

ASSAULT

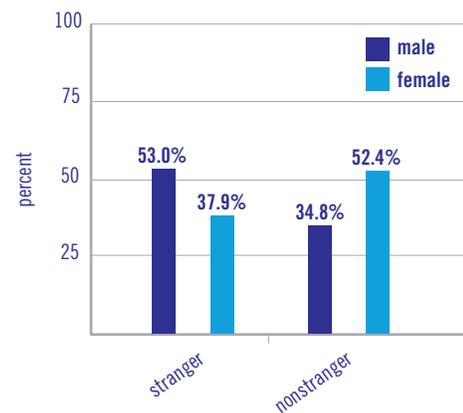
National statistics are collected on two types of assault: aggravated and simple. Completed, attempted, or threatened aggravated assault is defined as an attack with a weapon, an attack that causes serious bodily harm, or threatened assault with a weapon.¹ Completed or threatened simple assault is defined as an unlawful attack or threat of an attack that does not cause seriously bodily harm.² Both forms of assault share similarities with regard to trends and characteristics. Assault victimization varies in important ways, both by sex and by ethnicity. Males experience more assaults by strangers, while females experience more assaults by intimate partners and other people known to them. However in recent years, females have experienced an increase in assaults by strangers.³ American Indian or Alaska Natives, blacks, and Hispanics experience higher rates of assault than whites or Asian or Pacific Islanders.⁴ Another important group of assault victims are those assaulted in the line of duty, including emergency room nurses and law enforcement officers.

Aggravated Assault

- The percentage of aggravated assault victimizations reported to the police in 2012 was 62 percent.⁵ During the same period of time, 54 percent of all serious violent crimes were reported to the police.⁶
- From 2003 to 2012, the rate of aggravated assault reported to the police by victims against persons age 12 years or older declined by 25 percent. The rate in 2012 had declined to 2.4 incidents per 1,000 persons; in 2003 it was 3.2 per 1,000 persons.⁷

- In cases in 2012 where victims indicated their relationship to the offender, males experienced aggravated assault by a nonstranger (including intimate partner, other relative, and friend/acquaintance) in 34.8 percent of cases and by a stranger in 53.0 percent. Females experienced aggravated assault by a nonstranger in 52.4 percent of cases and by a stranger in 37.9 percent.⁸

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT CASES BY SEX AND VICTIM/OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP, 2012



- 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 4.9 percent of incidents, whereas females reported an intimate partner offender in 23.0 percent of cases.⁹
- As reported by victims in 2012, the rate of aggravated assault against people of two or more races was 5.6 per 1,000 people. American Indians or Alaska Natives were assaulted at a rate of 8.6, blacks (non-Hispanic) at a rate of 5.6, whites (non-Hispanic) at a rate of 3.1, Hispanics at a rate of 5.3, and Asian or Pacific Islanders at a rate of 2.7 per 1,000 people.

1 Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Violent Crime*, accessed June 18, 2014, http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=31#terms_def.

2 Ibid.

3 Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Number of Aggravated Assaults by Victim-Offender Relationship and Sex, 2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, accessed June 3, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat>.

4 It should be noted that for American Indian or Alaska Natives and Asian or Pacific Islanders there are often less than 10 cases reported, resulting in data that should be interpreted with caution.

5 Ibid.

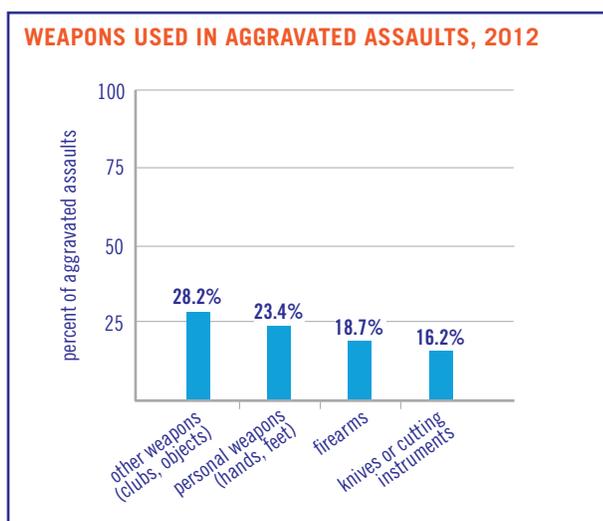
6 Jennifer L. Truman, Lynn Langton, and Michael Planty, *Criminal Victimization, 2012*, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2013), Table 4, accessed June 3, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv12.pdf>.

7 Ibid.

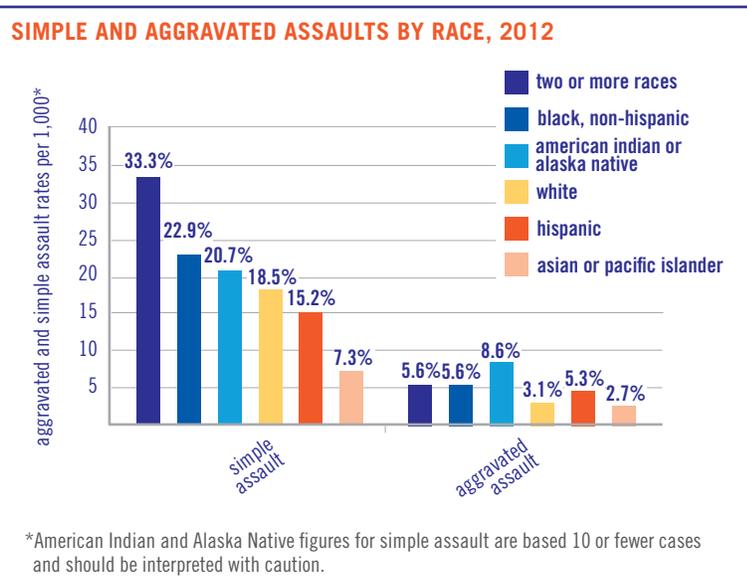
8 Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Number of Aggravated Assaults by Victim-Offender Relationship and Sex, 2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, accessed June 3, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat>.

9 Ibid.

- Victims experienced 996,106 aggravated assaults in 2012. Of these incidents, 5.2 percent did not involve a weapon, and 94.8 percent involved a weapon, including firearms (24.1 percent of all incidents), knives (23.8 percent), other weapons (36.2 percent), and unidentified weapons (10.7 percent).¹⁰
- In 2012, the types of weapons used during aggravated assaults known to law enforcement included: personal weapons such as hands, fists, and feet at 23.4 percent; firearms at 18.7 percent; and knives or other cutting instruments at 16.2 percent. Other weapons, such as clubs or blunt objects, were used in 28.2 percent of aggravated assaults.¹¹



- The rate of aggravated assault incidences in 2012 known to law enforcement in metropolitan counties was 250.2 per 100,000 inhabitants, and the rate in non-metropolitan counties was 139.7 per 100,000.¹²



- In 2012, 301,065 total arrests were made on aggravated assault charges, a rate of 123.9 per 100,000 inhabitants.¹³
- Of the 668,457 aggravated assaults known to law enforcement in 2012, 55.8 percent were cleared by arrest. In cities with more than 250,000 citizens, 47.7 percent were cleared by arrest. The percentage was 63.3 percent in cities with a population under 10,000 and 62.1 percent in suburban areas.¹⁴

Simple Assault

- The percentage of simple assault victimizations reported to the police in 2012 was 40 percent.¹⁵ From 2011 to 2012, the rate of violent crime reported by victims decreased by 15.5 percent. Simple assault rates increased by 18.2 percent.¹⁶

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2013), Table 15, accessed June 3, 2014, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s./2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/15tabledatadecpdf/table_15_additional_information_selected_offenses_2011_2012.xls.

¹² Ibid., Table 2, accessed June 3, 2014, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s./2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/2tabledatadecviewpdf/table_2_crime_in_the_united_states_by_community_type_2012.xls.

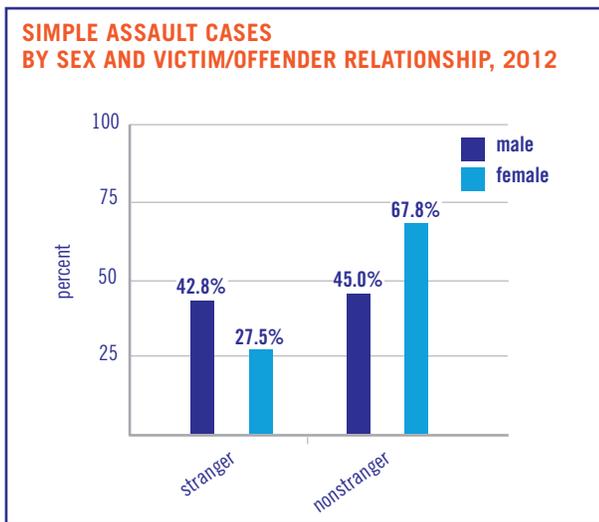
¹³ Ibid., Table 31, accessed September 30, 2014, <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s./2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/31tabledatadecpdf>.

¹⁴ Ibid., Table 25, accessed June 3, 2014, <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s./2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/table25>.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Truman, Langton, and Planty, *Criminal Victimization, 2012*, calculated using Table 1.

- From 2003 to 2012, the rate of simple assault reported by victims against persons age 12 years or older declined by 17.6 percent. The rate of simple assault in 2012 was 18.2 incidents per 1,000 persons; in 2003 it was 22.1 per 1,000 persons.¹⁷
- For simple assault, in cases where the victims indicated their relationship to the offender, males were victimized by a nonstranger in 45.0 percent of cases and by a stranger in 42.8 percent of cases. Females experienced simple assault by a nonstranger in 67.8 percent of cases and by a stranger in 27.5 percent of cases.¹⁸



- In simple assault cases reported by victims, 3.2 percent of males were victimized by an intimate partner, compared to 20.4 percent of females.¹⁹
- As reported by victims in 2012, the rate of simple assault against people of two or more races was 33.3 per 1,000 people. American Indians or Alaska Natives were assaulted at a rate of 20.7, Hispanics at a rate of 15.2, blacks (non-Hispanic) at a rate of 22.9, whites (non-Hispanic) at a rate of 18.5, and Asian or Pacific Islanders at a rate of 7.3 per 1,000 people.²⁰

- In 2012, 930,210 arrests were made for simple assault, a rate of 382.9 per 100,000 inhabitants.²¹

Assault Against Emergency Responders

- The rate of law enforcement officers assaulted in the line of duty was 10.2 assaults per 100 officers in 2012.²²
- Of all the officers who were assaulted in 2012, 32.5 percent were assaulted while responding to disturbance calls, 15.2 percent while attempting other arrests, and 13.6 percent while handling or transporting prisoners.²³
- In 2012, 80.2 percent of law enforcement officers who were assaulted were attacked with personal weapons (e.g., hands, fists, or feet), and 4.3 percent were assaulted with firearms. Of law enforcement officers who were assaulted, 27.7 percent sustained injuries.²⁴
- The largest percentage of assaults on officers in 2012, 15.2 percent, occurred between 12:01 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. This percentage is consistent with those in the previous 13 years.²⁵
- Of the officers who were assaulted in 2012, 64.1 percent were assigned to one-officer vehicle patrols, and 16.0 percent were assigned to two-officer vehicle patrols.²⁶

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Calculated from Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Number of Simple Assaults by Victim-Offender Relationship and Sex, 2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, accessed June 3, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat>.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid., Table 31, accessed November 5, 2014, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s./2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/31tabledatadecpdf/table_31_number_and_rate_of_arrests_by_population_group_2012.xls.

²² Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 2012*, (Washington, DC; U.S. Department of Justice, 2013), Table 65, accessed September 30, 2014, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/leoka/2012/tables/table_65_leos_asltd_region_and_geographic_division_2012.xls.

²³ Ibid., Table 68, accessed November 5, 2014, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/leoka/2012/tables/table_68_leos_asltd_circum_at_scene_of_incident_by_population_group_and_percent_cleared_2012.xls.

²⁴ Ibid., Table 73, accessed November 5, 2014, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/leoka/2012/tables/table_73_leos_asltd_circum_at_scene_of_incident_by_type_of_weapon_and_percent_distribution_2012.xls.

²⁵ Ibid., Table 67, accessed November 5, 2014, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/leoka/2012/tables/table_67_leos_asltd_time_of_incident_by_number_of_assaults_and_percent_distribution_2003-2012.xls.

²⁶ Ibid., Table 69, accessed November 5, 2014, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/leoka/2012/tables/table_69_leos_asltd_circum_at_scene_of_incident_by_type_of_assignment_and_percent_distribution_2012.xls.

- According to a study by the Emergency Nurses Association, 43 percent of emergency nurses reported having experienced only verbal abuse from a patient or visitor during a seven-day calendar period in which the nurses worked an average of 36.9 hours; 11 percent reported both physical abuse and verbal abuse; and 1 percent reported physical abuse alone.²⁷
- According to the same study, 62 percent of emergency room nurses who reported being victims of physical violence in the workplace experienced more than one incident of physical violence from a patient or visitor during a seven-day period.²⁸ ★



²⁷ Emergency Nurses Association, *Emergency Department Violence Surveillance Study*, (Des Plaines, IL: 2011), 16, accessed October 3, 2014, <http://www.ena.org/practice-research/research/Documents/ENAEDVSRReportNovember2011.pdf>.

²⁸ Ibid.