

FAMILY VIOLENCE

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DEFINITION

The Texas Family Code, Chapter 71.004, defines Family Violence as, “an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself”. 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 regardless of gender). 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 2018 was 197,023. This represented a 0.9% increase when compared to 2017. These incidents involved 212,885 victims (up 0.3% from 2017) and 207,360 offenders (up 0.1% from 2017).

2018 FAMILY VIOLENCE QUICK STATS			
	2018	2017	% Change
Incidents	197,023	195,315	0.9%
Victims	212,885	212,307	0.3%
Offenders	207,360	207,231	0.1%

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 ^{1,2}			
Type	Group %	Relationship of Victim	Total %
Marital	33.4%	Husband	4.2%
		Wife	13.1%
		Common-Law Husband	2.5%
		Common-Law Wife	9.5%
		Ex-Husband	0.9%
		Ex-Wife	3.2%
Parental / Child	16.4%	Father	2.3%
		Mother	6.1%
		Son	2.3%
		Daughter	3.2%
		Stepfather	0.8%
		Stepmother	0.3%
		Stepson	0.6%
		Stepdaughter	0.8%
		Foster Parent	0.0%
		Foster Child	0.0%
Other Family	50.2%	Grandfather	0.2%
		Grandmother	0.6%
		Grandson	0.1%
		Granddaughter	0.3%
		Brother	2.9%
		Sister	3.8%
		Stepbrother	0.1%
		Stepsister	0.2%
		Male Roommate	2.1%
		Female Roommate	3.6%
		Male In-Law	0.8%
		Female In-Law	1.0%
		Other Male Family Member	8.8%
		Other Female Family Member	25.6%

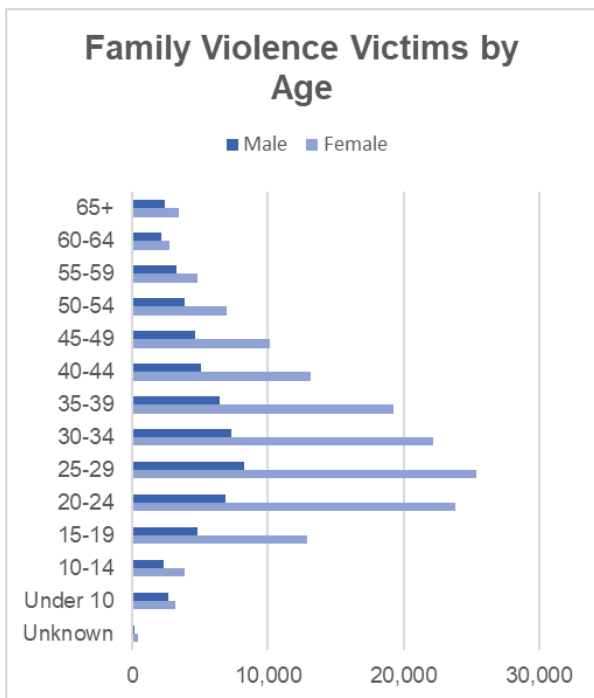
¹ All percentages rounded to the nearest tenth and every percentage below 0.1% are displayed as 0.0%. Please be advised that due to rounding protocol, some graphs may reflect percentages that are slightly greater than or less than 100% when totaled.

² The total percentages reflected in each category may not equal the group percentage listed due to raw data being captured prior to rounding protocol.

Victims

Incidents of family violence in 2018 involved 212,885 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.

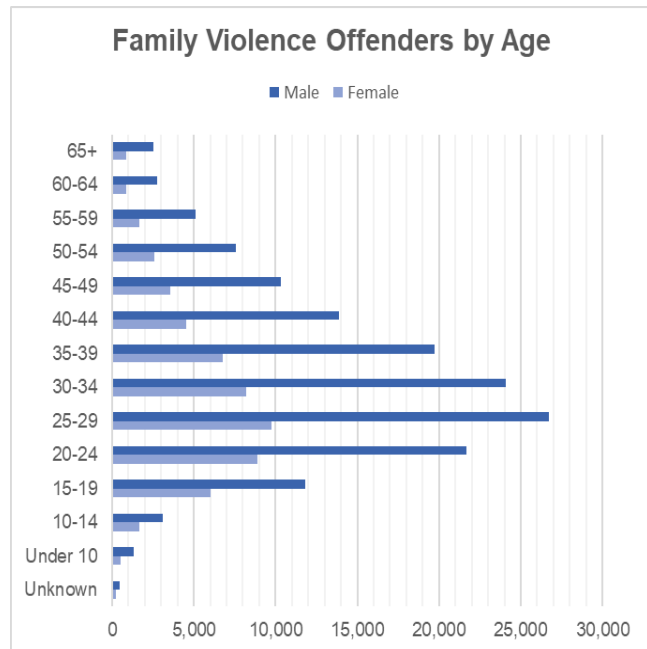
Of the victims whose ethnicity was known, 39.0% were Hispanic and 61.0% were not Hispanic. For the victims whose race was known, 68.5% were White, 28.9% were Black, and 2.6% were American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander. Of the number of White victims, 71.5% were female; 71.6% of Black victims were female; 76.5% of American Indian or Alaskan Native victims were female; and 73.3% of Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander victims were female.



Offenders

In 2018, 207,360 offenders were involved in incidents of family violence. Of the offenders whose sex was known, 72.9% were male and 27.1% 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, 39.2% were Hispanic and 60.8% were not Hispanic. Of the offenders whose race was known, 65.6% were White, 32.1% were Black, and 2.3% were American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander.



An examination of offenders by race and sex found that 72.8% of the White offenders were male, 73.2% of the Black offenders were male, 66.7% of the American Indian or Alaskan Native offenders were male, and 72.3% 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 2018, during the course of responding to family violence incidents, 143 Texas law officers were assaulted. During the same period, 4,617 assaults were made on law officers during all types of police activity.

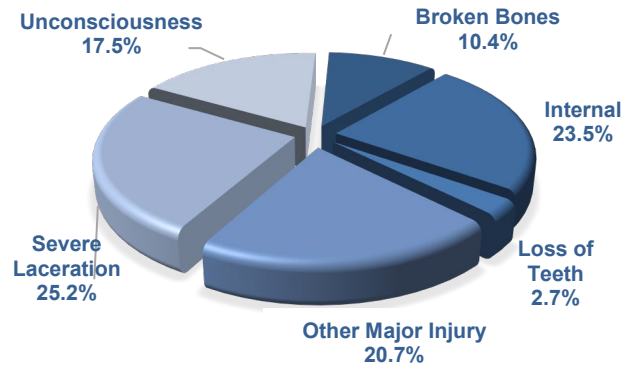
Offenses

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 96.0% of all offenses. Information for each individual crime is represented in the chart on the next page.

FAMILY VIOLENCE OFFENSES ^{1,2}			
Type	Group %	Offense	Total %
Assaults	96.0%	Aggravated Assault	13.2%
		Simple Assault	75.1%
		Intimidation	7.7%
Homicides	0.1%	Murder & Nonnegligent Manslaughter	0.1%
		Negligent Manslaughter	0.0%
		Justifiable Homicide	0.0%
Kidnapping	0.5%	Kidnapping/Abduction	0.5%
Robbery	0.4%	Robbery	0.4%
Sex Offenses	3.0%	Rape	1.5%
		Sodomy	0.3%
		Sexual Assault w/Object	0.2%
		Fondling	1.0%
		Incest	0.0%
		Statutory Rape	0.1%

Of the apparent major injuries, 23.5% were due to possible Internal Injuries, 25.2% were from Severe Lacerations, 20.7% from Other Major Injuries, 17.5% were from Unconsciousness, 10.4% from Broken Bones, and Loss of Teeth accounted for the remaining 2.7%.

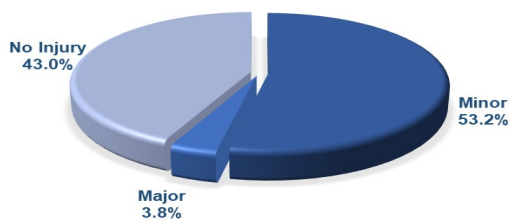
FAMILY VIOLENCE MAJOR INJURIES



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 (53.2%) were considered to be minor injuries. In another 43.0% of family violence reports, 'no injury' was recorded. Major injuries were reported in 3.8% of the cases.

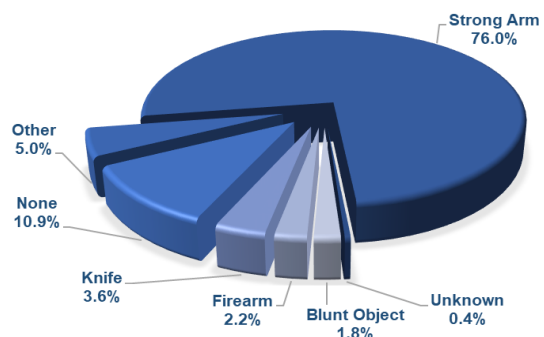
TYPE OF FAMILY VIOLENCE INJURY



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 76.0% of the incidents. The Texas Family Violence law considers the use of threats and intimidation to be serious enough to report and, thus, 10.9% of the reports were listed as involving no weapons. Knives or cutting instruments (3.6%), blunt objects (1.8%), firearms (2.2%), other weapons (5.0%), and unknown (0.4%) accounted for the remaining cases. Considered as other weapons were motor vehicles, poison, explosives, fire, drugs, unknown, and miscellaneous weapons.

WEAPONS USED IN FAMILY VIOLENCE¹



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