

# FAMILY VIOLENCE 5

## DEFINITION

The Texas Family Code defines Family Violence as an act by a member of a family or household against another member that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm. The law excludes the reasonable discipline of a child and defines abuse as physical injury that results in substantial harm or genuine threat; sexual contact, intercourse, or conduct; or compelling or encouraging the child to engage in sexual conduct.

By definition and for the purposes of family violence reports, 'family' includes individuals related by consanguinity (blood) or affinity, marriage or former marriage, biological parents of the same child, foster children, foster parents, and members or former members of the same household (including roommates). Senate Bill 68 of the 77th Legislature amended the Family Code to include "Dating Violence". The "Dating Relationship" means a relationship between individuals who have or have had a continuing relationship of a romantic or intimate nature.

## ANALYSIS

### Volume

The total number of Texas family violence incidents in 2017 was 195,315. This represented a 0.6% decrease when compared to 2016. These incidents involved 212,307 victims (down 3.4% from 2016) and 207,231 offenders (down 5.7% from 2016).

| 2017 FAMILY VIOLENCE QUICK STATS |         |         |          |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|
|                                  | 2017    | 2016    | % Change |
| Incidents                        | 195,315 | 196,564 | -0.6%    |
| Victims                          | 212,307 | 219,782 | -3.4%    |
| Offenders                        | 207,231 | 219,785 | -5.7%    |

## Victim/Offender Relationships

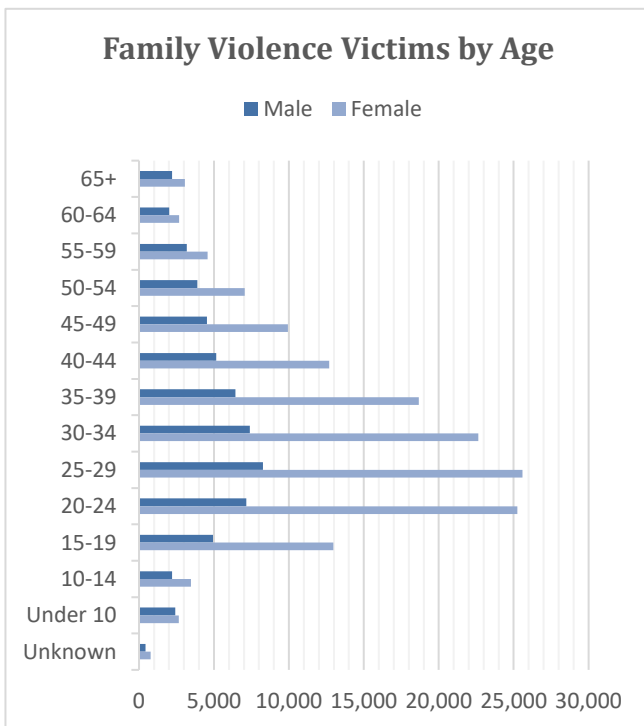
The largest percentage of family violence reports was between other family members. The second most commonly reported relationship among offenders and victims was married spouses and the third most common relationship was common law spouses.

| Relationship of Victim to Offender |         |                            |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| Type                               | Group % | Relationship of Victim     | Total % |
| Marital                            | 38.7%   | Husband                    | 4.3%    |
|                                    |         | Wife                       | 13.5%   |
|                                    |         | Common-Law Husband         | 3.4%    |
|                                    |         | Common-Law Wife            | 13.6%   |
|                                    |         | Ex-Husband                 | 0.9%    |
|                                    |         | Ex-Wife                    | 3.0%    |
| Parental / Child                   | 16.0%   | Father                     | 2.3%    |
|                                    |         | Mother                     | 5.8%    |
|                                    |         | Son                        | 2.2%    |
|                                    |         | Daughter                   | 3.2%    |
|                                    |         | Stepfather                 | 0.8%    |
|                                    |         | Stepmother                 | 0.3%    |
|                                    |         | Stepson                    | 0.6%    |
|                                    |         | Stepdaughter               | 0.7%    |
|                                    |         | Foster Parent              | 0.0%    |
|                                    |         | Foster Child               | 0.0%    |
| Other Family                       | 45.3%   | Grandfather                | 0.2%    |
|                                    |         | Grandmother                | 0.5%    |
|                                    |         | Grandson                   | 0.2%    |
|                                    |         | Granddaughter              | 0.3%    |
|                                    |         | Brother                    | 3.0%    |
|                                    |         | Sister                     | 3.7%    |
|                                    |         | Stepbrother                | 0.1%    |
|                                    |         | Stepsister                 | 0.1%    |
|                                    |         | Male Roommate              | 2.0%    |
|                                    |         | Female Roommate            | 3.8%    |
|                                    |         | Male In-Law                | 0.7%    |
|                                    |         | Female In-Law              | 1.0%    |
|                                    |         | Other Male Family Member   | 8.0%    |
|                                    |         | Other Female Family Member | 21.8%   |

**Victims**

Incidents of family violence in 2017 involved 212,307 victims. Of the victims whose sex was known, 28.4% were male and 71.6% were female. The age group with the highest number of victims was the 25-to-29 year-old bracket.

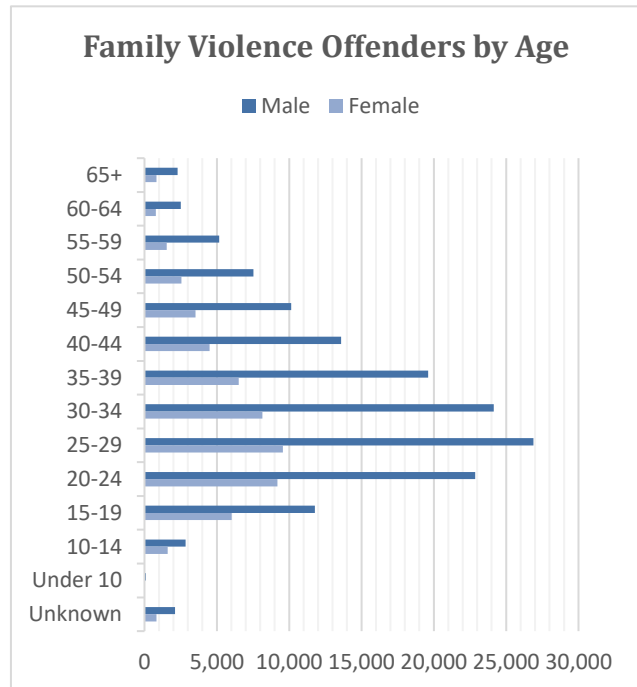
Of the victims whose ethnicity was known, 35.3% were Hispanic and 64.7% were not Hispanic. For the victims whose race was known, 68.3% were White, 29.5% were Black, and 2.2% were American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander. Of the number of White victims, 71.5% were female; 71.6% of Black victims were female; 74.3% of American Indian or Alaskan Native victims were female; and 73.5% of Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander victims were female.



**Offenders**

In 2017, 207,231 offenders were involved in incidents of family violence. Of the offenders whose sex was known, 73.1% were male and 26.9% were female. The age group showing the highest number of offenders was the 25-to-29 year-old bracket.

Of the offenders whose ethnicity was known, 36.0% were Hispanic and 64.0% were not Hispanic. Of the offenders whose race was known, 65.3% were White, 32.7% were Black, and 2.0% were American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander.



An examination of offenders by race and sex found that 73.1% of the White offenders were male, 73.1% of the Black offenders were male, 70.6% of the American Indian or Alaskan Native offenders were male, and 74.1% of Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander offenders were male.

**Officer Assaults**

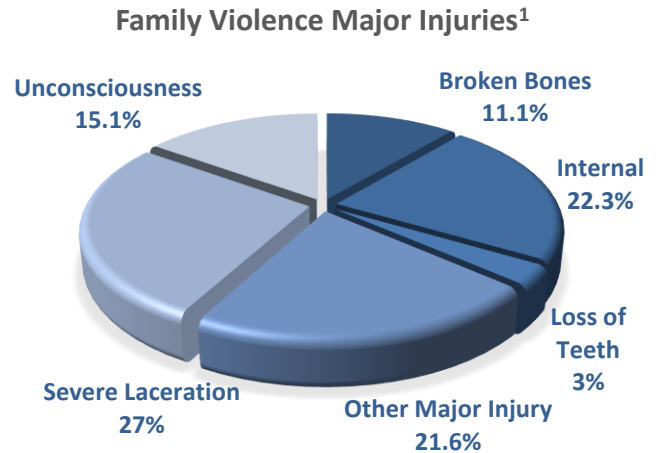
A serious problem inherent to police intervention and investigation of family violence incidents is the potential for law officers to be assaulted. In 2017, during the course of responding to family violence incidents, 180 Texas law officers were assaulted. During the same period, 4,553 assaults were made on law officers during all types of police activity.

**Offenses**

Offense information in the family violence program is collected according to federal UCR guidelines and does not necessarily conform to Texas state definitions. Complete offense definitions are available in the appendix to this publication. Family violence offense information falls into five general categories: assaults, homicides, kidnapping/abductions, robberies, and sex offenses. Of the five main categories, assaults accounted for 96.6% of all offenses. Information for each individual crime is represented in the chart on the next page.

| FAMILY VIOLENCE OFFENSES <sup>1</sup> |         |                                    |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Type                                  | Group % | Offense                            | Total % |
| Assaults                              | 96.6%   | Aggravated Assault                 | 14.4%   |
|                                       |         | Simple Assault                     | 74.8%   |
|                                       |         | Intimidation                       | 7.4%    |
| Homicides                             | 0.1%    | Murder & Nonnegligent Manslaughter | 0.1%    |
|                                       |         | Negligent Manslaughter             | 0.01%   |
|                                       |         | Justifiable Homicide               | 0.001%  |
| Kidnapping                            | 0.3%    | Kidnapping/Abduction               | 0.3%    |
| Robbery                               | 0.3%    | Robbery                            | 0.3%    |
| Sex Offenses                          | 2.6%    | Rape                               | 1.3%    |
|                                       |         | Sodomy                             | 0.2%    |
|                                       |         | Sexual Assault w/Object            | 0.1%    |
|                                       |         | Fondling                           | 0.9%    |
|                                       |         | Incest                             | 0.0%    |
|                                       |         | Statutory Rape                     | 0.1%    |

Of the apparent major injuries, 22.3% were due to Possible Internal Injuries, 27.0% were from Severe Lacerations, 21.6% from Other Major Injuries, 15.1% were from Unconsciousness, 11.1% from Broken Bones, and Loss of Teeth accounted for the remaining 3.0%.



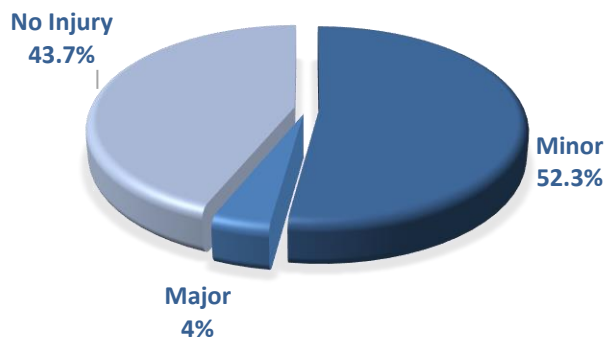
**Injuries**

For the purposes of this family violence report, the police officers who responded to disturbance calls determined the extent of injuries and all injuries were considered to be apparent injuries. If later medical attention indicated that the injuries were more or less severe than noted by the responding officer, this information is not included in the family violence report. The majority of reported injuries (52.3%) were considered to be minor injuries. In another 43.7% of family violence reports, 'no injury' was recorded. Major injuries were reported in 4.0% of the cases.

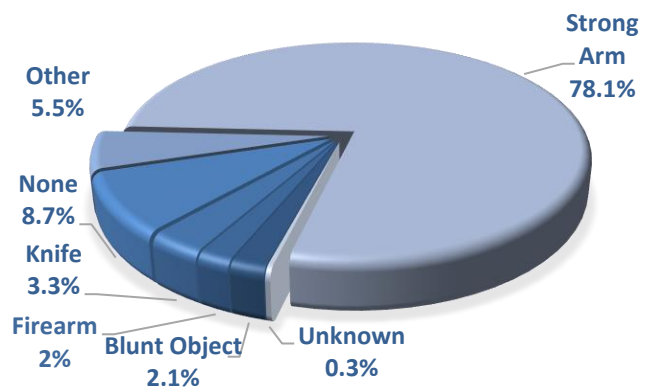
**Weapons**

The most common weapon involved in family violence cases was physical force through the use of hands, feet, and fists (strong-arm), which accounted for 78.1% of the incidents. The Texas Family Violence law considers the use of threats and intimidation to be serious enough to report and, thus, 8.7% of the reports were listed as involving no weapons. Knives or cutting instruments (3.3%), blunt objects (2.1%), firearms (2.0%), other weapons (5.5%), and unknown (0.3%) accounted for the remaining cases. Considered as other weapons were motor vehicles, poison, explosives, fire, drugs, unknown, and miscellaneous weapons.

**Type of Family Violence Injury**



**Weapons Used in Family Violence**



<sup>1</sup> All percentages rounded to the nearest tenth. Please be advised that due to rounding protocol, some graphs may reflect percentages that are slightly greater or less than 100%.