



Domestic Relationships and Violent Crimes, 2020-2024

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program
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Domestic Relationships and Violent Crimes, 2020-2024

Highlights

- From 2020 through 2024, aggravated assault was the violent crime with the highest percentage of domestic relationships reported as the victim to offender relationship. During that timeframe, an average of 31.0% of aggravated assaults were domestic in nature.
- The most reported weapon type for domestic and non-domestic relationships from 2020 through 2024 was personal weapons (i.e., hands, fists, feet).
- From 2020 through 2024, firearms were involved in 13.7% of violent crime incidents involving domestic relationships, but for those incidents that reported non-domestic relationships that number was higher, 32.6%.
- The most common victim age range for both domestic and non-domestic relationships for rape was 13 to 16 years old. These victims were most commonly current or ex-boyfriend/girlfriend (54.4%) or a child¹ (42.7%) for domestic relationships. However, for non-domestic relationships, the victims and offenders were most commonly acquaintances (32.7%).

Introduction

This special report looks at reported violent crimes² with domestic relationships compared to the same offenses reported with other relationship types. Although the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) User Manual does not define “domestic relationship,” the definition of “Domestic and Family Violence” includes “current or former spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim; a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; a person who is cohabiting with or has cohabited with the victim as a spouse, parent, or guardian; or by a person who is or has been similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim.”³ Therefore, for purposes reporting data to the FBI’s UCR Program, a non-domestic relationship is a type of relationship that falls outside of those listed in the definition of Domestic and Family Violence.

For this special study, only data contributed to the NIBRS⁴ data was used. This is because the older UCR Summary Reporting System does not supply the relationship

¹ This is a combined category that includes victim was child, victim was step-child, and victim was child of boyfriend/girlfriend.

² The UCR Program defines violent crimes as murder and nonnegligent manslaughter (murder), rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

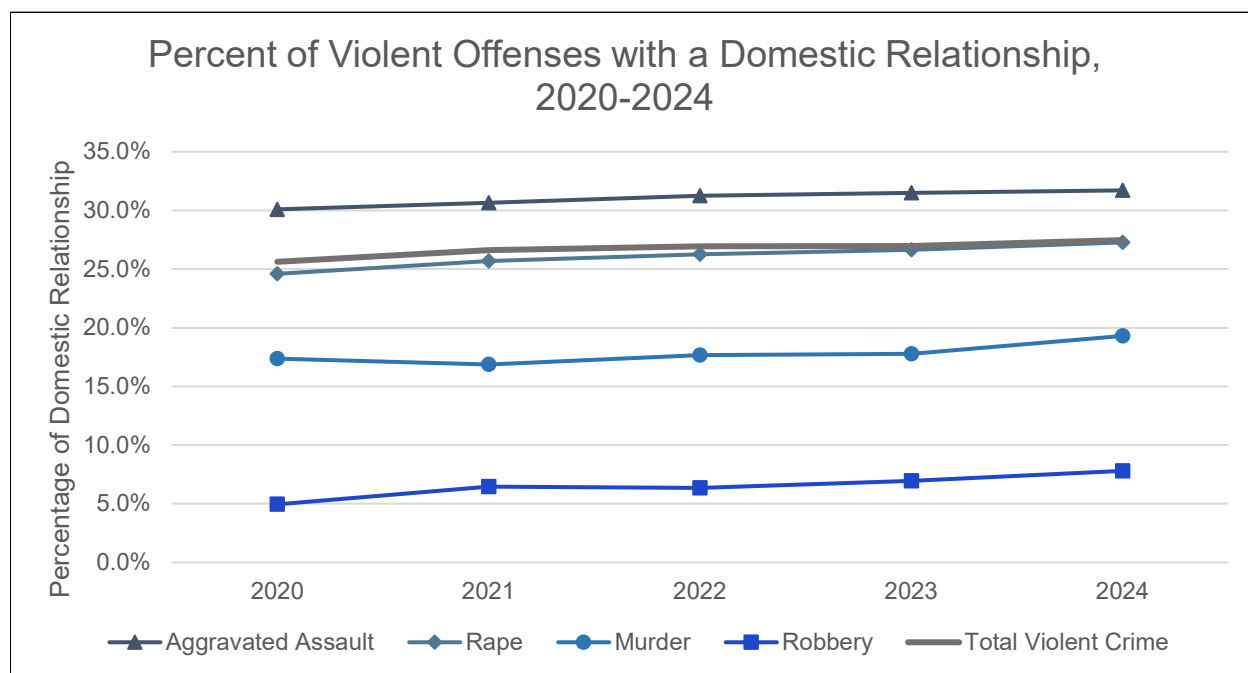
³ Boyfriend/Girlfriend, Child of Boyfriend/Girlfriend, Child, Common-Law Spouse, Foster Child, Foster Parents, Homosexual Relationship-discontinued, Parent, Stepchild, Spouse, Stepparent, Ex-Relationship, and Ex-Spouse are included.

⁴ For more information about NIBRS data elements and structure, refer to the [NIBRS User Manual](#).

between victim and offender for all violent crimes to determine if there was a domestic relationship.

From 2020 through 2024, the percentage of violent crimes involving domestic relationships slightly increased every year from 25.6% in 2020 to 27.5% in 2024, except 2022 and 2023 where it stayed at 27.0% both years. Among violent crime offenses in domestic relationships, *aggravated assault* (31.0%) had the highest average percent of reported offenses, while *robbery* (6.5%) had the lowest average percentage reported. (See Figure 1 below.)

Figure 1: Percent of violent offenses involving a domestic relationship, 2020-2024



Incident locations

From 2020 through 2024, the top three reported locations where violent crime incidents occurred involving both domestic and non-domestic relationships were *residence/home*, followed by *highway/road/alley/street/sidewalk* and *parking/drop lot/garage*. However, the percent of incidents that occurred in *residences/homes* was 79.6% (domestic relationship) and 41.1% (non-domestic relationship).

Offenders suspected of using

Offenders may be *suspected of using alcohol and/or drugs* during or shortly before an incident or *using a computer to commit a crime*. Law enforcement agencies can submit up to three types of activities per offense type. Because more than one of these codes can be collected on any given offense record, multiple counts of suspected use may be

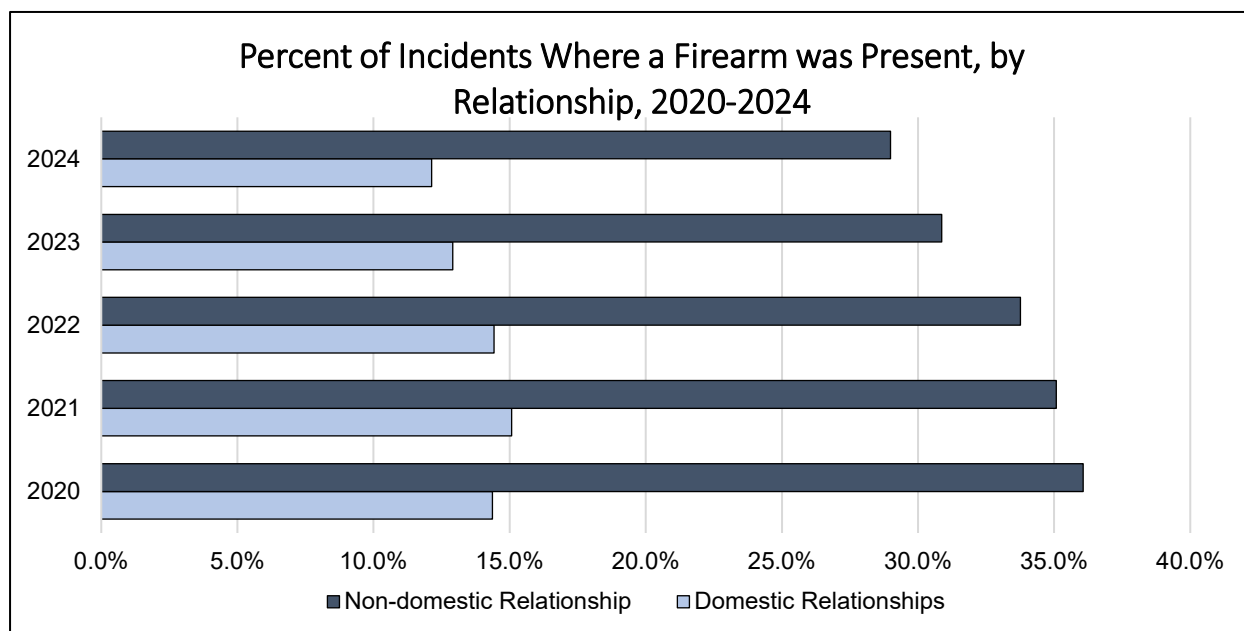
reported in incidents. Multiple counts can be generated in two ways: 1) an incident with one offense record may be associated with the use of alcohol and drugs, and 2) another incident may contain two offense records; one offense indicating the suspected use of alcohol, and a second offense where the offender is suspected of using drugs. Both types of incidents will indicate the offender was suspected of using both alcohol and drugs.

During 2020-2024, the majority of both domestic and non-domestic relationship incidents had *Not Applicable* for the data element of *Offender Suspected of Using* at 84.3% and 90.8%, respectively. When considering all incidents, domestic relationship and non-domestic, the percentage of alcohol use that was reported in relation to the offense almost doubled in incidents involving domestic relationships (12.5% as opposed to 6.6%).

Weapons

The most common reported distinct weapon type for domestic and non-domestic relationships from 2020 through 2024 was *personal weapons*, which includes hands, fists, or feet. Only 13.7% of violent crime incidents involving domestic relationships involved a *firearm*, but 32.6% of non-domestic relationship incidents involved a *firearm*. For *aggravated assault* incidents, the most reported weapon type was different for domestic relationships than for non-domestic relationships. When the aggravated assault incident included a domestic relationship, *personal weapons* was the most reported weapon type; however, for non-domestic relationships, the most common two reported weapon types were *handguns* and *knife/cutting instruments*.

Figure 2: Percent of incidents where a firearm was present, by relationship, 2020-2024



Victim and Offender Demographics

Table 1: Select statistics about the victims and offenders of violent crime incidents with and without domestic relationships, 2020-2024

- From 2020 through 2024, there were 11,466 victims of murder involving domestic relationships. Of the 1,109,797 victims of other violent crimes involving domestic relationships, 694,552 sustained 755,110 injuries.
- The most common victim age range for both domestic and non-domestic relationships for *rape* was 13 to 16 years old. These victims were most commonly current or ex-boyfriend/girlfriend (54.4%) or a child⁵ (42.7%) for domestic relationships. However, for non-domestic relationships, the victims and offenders were most commonly acquaintances (32.7%).
- For victims of violent crimes with domestic relationships, 74.5% were female, but the majority of victims of non-domestic relationships were male (58.3%).
- Most non-domestic relationship violent offenses had male victims, with the exception of *rape* (12.2% male victims).
- Offenders of both domestic and non-domestic relationships were mostly male (77.1% and 76.6%, respectively).
- The majority of violent crime victims were White (57.5%). However, there are two exceptions: *robbery* (47.6%) with a domestic relationship and *murder* (54.9%)

Select Statistics 2020-2024	Domestic Relationship	Non-Domestic Relationship
Percent of Victims with "No Injury"	37.4	60.9
Most Common Victim Age	32	21
Most Common Offender Age	32	25
Most Common Victim Sex	Female	Male
Most Common Offender Sex	Male	Male
Most Common Victim Race	White	White
Most Common Offender Race	White	Black or African American

⁵ This is a combined category that includes victim was child, victim was step-child, and victim was child of boyfriend/girlfriend.

with a non-domestic relationship, wherein the majority of victims' race was Black or African American.

- Figures 3-5 and Table 2 detail these categories for domestic relationships only from 2020 through 2024.

Figure 3: Victims of domestic relationship aggravated assault, rape, and robbery, by injury, 2020-2024

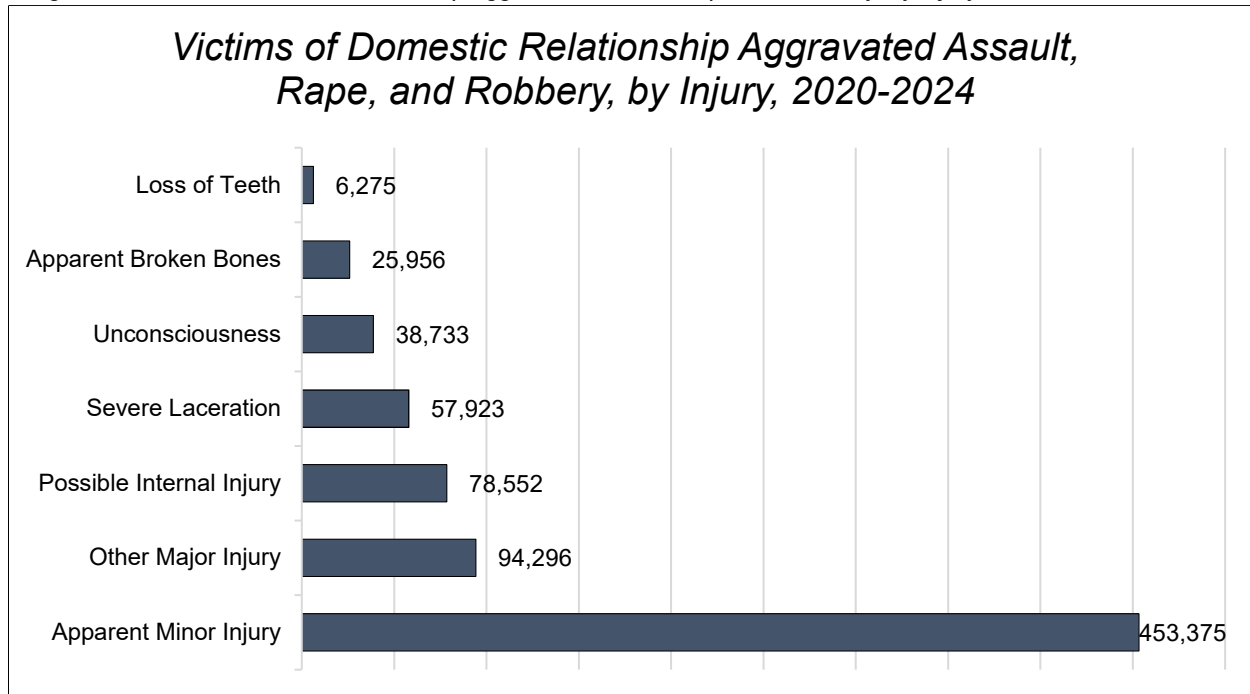


Figure 4: Victim and offender sex, by violent offenses, with domestic relationship, 2020-2024

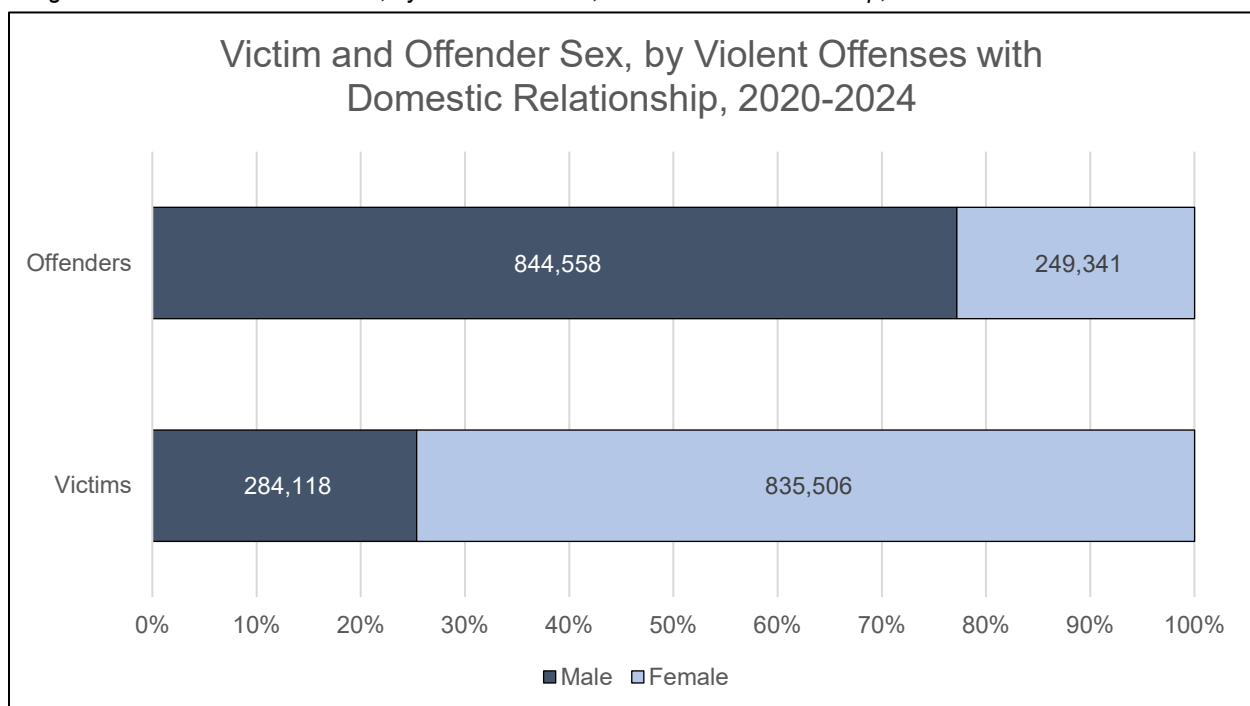


Figure 5: Victim and offender age range, by violent offenses, with domestic relationship, 2020-2024

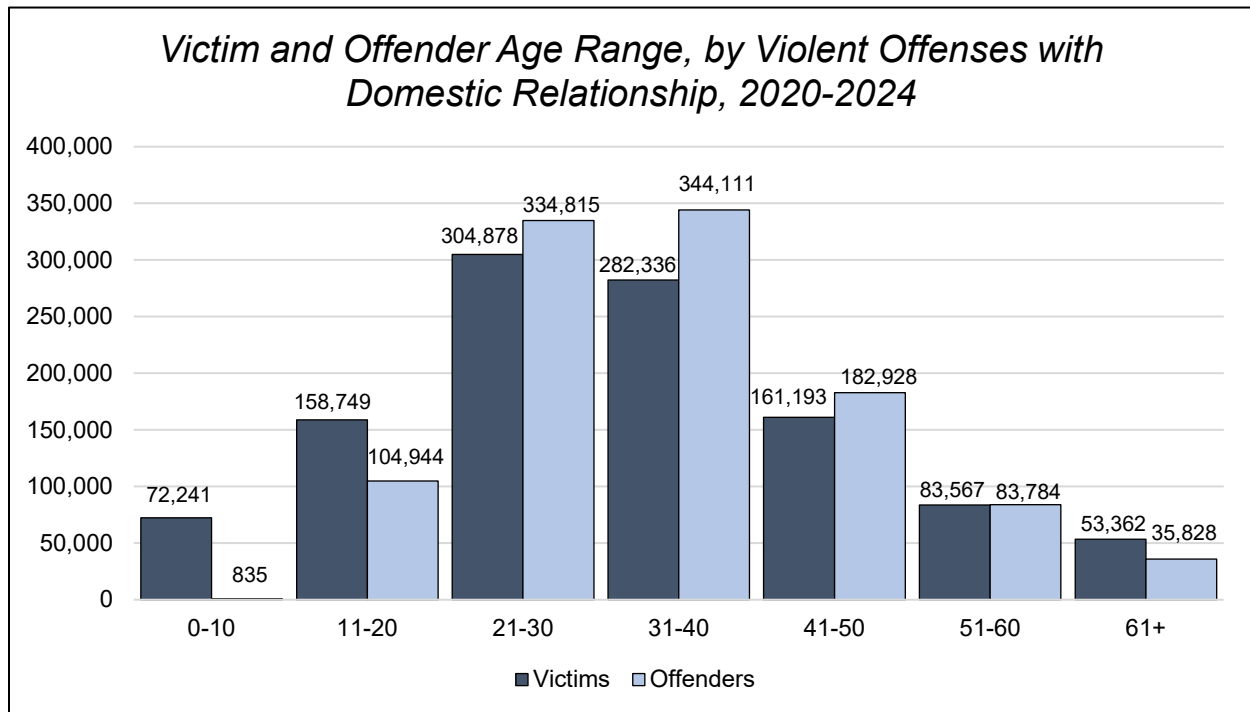


Table 2: Victim and offender race, by violent offenses, with domestic relationship, 2020-2024

Race	Victim	Offender
White	661,090	596,852
Black or African American	382,499	426,782
American Indian or Native Alaskan	18,532	18,012
Asian	16,299	15,008
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Island	3,565	3,754

Conclusion

From 2020 through 2024, the percentage of violent crimes involving domestic relationships slightly increased every year from 25.6% in 2020 to 27.5% in 2024, except 2022 and 2023 where it stayed at 27.0% both years. Agencies most often reported the violent crime offense of aggravated assault in conjunction with domestic relationships. Robbery was the least-reported violent crime offense within incidents involving domestic relationships.

While domestic and non-domestic violent crime incidents had the same three most-reported locations from 2020 through 2024, there were almost double the percent of incidents for domestic relationships reported that occurred in residences/homes. The domestic violence incidents for offenders using alcohol followed suit with alcohol reported for 12.5% of domestic incidents and 6.6% of non-domestic incidents. For both relationship types, personal weapons were the most commonly reported distinct weapon in violent crime incidents. When considering weapons, 13.7% of domestic incidents involved a firearm, and 32.6% of non-domestic incidents were reported to have a firearm present.

The majority (60.9%) of non-domestic victims reported no injury in comparison to 37.4% of domestic relationship victims where no injury was reported. The most common age for victim and offender (21 and 25) was lower for non-domestic participants compared to victim and offender age (32 and 32) for domestic participants. When the incident involved a domestic relationship, the victims were most female (74.5%) and the offenders were most commonly male (77.1%); however, most of both victims and offenders in non-domestic violent incidents were male (58.3% and 76.6%, respectively). Victim race was mostly White (57.5%) no matter the relationship type. However, offenders were more often White (54.5%) when it was a domestic relationship, but Black or African American (44.6%) when it was a non-domestic relationship.

When agencies report data on violent crimes that include the victim to offender relationships, the public can gain valuable insights and law enforcement agencies can use the data to form strategies to reduce and impede similar offenses in the future.