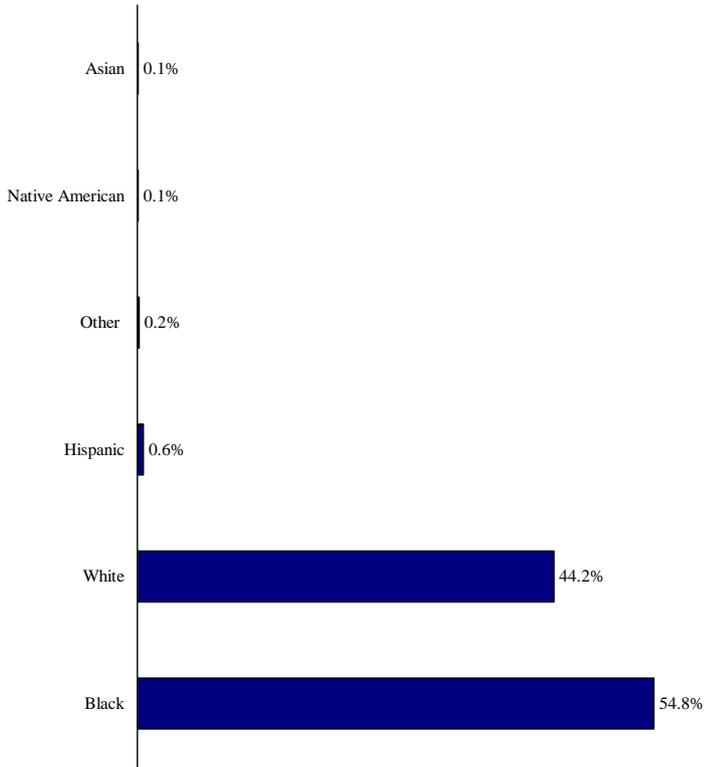
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS  
BY RACE  
FY 05**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Asian	3	0.1%
Black	2,460	54.8%
Hispanic	29	0.6%
Native American	4	0.1%
Other	9	0.2%
White	1,985	44.2%
Total	4,490	100.0%

Note: SCDPPPS defines Hispanic as a racial category rather than as a separate ethnicity category, as in SCIBRS.

Sources: SCDPPPS, unpublished data; SLED, CCHR.

## Domestic Violence Offenders by Race FY 05



*Among domestic violence offenders, 46.9% had neither finished high school nor obtained a general education development (GED) certificate.*

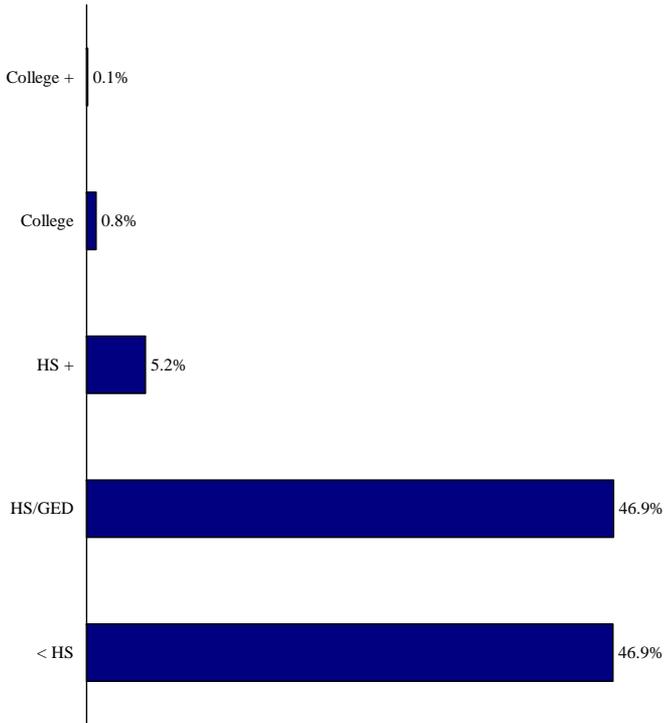
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS  
BY EDUCATION LEVEL  
FY 05**

<b>Education</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Less than HS	2,037	46.9%
HS Graduate/GED	2,039	46.9%
More than HS	227	5.2%
College Graduates	36	0.8%
More than College	4	0.1%
Total	4,343	100.0%

Notes: 146 offenders missing data. HS Graduate/GED includes 602 offenders who did not finish high school but obtained a GED. The sum of the values in the percent column does not equal 100 due to rounding.

Sources: SCDPPPS, unpublished data; SLED, CCHR.

## Domestic Violence Offenders by Education FY 05



*Among domestic violence offenders, 53.8% denied using force in the home.*

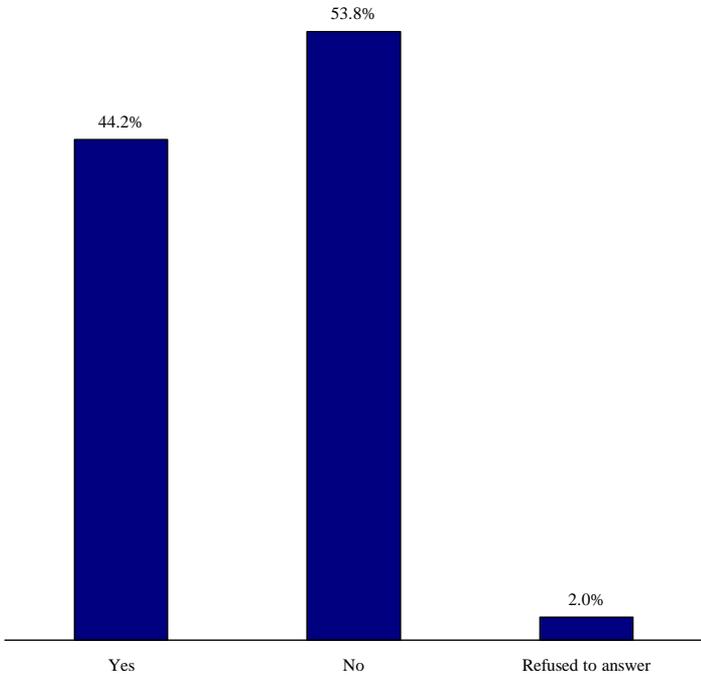
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS  
ADMITTING USING FORCE IN THE HOME  
FY 05**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	1,910	44.2%
No	2,321	53.8%
Refused to answer	87	2.0%
Total	4,318	100.0%

Note: 172 offenders missing data.

Sources: SCDPPPS, unpublished data; SLED, CCHR.

**Domestic Violence Offenders  
Admitting to Use of Force  
FY 05**



*Among domestic violence offenders under supervision, 75.6% responded they had never witnessed anyone in the household using force when they were growing up.*

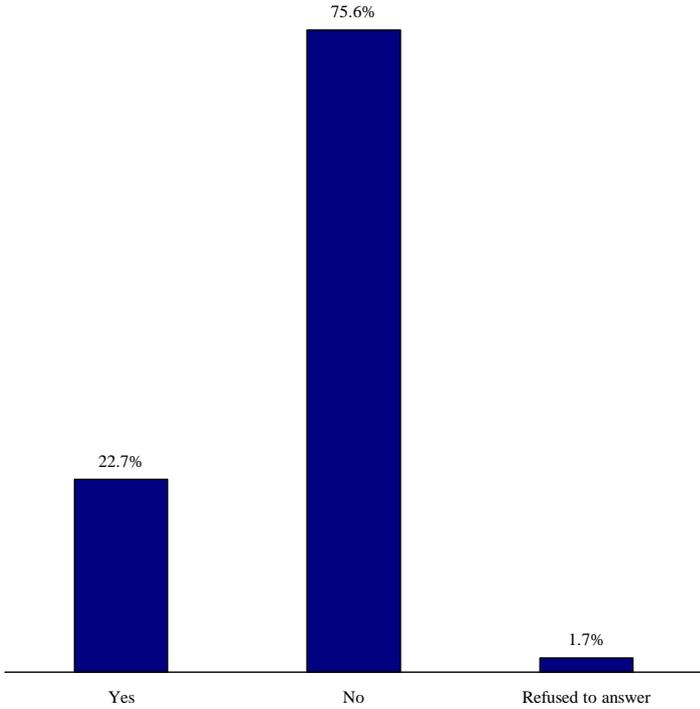
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS  
WITNESSING HOME VIOLENCE AS CHILDREN  
FY 05**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	980	22.7%
No	3,268	75.6%
Refused to answer	72	1.7%
Total	4,320	100.0%

Note: 170 offenders missing data.

Sources: SCDPPPS, unpublished data; SLED, CCHR.

**Domestic Violence Offenders  
Witnessed Home Violence as a Child  
FY 05**



*Among domestic violence offenders, 37.5% tested positive for alcohol or drug use.*

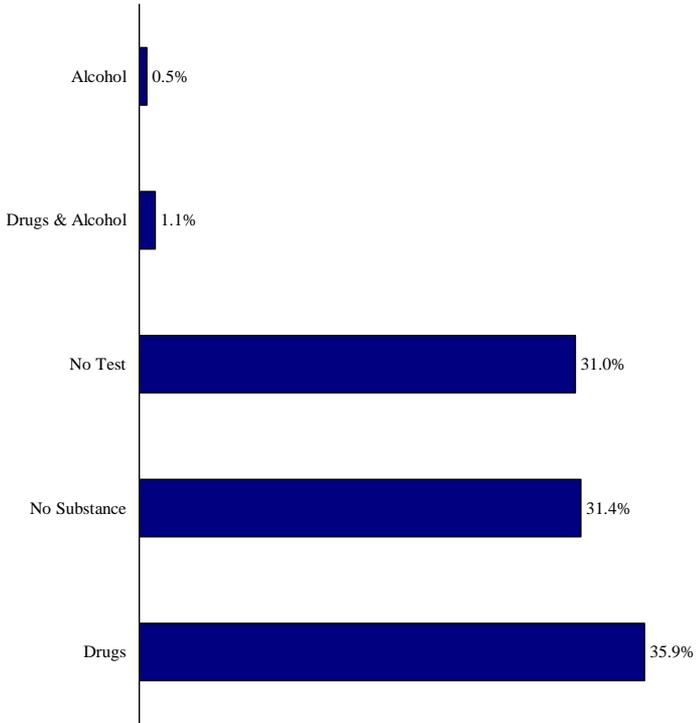
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS  
SUBSTANCE TESTING  
FY 05**

<b>Substance</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Alcohol	24	0.5%
Drugs	1,613	35.9%
Drugs & Alcohol	51	1.1%
No Substance	1,410	31.4%
No Test	1,392	31.0%
Total	4,490	100.0%

Notes: Testing for alcohol is limited to offenders who are prohibited from consuming alcohol by the conditions of their supervision. The sum of the values in the percent column does not equal 100 due to rounding.

Sources: SCDPPPS, unpublished data; SLED, CCHR.

# Domestic Violence Offender Substance Testing FY 05



*THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, was the substance most often detected among domestic violence offenders under supervision.*

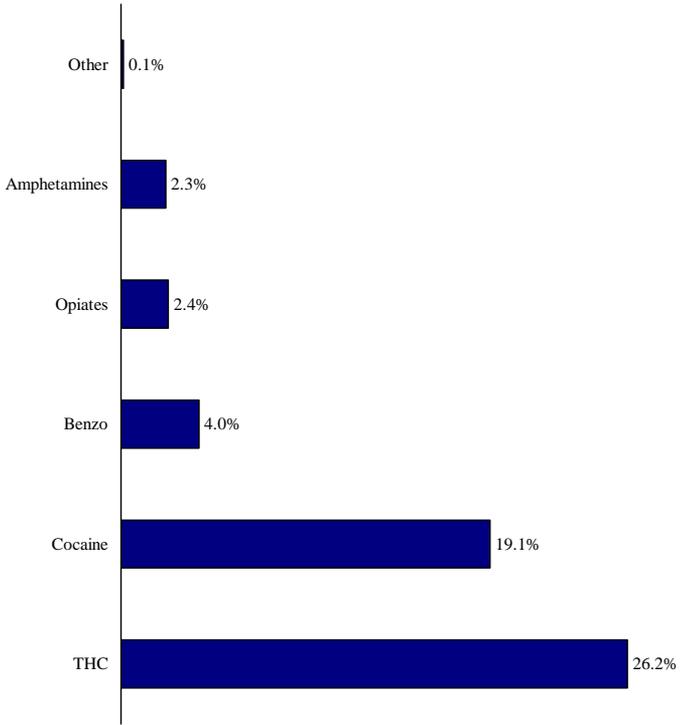
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS  
DRUG DETECTION  
FY 05**

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Amphetamines	104	2.3%
Benzodiazepine	181	4.0%
Cocaine	857	19.1%
Methadone	5	0.1%
Opiates	110	2.4%
PCP	1	<0.1%
THC	1,176	26.2%

Notes: The sum of the number of drugs detected exceeds the number of the total domestic violence offenders who tested positive for drug use due to the detection of multiple drug use for some offenders. Percent represents the proportion of total domestic violence offenders that tested positive for that specific drug.

Sources: SCDPPPS, unpublished data; SLED, CCHR.

# Domestic Violence Offender Drug Detection FY 05



*Domestic violence offenders were most frequently referred to domestic violence counseling.*

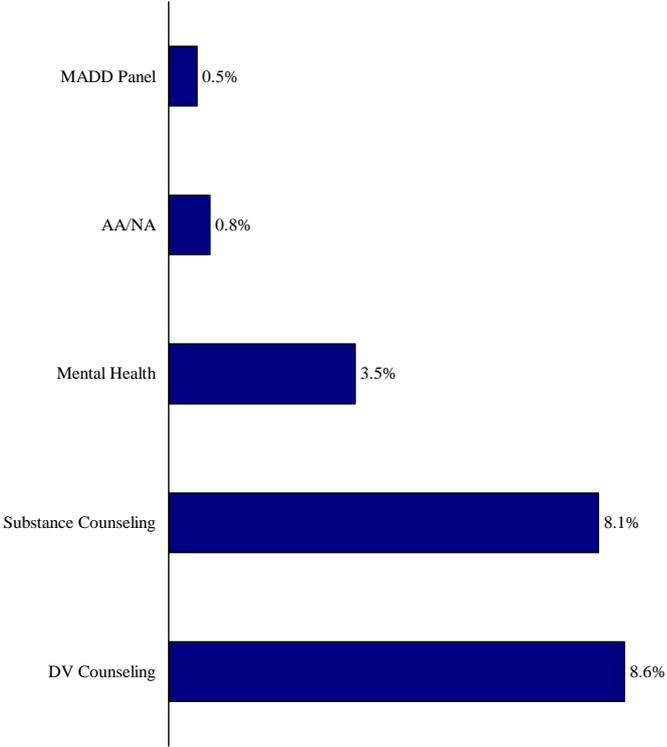
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS  
TREATMENT REFERRALS  
FY 05**

<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
AA/NA	35	0.8%
DV Counseling	386	8.6%
MADD Panel	24	0.5%
Mental Health	158	3.5%
Substance Counseling	364	8.1%

Note: Percent represents the proportion of domestic violence offenders that were referred to that treatment.

Sources: SCDPPPS, unpublished data; SLED, CCHR.

**Domestic Violence Offender  
Treatment Referrals  
FY 05**



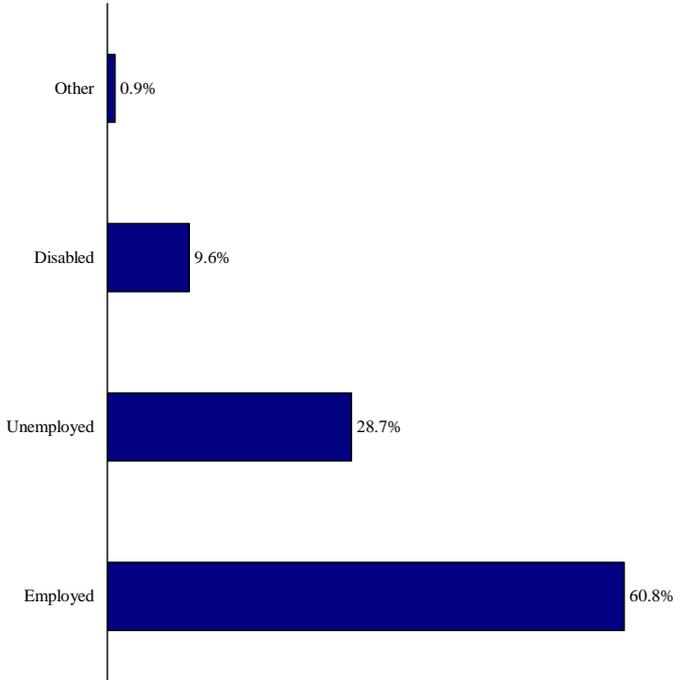
*Although most domestic violence offenders under supervision were employed or had some other means of support, 28.7% were unemployed.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER  
EMPLOYMENT STATUS  
FY 05**

<b>Work Status</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Employed	2,085	60.8%
Disability	330	9.6%
Homemaker	12	0.4%
Retired	11	0.4%
Student	4	0.1%
Unemployed	985	28.7%
Total	3,427	100.0%

Note: 1,063 were missing employment data.  
Sources: SCDPPPS, unpublished data; SLED, CCHR.

# Domestic Violence Offender Employment Status FY 05



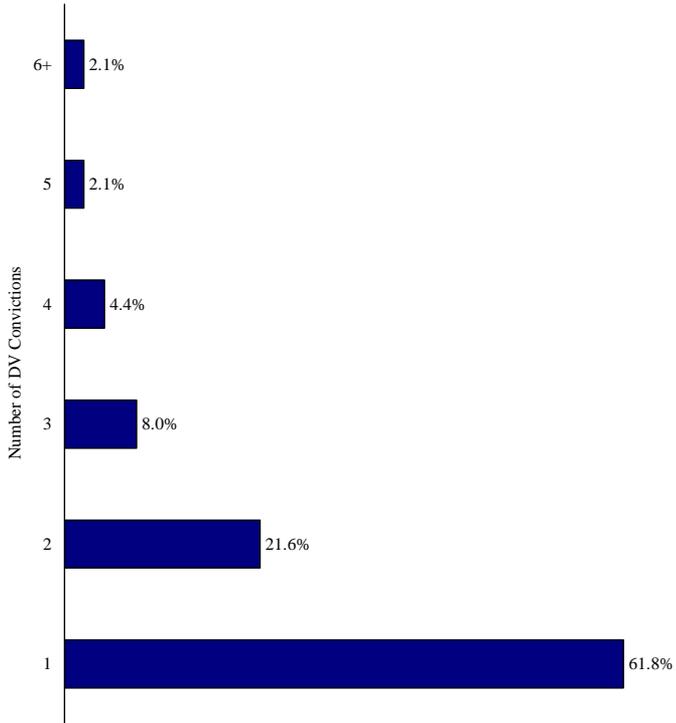
*Among domestic violence offenders, 38.2% had multiple domestic violence convictions.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS  
BY DOMESTIC CRIMINAL HISTORY  
FY 05**

<b>Number DV Convictions</b>	<b>Number of Offenders</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1	2,754	61.8%
2	964	21.6%
3	355	8.0%
4	196	4.4%
5	95	2.1%
6 or more	94	2.1%
Total	4,458	100.0%

Notes: 32 offenders were missing prior conviction data.  
Sources: SCDPPPS, unpublished data; SLED, CCHR.

# Domestic Violence Offender Domestic Criminal History FY 05





# **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARRESTS**

*The arrest rate for domestic violence increased 72.6% from 1991 to 2004.*

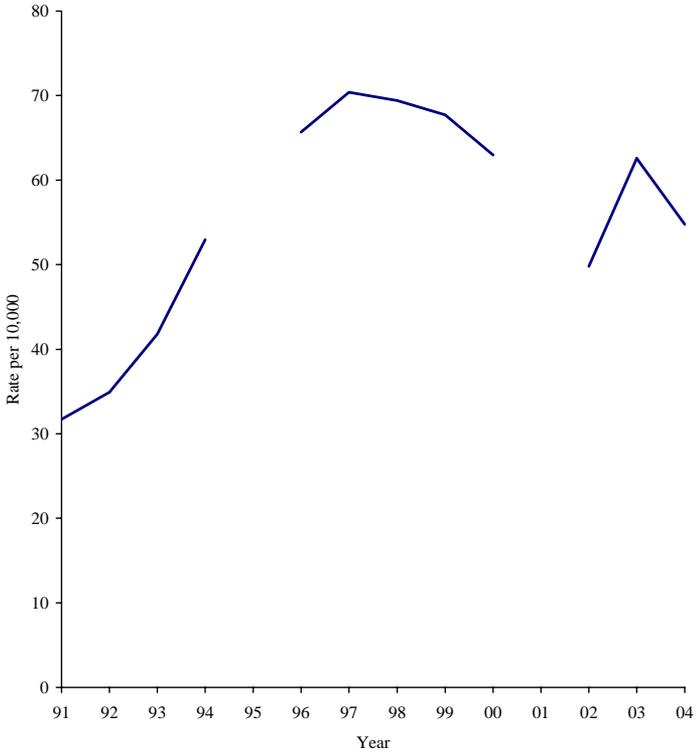
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARRESTS  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1991	11,320	31.7
1992	12,642	34.9
1993	15,304	41.8
1994	19,614	52.9
1995	Inc.	NA
1996	24,939	65.7
1997	27,162	70.4
1998	27,193	69.4
1999	26,917	67.7
2000	25,259	63.0
2001	Inc.	NA
2002	20,446	49.8
2003	25,872	62.6
2004	22,865	54.7

Note: Unit of count – arrests.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

## Domestic Violence Arrest Rate 1991 - 2004



*Spartanburg County had the most domestic violence arrests, Calhoun County had the fewest.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARRESTS  
BY COUNTY  
1991 - 2004**

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Abbeville	1,687	52.7	Greenwood	7,278	88.9
Aiken	9,746	53.5	Hampton	559	21.4
Allendale	777	55.3	Horry	13,986	55.0
Anderson	10,248	50.0	Jasper	1,590	62.2
Bamberg	852	43.8	Kershaw	2,638	40.1
Barnwell	1,623	55.9	Lancaster	4,247	57.3
Beaufort	9,225	59.0	Laurens	4,883	56.4
Berkeley	8,844	47.9	Lee	922	37.5
Calhoun	522	28.1	Lexington	9,099	33.0
Charleston	23,543	61.7	McCormick	553	43.9
Cherokee	3,305	50.7	Marion	1,823	42.4
Chester	2,640	63.8	Marlboro	1,678	49.4
Chesterfield	2,284	44.3	Newberry	2,592	58.2
Clarendon	1,213	30.4	Oconee	3,016	35.9
Colleton	2,843	59.8	Orangeburg	5,503	48.9
Darlington	4,133	50.7	Pickens	4,772	33.9
Dillon	2,029	55.8	Richland	12,806	32.4
Dorchester	3,999	31.9	Saluda	754	32.6
Edgefield	1,314	43.3	Spartanburg	26,563	83.6
Fairfield	2,295	79.4	Sumter	5,697	42.9
Florence	8,508	54.9	Union	2,205	61.7
Georgetown	3,738	53.9	Williamsburg	1,179	26.5
Greenville	25,844	54.7	York	13,978	66.6

Notes: Unit of count – arrests. 1995 and 2001 arrest data are incomplete and therefore excluded.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

*Greenwood County had the highest domestic violence arrest rate in the state.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARREST RATE:  
TOP TEN COUNTIES  
1991 – 2004**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Greenwood	7,278	88.9
Spartanburg	26,563	83.6
Fairfield	2,295	79.4
York	13,978	66.6
Chester	2,640	63.8
Jasper	1,590	62.2
Charleston	23,543	61.7
Union	2,205	61.7
Colleton	2,843	59.8
Beaufort	9,225	59.0

Notes: Unit of count – arrests. 1995 and 2001 arrest data are incomplete and therefore excluded.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

*The highest domestic violence arrest rate was reported among 25 to 34 year olds.*

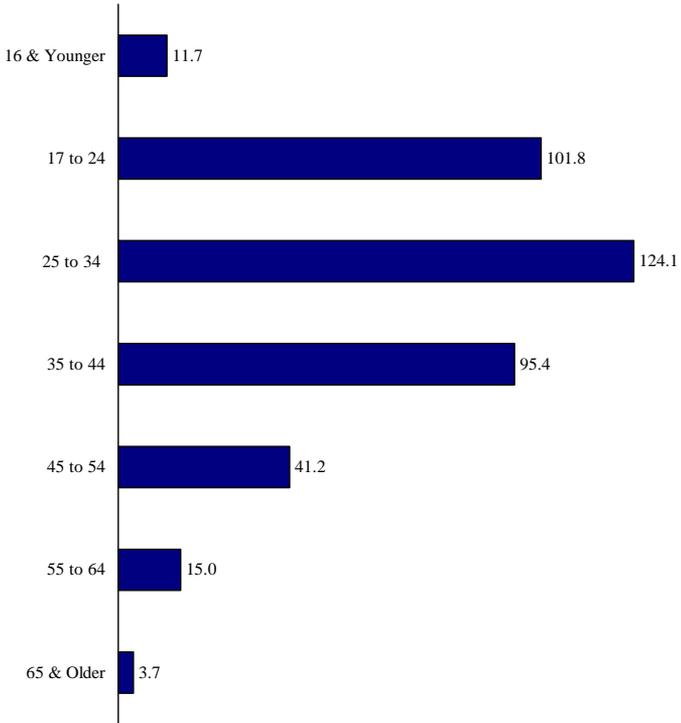
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARRESTEES BY AGE  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rate</b>
16 & Younger	15,286	5.1%	11.7
17 to 24	65,758	22.0%	101.8
25 to 34	99,613	33.3%	124.1
35 to 44	79,988	26.7%	95.4
45 to 54	28,797	9.6%	41.2
55 to 64	7,367	2.5%	15.0
65 & Older	2,390	0.8%	3.7
Total	299,199	100.0%	55.0

Note: Unit of count – arrests.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

## Domestic Violence Arrest Rates by Age 1991 - 2004



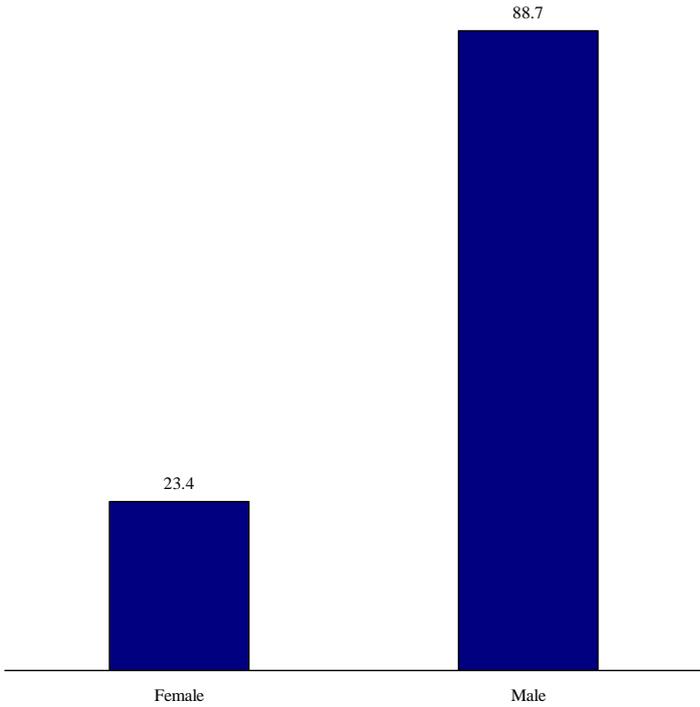
*The domestic violence arrest rate for males was 3.8 times higher than the rate of the domestic violence arrest rate for females.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARRESTEES  
BY SEX  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Female	65,562	21.9%	23.4
Male	233,960	78.1%	88.7
Total	299,522	100.0%	55.0

Note: Unit of count – arrests.  
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Domestic Violence Arrest Rate by Sex 1991 - 2004



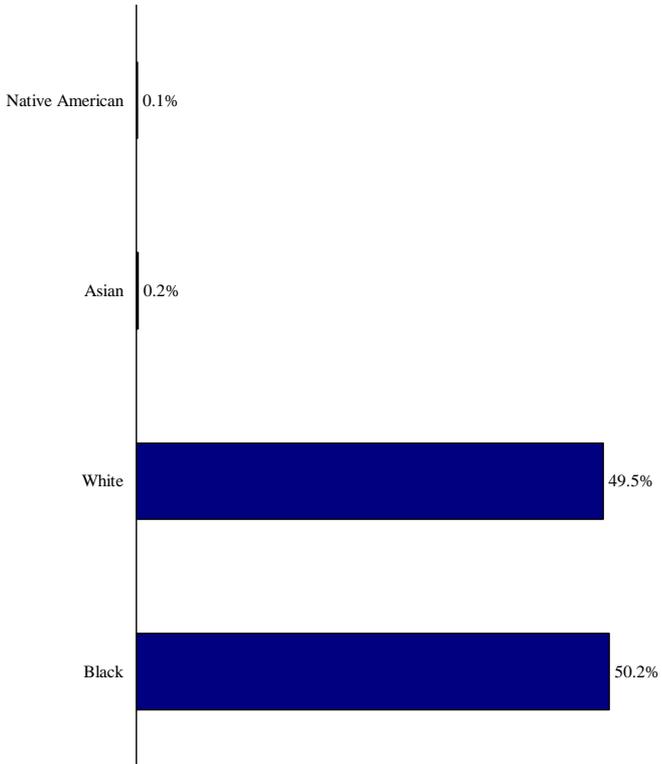
*Blacks accounted for 50.2% of domestic violence arrestees and Whites accounted for 49.5%.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARRESTEES  
BY RACE  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Asian	545	0.2%
Black	150,221	50.2%
Native American	374	0.1%
White	148,256	49.5%
Total	299,396	100.0%

Note: Unit of count – arrests.  
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Domestic Violence Arrestees by Race 1991 - 2004



*The domestic violence arrest rate for Non-Whites was 2.1 times higher than the domestic violence arrest rate for Whites.*

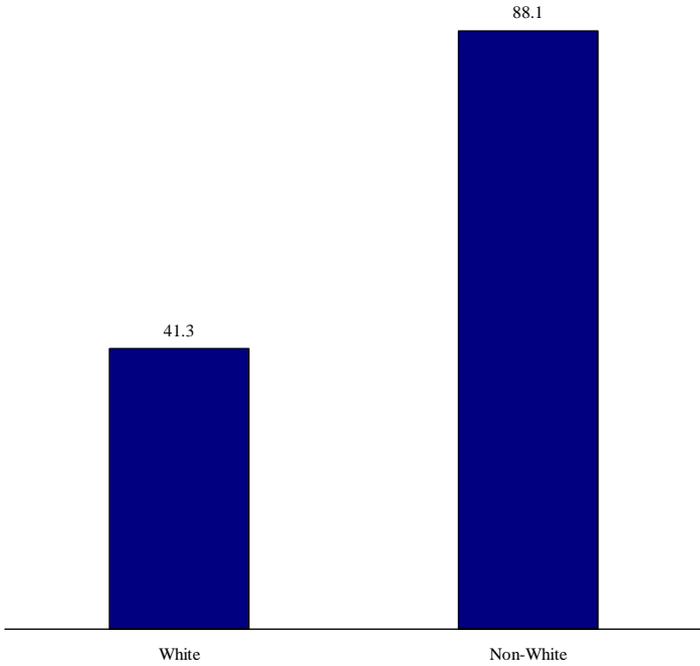
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARRESTEES BY  
RACIAL CATEGORY  
1991 – 2004**

<b>Racial Category</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Non-White	151,140	50.5%	88.1
White	148,256	49.5%	41.3
Total	299,396	100.0%	55.0

Notes: Unit of count – arrests. The category Non-White includes Asian, Black and Native American.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

**Domestic Violence Arrest Rate  
by Racial Category  
1991 - 2004**



*The domestic violence arrest rate for Non-Hispanics was 3.8% higher than the domestic violence arrest rate for Hispanics in 2004.*

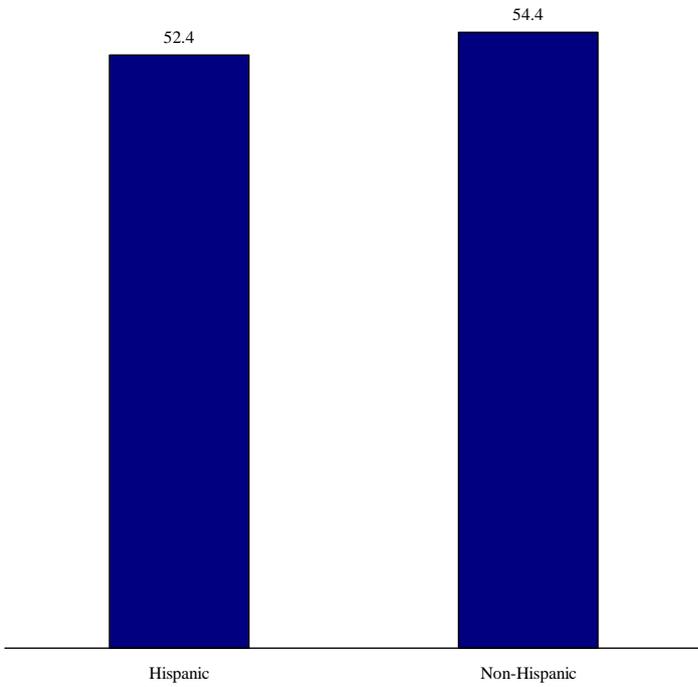
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARRESTEES  
BY ETHNICITY  
2004**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Hispanic	683	3.0%	52.4
Non-Hispanic	22,108	97.0%	54.4
Total	22,791	100.0%	54.8

Notes: Unit of count – arrests. Because of the rapid growth of the Hispanic population in South Carolina, only 2004 data were used. The rationale was to provide the most representative perspective of domestic violence by ethnicity.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

# Domestic Violence Arrest Rate by Ethnicity 2004





# **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DUAL ARRESTS**



**Dual Arrests** – This term refers to the practice of arresting both (or all) participants in a domestic violence incident, regardless of the circumstances involved. By many, this practice is considered to be unjust, penalizing the victim of violence by taking him or her into custody, instead of determining who is the aggressor and who is the victim. Of particular concern are those situations where the victim may be attempting self-defense. SCIBRS is not specifically designed to capture such situations. However, the arrest data collected and maintained by SCIBRS can be used to identify likely dual arrests and thereby estimate the rate of its occurrence.

For the purpose of this report, dual arrests were defined as arrests for aggravated assault, simple assault or intimidation in which more than one person was arrested and for which the specific victim to offender relationship “victim was offender” was listed along with a domestic relationship. The “victim was offender” relationship is used by the reporting officer to indicate that mutual combat was involved in the incident. Other domestic violence offenses (homicide, sexual violence and robbery) were excluded because the nature of the offenses make mutual combat and subsequent arrest unlikely, though not impossible. Only dual arrest data from 1993 forward were used. Very low numbers of the “victim was offender” relationship were reported in 1991 and 1992 (the first two years of SCIBRS operation) making those data suspect in that regard.

*The percentage of dual arrests ranged from a high of 10.6% in 1997 to a low of 6.4% in 1993.*

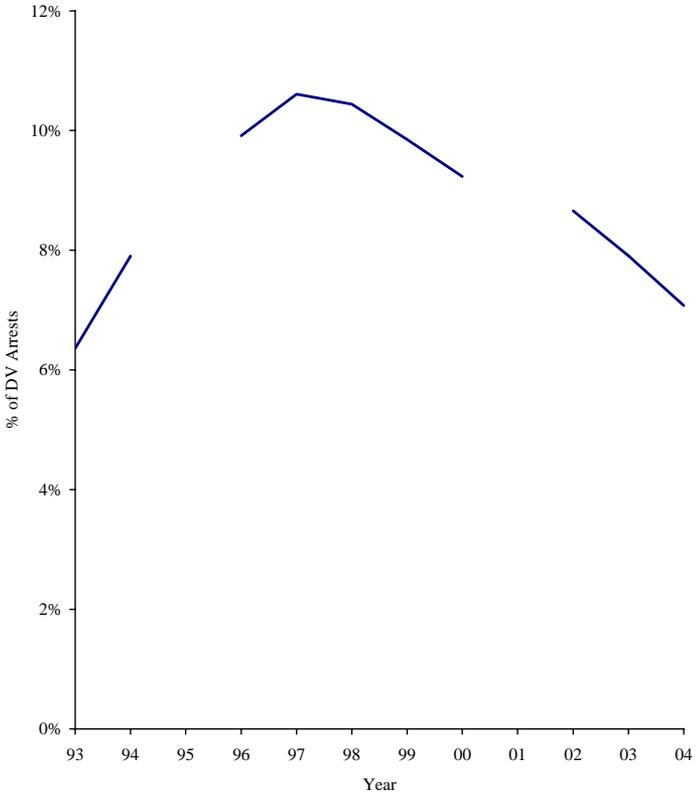
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DUAL ARRESTS  
1993 – 2004**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Dual Arrests</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1993	922	6.4%
1994	1,489	7.9%
1995	Inc.	NA
1996	2,400	9.9%
1997	2,810	10.6%
1998	2,765	10.4%
1999	2,586	9.8%
2000	2,279	9.2%
2001	Inc.	NA
2002	1,722	8.7%
2003	1,994	7.9%
2004	1,571	7.1%

Note: Unit of count – arrests. Percent represents the proportion of domestic violence arrests for each year that were dual arrests.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

## Domestic Violence Dual Arrests



*Charleston County reported the most dual arrests, Calhoun County reported the fewest.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DUAL ARRESTS  
BY COUNTY  
1993 – 2004**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Abbeville	138	9.0%	Greenwood	673	10.4%
Aiken	703	8.4%	Hampton	24	4.5%
Allendale	82	12.7%	Horry	1,366	10.2%
Anderson	871	9.7%	Jasper	93	7.0%
Bamberg	78	10.3%	Kershaw	118	4.9%
Barnwell	143	10.1%	Lancaster	177	4.7%
Beaufort	841	10.6%	Laurens	306	7.1%
Berkeley	908	11.9%	Lee	51	6.0%
Calhoun	8	1.8%	Lexington	317	4.0%
Charleston	2,548	12.3%	McCormick	22	4.7%
Cherokee	103	3.4%	Marion	120	7.2%
Chester	207	8.7%	Marlboro	57	3.8%
Chesterfield	108	5.3%	Newberry	133	5.8%
Clarendon	52	4.7%	Oconee	66	2.5%
Colleton	228	8.5%	Orangeburg	407	8.2%
Darlington	292	8.3%	Pickens	322	7.9%
Dillon	84	5.0%	Richland	556	5.0%
Dorchester	267	7.5%	Saluda	18	3.0%
Edgefield	123	10.7%	Spartanburg	2,509	10.7%
Fairfield	139	7.0%	Sumter	303	6.1%
Florence	832	11.3%	Union	115	6.1%
Georgetown	303	9.0%	Williamsburg	68	6.8%
Greenville	2,489	11.0%	York	1,170	9.8%

Note: Unit of count – arrests. Percent represents the proportion of domestic violence arrests for each county that were dual arrests.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

*Allendale County had the highest percentage of dual arrests in the state.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DUAL ARRESTS:  
THE TOP TEN COUNTIES  
1991 – 2004**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Allendale	82	12.7%
Charleston	2,548	12.3%
Berkeley	908	11.9%
Florence	832	11.3%
Greenville	2,489	11.0%
Spartanburg	2,509	10.7%
Edgefield	123	10.7%
Beaufort	841	10.6%
Greenwood	673	10.4%
Bamberg	78	10.3%

Notes: Unit of count – arrests. Percent represents the proportion of domestic violence arrests for each county that were dual arrests.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, unpublished population estimates.

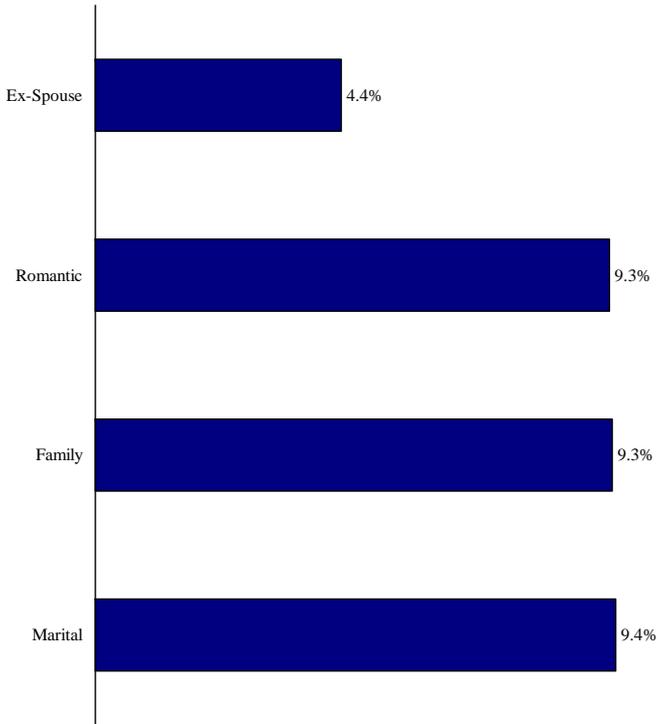
*Ex-spouse was the relationship category which was least likely to experience dual arrests. The percentage of dual arrests among family, marital and romantic relationships was similar.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DUAL ARRESTS  
BY RELATIONSHIP  
1993 – 2004**

<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Ex-Spouse	221	4.4%
Family	7,693	9.3%
Marital	10,548	9.4%
Romantic	6,518	9.3%

Notes: Unit of count – arrests. The percent column represents the proportion of domestic violence arrests for each relationship category that were dual arrests.  
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Domestic Violence Dual Arrests by Relationship 1993 - 2004



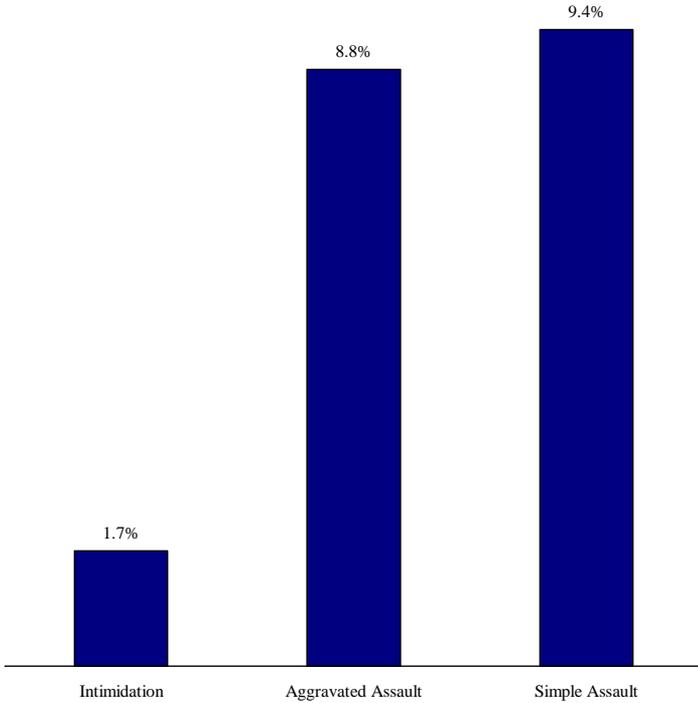
*The dual arrest rate for simple assault was the highest among the offense categories.*

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DUAL ARRESTS  
BY OFFENSE  
1993 – 2004**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Aggravated Assault	6,306	8.8%
Simple Assault	16,911	9.4%
Intimidation	263	1.7%

Notes: Unit of count – arrests. The percent column represents the proportion of domestic violence arrests for each offense that were dual arrests.  
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

## Domestic Violence Dual Arrests by Offense 1993 - 2004





## Summary

There are several key findings in this report. First and foremost is the extent to which domestic violence contributes to the total level of violence in South Carolina. Overall, domestic violence accounted for 41.1% of violent crime statewide, a proportion which was fairly consistent over the time period. Among homicides, 29.9% involved a domestic relationship. In crimes of sexual violence, 29.3% involved a domestic relationship. More than a third (36.6%) of aggravated assaults and slightly more than half (50.6%) of simple assaults involved domestic relationships. Nearly a third (32.5%) of intimidation was domestic. With the exception of robbery, of which only 2.2% was domestic, domestic violence is a major contributor to each violent crime category.

Although the number of domestic violence victims was almost evenly divided between Black and White victims, victimization rates were much higher among racial minorities. Victimization rates for females were much higher than for males, although male victims accounted for 24% of all domestic violence victims. Young adults, particularly from ages 18 to 34, had the highest risk of domestic violence victimization. Although domestic violence occurred most frequently within marital relationships, the domestic violence rates for family and romantic relationships were only slightly lower. Violence among ex-spouses was less common than violence among any other relationship category.

The role that substance abuse plays in domestic violence is noteworthy. Slightly more than a quarter of domestic violence incidents involved the offender using either alcohol or drugs. Alcohol was reported far more often than illicit drugs as a factor in domestic violence incidents. However, the drug testing results of domestic violence offenders provides a different and important perspective to the problem of drug use and domestic violence. More than a third (37%) of domestic violence offenders tested positive for illicit drugs while under supervision, primarily for marijuana use.

Domestic violence arrest rates were higher for Non-Whites than White, higher for males than females and higher among young adults than other age groups. Among domestic violence offenders, nearly half were single and had never been married. Domestic violence offenders were poorly educated and had a high rate of unemployment. Of particular interest is the fact that 53.8% of domestic violence offenders denied ever using force in the household. While this may indicate any number of situations ranging from different perceptions of what constitutes force to denial of actual guilt, it seems reasonable to infer that domestic violence offenders have difficulty accepting responsibility for their actions.

The percent of dual arrests among domestic violence arrests has decreased each year since peaking at 10.6% in 1997. It should be noted that interpretation of dual arrests rates is difficult. There may be circumstances where arresting both (or all) participants in a violent domestic confrontation is appropriate. Consequently, domestic violence dual arrests, as presented in this report, should be interpreted cautiously.

The over-representation of racial minorities among domestic violence victims highlights an area of ongoing concern, both for future research and intervention programs. Continuing research, possibly incorporating incident data from the local level as well as case studies, regarding the issue of dual arrest practices is needed to better understand this issue. Because it was not designed to specifically capture dual arrest data, SCIBRS is unlikely to provide a precise measure of this problem. Additional research into the criminal history of domestic violence perpetrators is needed to provide a better understanding of the nature of domestic violence, particularly to determine the degree to which domestic violence may be a chronically escalating situation.

Finally, it is essential that we come to a common appreciation of the seriousness of domestic violence. Domestic violence is a major factor in South Carolina's unenviable history of ranking at the top of the nation's violent crime rate rankings and any rational policy response to violence must take that fact into account. We can neither run nor hide from the difficult truth that the lion's share of violence is wreaked by family members and loved ones.



## **Sources**

South Carolina Budget and Control Board, Office of Research and Statistics; unpublished population estimates.

South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; unpublished data.

State Law Enforcement Division; Computerized Criminal History Records.

State Law Enforcement Division; South Carolina Incident Based Reporting System data.

