Although assaults have declined significantly in the past decade, millions of these crimes occur every year. The majority of assaults involve the use of hands, fists, and feet or clubs or blunt objects rather than firearms or knives. Victimization varies in important ways, both by sex and by ethnicity. Males experience more assaults by strangers, and females experience more assaults by intimate partners and other people known to them. American Indian or Alaska Natives, blacks, and Hispanics experience higher rates of assault than whites or Asian or Pacific Islanders.

- In 2011, 61 percent of all serious violent crimes were reported to the police.¹
- The percent of aggravated assault victimizations reported to the police in 2011 was 67 percent, while the percent of reported simple assaults was 43 percent.²
- In cases in 2011 where victims indicated their relationship to the offender, males experienced aggravated assault by a nonstranger (including intimate partner, other relative, and friend/acquaintance) in 32.4 percent of cases and by a stranger in 50.6 percent. Females experienced aggravated assault by a nonstranger in 60.7 percent of cases and by a stranger in 35.3 percent of cases.³
- In 2011, the rate of aggravated assault incidences known to law enforcement in metropolitan counties was 249.1 per 100,000 inhabitants and the rate in non-metropolitan counties was 146.8 per 100,000.⁴

![AGGRAVATED ASSAULT CASES BY SEX AND VICTIM/OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP, 2011](chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship to Offender</th>
<th>Male Percentage</th>
<th>Female Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stranger</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
<td>68.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonstranger</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![SIMPLE ASSAULT CASES BY SEX AND VICTIM/OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP, 2011](chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship to Offender</th>
<th>Male Percentage</th>
<th>Female Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stranger</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
<td>72.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonstranger</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>45.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In 2011, 305,939 total arrests were made on aggravated assault charges, a rate of 128.0 per 100,000 inhabitants. Other assault cases resulted in 955,620 arrests at a rate of 399.9 per 100,000 inhabitants.⁵
- In 2011, of the 656,662 aggravated assaults known to law enforcement, 56.9 percent were cleared by arrest. In cities with more than 250,000 citizens, 49.7 percent were cleared by arrest. The percentage was 63.8 percent in cities with a population under 10,000, and 62.2 percent in suburban areas.⁶
- From 2002 to 2011, the rate of aggravated assault reported by victims against persons age 12 years or older declined by 28 percent. The rate in 2011 had declined to 2.7 incidents per 1,000 persons; in 2002 it was 3.8 per 1,000 persons.⁷
- In reported cases, females are more likely than males to experience assault by an intimate partner. In aggravated assaults, male victims reported that the offender was an intimate partner in 6.7 percent of incidents, whereas females reported an intimate partner offender in 26.8 percent of cases.⁸
- From 2010 to 2011, the rate of violent crime reported by victims increased by 17 percent. Simple assaults rates increased by 21 percent.⁹
- For simple assault, in cases where the victims indicated their relationship to the offender, males were victimized by a

² Ibid.
⁹ Truman and Planty, Criminal Victimization, 2011, 3.
nonstranger in 45.7 percent of cases and by a stranger in 44.3 percent of cases. Females experienced simple assault by a nonstranger in 73.1 percent of cases and by a stranger in 20.4 percent of cases.10

- From 2002 to 2011, the rate of simple assault reported by victims against persons age 12 years or older declined by 31 percent. The rate of simple assault in 2011 was 15.3 incidents per 1,000 persons; in 2002 it was 22.1 per 1,000 persons.11

- In simple assault cases reported by victims, 8.9 percent of males were victimized by an intimate partner, compared to 22.7 percent of females.12

- In 2011, victims experienced 1,052,084 aggravated assaults. Ten percent of these incidents involved no weapons used by an offender; 10 percent involved a weapon, including firearms (31 percent of all incidents), knives (27 percent), other weapons (26 percent), and unidentified weapons (6 percent).13

- In 2011, as reported by victims, the rate of aggravated assault against people of two or more races was 17.8 per 1,000 people. American Indians or Alaska Natives were assaulted at a rate of 3.5, blacks (non-Hispanic) at a rate of 6.1, whites at a rate of 3.9, Hispanics at a rate of 3.3, and Asian or Pacific Islander at a rate one of 0.9 per 1,000 people.14

- In 2011, as reported by victims, the rate of simple assault against people of two or more races was 38.5 per 1,000 people. American Indians or Alaska Natives were assaulted at a rate of 32.7, Hispanics at a rate of 16.7, blacks (non-Hispanic) at a rate of 15.6, whites at a rate of 15.0, and Asian or Pacific Islander at a rate of 8.7 per 1,000 people.15

- In 2011, the types of weapons used during aggravated assaults known to law enforcement included: personal weapons such as hands, fists, and feet at 26.9 percent; firearms at 21.2 percent; and knives or other cutting instruments at 19.1 percent. Other weapons, such as clubs or blunt objects, were used in 32.8 percent of aggravated assaults.16

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15 Ibid.
• In 2010, the rate of law enforcement officers assaulted in the line of duty was 10.0 assaults per 100 officers. This number increased slightly in 2011 to 10.2 per 100 officers.

• Of all the officers who were assaulted in 2011, 33.3 percent were assaulted while responding to disturbance calls, 14.7 percent while attempting other arrests, and 12.6 percent while handling or transporting prisoners.

• In 2011, 79.9 percent of law enforcement officers who were assaulted were attacked with personal weapons (e.g., hands, fists, or feet), and 4.0 percent were assaulted with firearms. Of law enforcement officers who were assaulted, 26.6 percent sustained injuries.

• The largest percentage of assaults on officers in 2011, 15.3 percent, occurred between 12:01 a.m. and 2 a.m. This percentage is consistent with those in the previous 12 years.

• Of the officers who were assaulted in 2011, 63.9 percent were assigned to one-officer vehicle patrols and 17.0 percent were assigned to two-officer vehicle patrols.


