



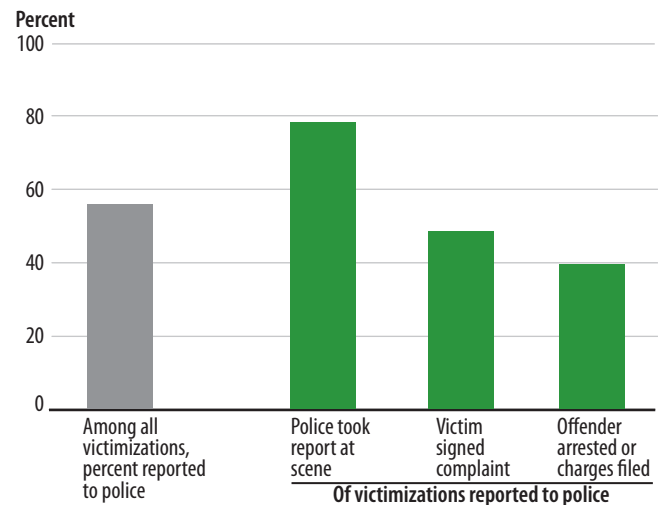
Police Response to Domestic Violence, 2006-2015

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An average of 1.3 million nonfatal domestic violence victimizations occurred annually in the United States during the 10-year aggregate period from 2006 to 2015. Police were notified of more than half (56%) of these victimizations (**figure 1**). When police responded to the scene, they took a report 78% of the time. The victim or other household member signed a criminal complaint against the offender in about half (48%) of victimizations reported to police. The offender was arrested or charges were filed in 39% of reported victimizations, either during the initial response or during the follow-up period.

This report primarily uses data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) for the 10-year aggregate period 2006-15 to examine the reporting of nonfatal domestic violence victimizations to police and police response to these victimizations. Nonfatal domestic violence includes serious violence (rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) and simple assaults committed by intimate partners, immediate family members, or other relatives.¹ Data are based on victims' descriptions of police actions during their initial response and any follow-up actions. This report also includes data on the prevalence of

FIGURE 1
Nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015



Note: See appendix table 9 for estimates and standard errors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

¹For offense definitions, see *Criminal Victimization, 2015* (NCJ 250180, BJS web, October 2016, p. 15) and *Terms and Definitions: Victims* on the BJS website.

HIGHLIGHTS

For nonfatal domestic violence victimizations occurring during the 10-year aggregate period from 2006-15—

- More than half (56%) of all victimizations were reported to police.
- Police responded to nearly two-thirds (64%) of reported victimizations in 10 minutes or less.
- Reasons victims did not report a victimization to police included personal privacy (32%), protecting the offender (21%), the crime was minor (20%), and fear of reprisal (19%).
- Female victimizations (24%) were four times as likely as male victimizations (6%) to go unreported due to fear of reprisal.
- Overall, the offender was arrested or charges were filed in 39% of victimizations reported to police.
- In 23% of reported victimizations, police arrested an offender during their initial response.
- The victim or other household member signed a criminal complaint against the offender in about half (48%) of victimizations reported to police.
- The offender was arrested or charges were filed in 89% of the victimizations reported to police where a victim was seriously injured and signed a criminal complaint.
- About 9 in 10 local police departments serving 250,000 or more residents operated a full-time domestic violence unit.

arrests or charges filed related to these domestic violence victimizations and on the role of signed criminal complaints. Unless otherwise noted, the comparisons in this report are significant at the 95% confidence level.

More than half of nonfatal domestic violence victimizations were known to police

During 2006-15, an estimated 56% of nonfatal domestic violence victimizations were reported or otherwise known to police (table 1).^{2,3} Reporting rates were the same for victimizations involving an intimate partner (spouse, former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend) as for other

²Police became aware of about 2% of victimizations through means other than someone reporting it to them. These are included as reported victimizations.

³In this report, police refers to any law enforcement agency responding to a domestic violence victimization. The agency or agencies responding to a victimization may have included a state police agency, local police department, sheriff's office, special jurisdiction agency (such as campus police), or another type of law enforcement agency.

TABLE 1
Average annual number of nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of victimizations	Victimizations reported to police	
		Average annual number	Percent of all victimizations
All victimizations	1,314,593	732,839	56%
Intimate partner	889,012	494,434	56
Other relation	425,580	238,405	56
Serious violence*	476,432	267,344	56%
Intimate partner	323,388	177,270	55
Other relation	153,044	90,074	59
Simple assault	838,161	465,495	56%
Intimate partner	565,625	317,164	56
Other relation	272,536	148,331	54

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Data on whether police were informed were available for 99% of victimizations. Includes victimizations that police became aware of through other means and when police were already at the scene. Intimate partner includes current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Other relation includes immediate family (except spouses) and other relatives. See appendix table 10 for standard errors.

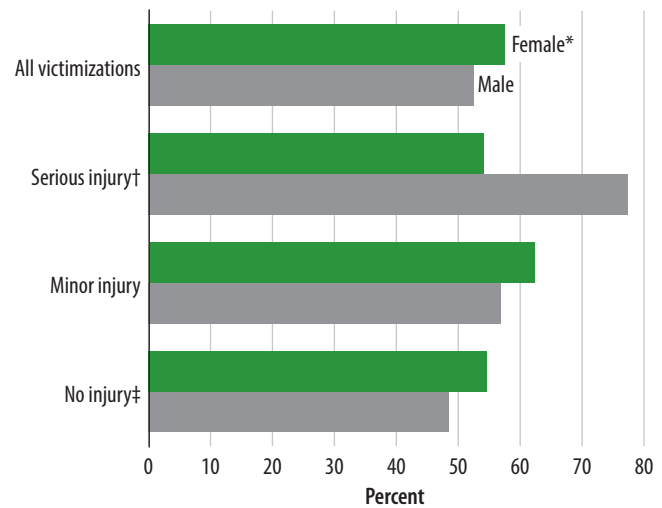
*Includes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

victim-offender relationships (parent, child, sibling, or any other relative except spouses). Reporting rates were also the same for victimizations involving serious violence as for those involving simple assault. (See appendix table 3 for more information on reporting rates.)

Female victimizations involving a serious injury (54%) were reported to police at about the same rate as victimizations with no injury (55%) (figure 2). A greater percentage of male victimizations were reported to police when a serious injury was involved (77%), compared to when there was a minor injury (57%) or no injury (49%).

FIGURE 2
Nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by severity of injury and sex of victim, 2006–2015



Note: See appendix table 11 for estimates and standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Male victimizations are significantly different from the female comparison group at 95% confidence level.

‡Male victimizations are significantly different from the female comparison group at 90% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

The victim reported the incident to police in about three-quarters (76%) of reported victimizations (table 2). This was more often the case when the victimization involved intimate partners (80%) than other victim-offender relationships (68%). An additional 10% of victimizations reported to police came from a household member other than the victim. An estimated 15% of reports originated outside the household, including 4% from an official such as a security guard or a school administrator.

An annual average of about 582,000 domestic violence victimizations went unreported during 2006-15

During 2006-15, an annual average of about 716,000 nonfatal domestic violence victimizations were reported or otherwise known to police, compared to about 582,000 victimizations that went unreported. In about a third (32%) of the victimizations not reported to police, victims cited the personal nature of the incident as a reason for not doing so (table 3). About a fifth of victimizations were not reported because the victim wanted to protect the offender (21%), felt the crime was minor or unimportant (20%), or feared reprisal from the offender or others (19%).

TABLE 2
Person reporting nonfatal domestic violence victimizations to police, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of reported victimizations	Total	Member of household		Not a member of household	
			Victim	Other	Official ^a	Other
All victimizations	716,429	100%	76%	10%	4%	11%
Intimate partner*	483,469	100%	80	5	4	11
Other relation	232,961	100%	68 †	19 †	2 †	11
Serious violence^b	264,388	100%	75%	10%	4%	11%
Intimate partner*	175,356	100%	78	6	5	10
Other relation	89,032	100%	67 †	18 †	1 †	14
Simple assault	452,041	100%	77%	10%	3%	11%
Intimate partner*	308,113	100%	80	5	4	11
Other relation	143,928	100%	69 †	20 †	2 †	9

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Table excludes victimizations that police became aware of through other means and when police were already at the scene. Data on persons reporting incident to police were available for 98% of victimizations. Intimate partner includes current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Other relation includes immediate family (except spouses) and other relatives. See appendix table 12 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison group at 90% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or the coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aExcludes police.

^bIncludes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

TABLE 3
Reasons cited by victims for not reporting nonfatal domestic violence victimizations to police, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of unreported victimizations	Personal matter	Protect offender	Crime was minor or unimportant	Fear of reprisal	Inefficient or biased police
All victimizations	581,754	32%	21%	20%	19%	8%
Intimate partner*	394,578	29	19	22	22	9
Other relation	187,176	40 †	25 ‡	16 †	13 †	5 †
Serious violence^a	209,088	32%	22%	17%	31%	11%
Intimate partner*	146,117	32	17	20	33	13
Other relation	62,970	34	31 †	12 †	25 †	7 †
Simple assault	372,666	32%	21%	22%	13%	5%
Intimate partner*	248,461	27	20	24	16	7
Other relation	124,206	43 †	22	18 ‡	6 †	3 †

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. At least one reason was provided for 98% of victimizations not reported to police. Victims may have cited more than one reason. List of reasons included is not exhaustive. Intimate partner includes current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Other relation includes immediate family (except spouses) and other relatives. See appendix table 13 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison group at 90% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or the coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

Measuring domestic violence with the National Crime Victimization Survey

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) collects information on nonfatal crimes, both reported and not reported to police, against persons age 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. The survey collects information on personal crimes (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, and personal larceny) and household property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and other theft).

The domestic violence victimizations analyzed in this report were categorized as either serious violence (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault) or simple assault. The victimizations were also grouped into two categories of victim-offender relationships: those involving an intimate partner (current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend) and those involving other domestic victim-offender relationships (parent, child, sibling, or any other relative except spouses). Additional violent victimizations captured by the NCVS involving acquaintances or strangers did not fall under the definition of domestic violence and were excluded.

According to the NCVS, an annual average of 2.1 million victimizations involving serious violence and 4.1 million victimizations involving simple assault occurred during the 10-year aggregate period from 2006-15. When the victim-offender relationship was known (91%), about a quarter of violent victimizations were classified as domestic violence regardless of whether they involved serious violence (25%) or simple assault (23%) (table 4). Victimizations involving serious violence were more likely to be domestic violence when the victim was female (38%) than when the victim was male (12%). Female victims (27%) of serious violence were about four times as likely as male victims (7%) to have been victimized by an intimate partner. Similar patterns were observed for simple assault victimizations.⁴

⁴For more information on the characteristics of domestic violence, see appendix table 1 and *Nonfatal Domestic Violence, 2003-2012* (NCJ 244697, BJS web, April 2014) or the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool on the BJS website.

TABLE 4
Violent crime victimizations, by level of violence and sex of victim, 2006–2015

Type of violent crime victimization	Average annual number of violent crime victimizations with known victim-offender relationships ^a	Domestic violence			Not domestic violence
		Total	Intimate partner ^b	Other relation ^c	
Serious violence^d	1,900,249	25%	17%	8%	75%
Female victim*	971,635	38	27	11	62
Male victim	928,614	12 †	7 †	5 †	88 †
Simple assault	3,692,725	23%	16%	7%	77%
Female victim*	1,836,824	35	26	9	65
Male victim	1,855,901	11 †	5 †	6 †	89 †

Note: See appendix table 14 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

^aIn 9% of the violent crime victimizations occurring annually, the victim-offender relationship was unknown, and it could not be determined if domestic violence was involved.

^bIncludes current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends.

^cIncludes immediate family (except spouses) and other relatives.

^dIncludes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

About a quarter (24%) of female victims who did not report an incident cited fear of reprisal as a reason

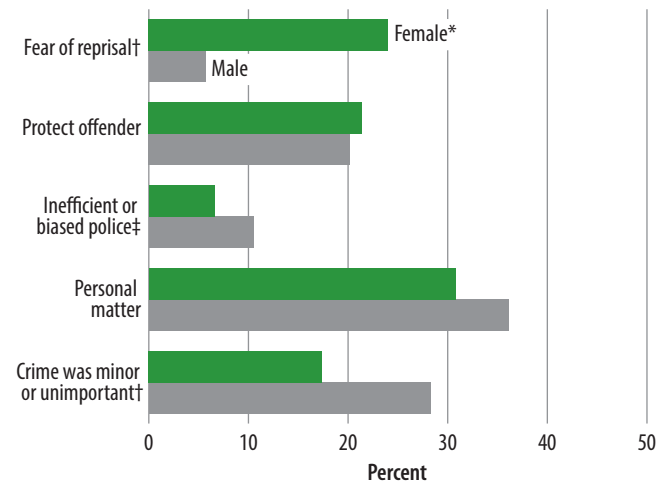
Overall, domestic violence victimizations involving serious violence (31%) were more likely than victimizations involving simple assault (13%) to go unreported due to fear of reprisal. Regardless of the severity of the incident, female victimizations (24%) were four times as likely as male victimizations (6%) to go unreported to police due to fear of reprisal (figure 3). Male victimizations (28%) were more likely than female victimizations (17%) to go unreported to police because the victim felt the crime was minor or unimportant.

Police responded to most reported nonfatal domestic violence victimizations within 10 minutes of notification

In about 7% of reported domestic violence victimizations, the victim went to police rather than have police come to them. In another 7% of victimizations, the victim said police did not come when informed.⁵ For the remaining victimizations, police responded to the scene within 10 minutes of being notified nearly two-thirds (64%) of the time (table 5). The percentage of police responses that occurred within 10 minutes was about the same for victimizations involving serious violence (65%) as those involving simple assault (64%). Victims reported that nearly all (94%) police responses occurred within an hour.

⁵Victimizations that police did not respond to, or that they responded to slowly, may not have required an immediate response because, in some instances, the victimization reported may have occurred days or weeks prior to police being notified. This cannot be determined from the NCVS.

FIGURE 3
Reasons for not reporting a nonfatal domestic violence victimization to police, by sex of victim, 2006–2015



Note: Victims may have given more than one reason for not reporting a victimization. See appendix table 15 for estimates and standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Male victimizations are significantly different from the female comparison group at 95% confidence level.

‡Male victimizations are significantly different from the female comparison group at 90% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

TABLE 5
Police response times for nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of reported victimizations	Total	10 minutes or less	More than 10 minutes but within 1 hour	More than 1 hour
All victimizations	572,660	100%	64%	30%	6%
Intimate partner*	371,309	100%	64	30	7
Other relation	201,351	100%	65	31	4
Serious violence^a	214,628	100%	65%	30%	5%
Intimate partner*	135,290	100%	59	34	7
Other relation	79,338	100%	74 †	23 †	3 †‡
Simple assault	358,033	100%	64%	30%	6%
Intimate partner*	236,019	100%	67	27	7
Other relation	122,013	100%	59 ‡	36 †	5

Note: Response time is measured as time elapsed from notification to response. Excludes 7% of victims who went to police to report victimization rather than have police come to them, and 7% of victims who said police did not come when informed of the victimization. Data on response time were available for 99% of all other victimizations. Intimate partner includes current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Other relation includes immediate family (except spouses) and other relatives. See appendix table 16 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison group at 90% confidence level.

! Interpret with caution. Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or the coefficient of variation is greater than 50%.

^aIncludes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

According to victims, the most common police action during their initial response was to take a report (78%) (table 6). Police questioned persons during 36% of their initial responses. Less frequently, they conducted a search (14%) or collected evidence (11%).

Police arrested the offender in 23% of initial responses to nonfatal domestic violence victimizations

Police arrested the offender during about a quarter (23%) of their initial responses to nonfatal domestic violence victimizations (table 7).⁶ In some cases, police may not have been able to make an arrest during an initial response, whether mandatory or discretionary, because the offender was not present at the scene. Initial arrest rates were about the same whether the victimization involved serious violence (24%) or simple assault (23%). The offender was arrested slightly more often for victimizations involving intimate partners (25%) than for other victim-offender relationships (20%) (90% confidence interval).

⁶Some states and localities have mandatory or pro-arrest policies related to domestic violence. These policies may include special conditions for when an incident involves intimate partner violence, commission of a felony, or a protection order violation.

TABLE 7
Arrests made during initial police response to nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of victimizations reported to police	Percent of initial responses that included arrest
All victimizations	656,758	23%
Intimate partner*	437,036	25
Other relation	219,721	20 ‡
Serious violence^a	242,812	24%
Intimate partner*	156,517	26
Other relation	86,295	19 †
Simple assault	413,945	23%
Intimate partner*	280,519	24
Other relation	133,426	20

Note: Data on whether police made an arrest during initial response were available for 99% of victimizations. Intimate partner includes current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Other relation includes immediate family (except spouses) and other relatives. See appendix table 18 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison group at 90% confidence level.

^aIncludes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

TABLE 6
Police actions during initial response to nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of victimizations reported to police	Took report	Questioned persons	Conducted search	Collected evidence
All victimizations	656,758	78%	36%	14%	11%
Intimate partner*	437,036	79	32	17	12
Other relation	219,721	75	43 †	8 †	7 †
Serious violence^a	242,812	82%	33%	20%	13%
Intimate partner*	156,517	83	32	25	16
Other relation	86,295	79	35	11 †	6 †
Simple assault	413,945	76%	37%	11%	9%
Intimate partner*	280,519	77	32	13	10
Other relation	133,426	73	48 †	6 †	8

Note: Data on police action taken during initial response were available for 99% of victimizations. List of actions taken is not exhaustive. Intimate partner includes current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Other relation includes immediate family (except spouses) and other relatives. See appendix table 17 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

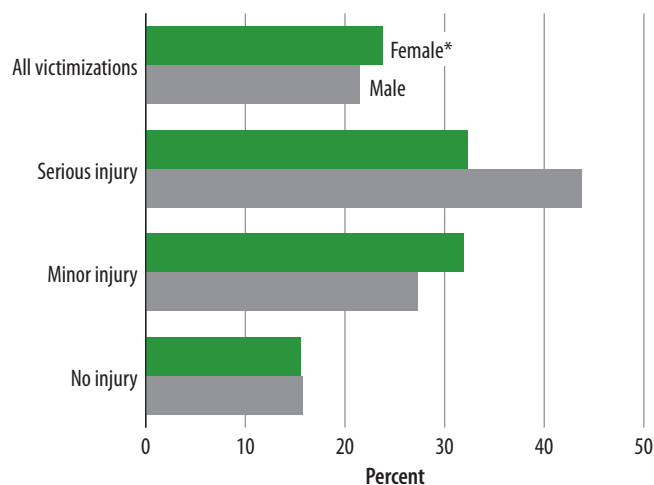
†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

^aIncludes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

When domestic violence victimization involved a female victim, the offender was arrested during the initial police response 32% of the time when the victim was seriously injured, compared to 16% of the time when the victim was uninjured (**figure 4**). When the victimization involved a male victim, the offender was arrested during the initial police response 44% of the time when the victim was seriously injured, compared to 16% of the time when the victim was uninjured.

FIGURE 4
Offender arrested during initial police response to nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by severity of injury and sex of victim, 2006–2015



Note: See appendix table 19 for estimates and standard errors. There were no statistically significant differences detected between males and females across any of the injury categories.

*Comparison group.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

About half of reported nonfatal domestic violence victimizations resulted in a signed criminal complaint

During 2006–15, the victim or other household member signed a criminal complaint against the offender in about half (48%) of nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police (**table 8**). A criminal complaint was usually filed by the prosecutor in cooperation with police, and in some cases the victim, to begin court proceedings. Signed complaints were obtained more often when the victimization involved intimate partners (52%) than when it involved other victim-offender relationships (40%). Complaints were also more likely when the victimization involved serious violence (56%) than when it involved simple assault (44%). (See appendix table 5 for more information on signed criminal complaints.)

TABLE 8
Signed criminal complaints obtained in nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of victimizations reported to police	Percent resulting in signed complaint
All victimizations	728,255	48%
Intimate partner*	492,186	52
Other relation	236,069	40 †
Serious violence^a	266,267	56%
Intimate partner*	176,193	60
Other relation	90,074	47 †
Simple assault	461,988	44%
Intimate partner*	315,993	48
Other relation	145,995	36 †

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Data on whether a signed complaint was obtained were available for 99% of victimizations known to police. Intimate partner includes current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Other relation includes immediate family (except spouses) and other relatives. See appendix table 20 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

^aIncludes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

Signed criminal complaints were obtained in 51% of female victimizations, compared to 38% of male victimizations (figure 5). About three-fifths of female victims signed a complaint when they received a serious or minor injury, compared to fewer than half of those who were uninjured. When a serious injury was involved, female victims (58%) were nearly twice as likely as male victims (32%) to sign a criminal complaint.

Police took follow-up action in a third of nonfatal domestic violence victimizations

In addition to contact with police during their initial response to the victimization, an estimated 40% of victims had contact with police at a later date about the same victimization (table 9). In about a third (34%) of victimizations, police took specific follow-up actions during this later contact, such as taking a report, questioning persons, conducting a search, collecting evidence, or making an arrest. Police follow-up was more common with victimizations involving intimate partners (36%) than with other victim-offender relationships (30%) (90% confidence interval).

Police arrested the offender as part of their follow-up response in about 10% of victimizations. Police arrested the offender when following up with 12% of the victimizations involving intimate partners, compared to 6% of the victimizations involving other victim-offender relationships.

FIGURE 5
Complaint signed by victim or other household member in nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by severity of injury and sex of victim, 2006–2015



Note: See appendix table 21 for estimates and standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Male victimizations are significantly different from the female comparison group at 95% confidence level.

‡Male victimizations are significantly different from the female comparison group at 90% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

TABLE 9
Police follow-up response to nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of victimizations reported to police	Had later contact with victim	Took follow-up actions	Made arrest during follow-up
All victimizations	721,409	40%	34%	10%
Intimate partner*	489,837	43	36	12
Other relation	231,572	34 †	30 ‡	6 †
Serious violence^a	261,891	44%	36%	10%
Intimate partner*	174,906	48	37	12
Other relation	86,985	37 †	34	6 †
Simple assault	459,518	38%	33%	10%
Intimate partner*	314,931	40	35	12
Other relation	144,587	32 †	28 †	7 †

Note: Data on later police contact with victim was available for 98% of victimizations reported to police. Police follow-up response may have included one or more of the following actions: taking a report, questioning persons, conducting surveillance, recovering property, making an arrest, or other unspecified action. Intimate partner includes current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Other relation includes immediate family (except spouses) and other relatives. See appendix table 22 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison group at 90% confidence level.

^aIncludes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

Nearly all local police departments serving 250,000 or more residents operated a full-time specialized unit for domestic violence

In 2013, about 9 in 10 sheriffs' offices (92%) and local police departments (89%) and 7 in 10 state law enforcement agencies (such as state police and highway patrol agencies) formally addressed domestic violence with a specialized unit, other dedicated personnel, policies, procedures, or training (table 10). Overall, about half (47%) of state and local law enforcement agencies employing 100 or more full-time sworn personnel operated a full-time domestic violence unit in 2013, which was the same proportion as in 2003 (not shown).

Specialized domestic violence units often consist of detectives and counselors or social workers and serve various roles, including—

- investigating serious domestic violence cases
- interacting with service and treatment agencies to prevent further violence

- assisting victims
- training officers, victims, and community members
- acting as a liaison for officers.

Larger agencies were the most likely to operate a specialized domestic violence unit. In 2013, 9 in 10 (90%) local police departments serving a population of 250,000 or more operated a domestic violence unit with personnel assigned full time. About 4 in 10 sheriffs' offices serving 250,000 or more residents (40%) and local police departments serving 50,000 to 249,999 residents (41%) had a full-time domestic violence unit. About 2 in 10 state law enforcement agencies had a domestic violence unit with personnel assigned full time (14%) or part time (5%).

TABLE 10
State and local law enforcement agencies with a specialized domestic violence unit, 2013

Type of law enforcement agency and population served	Number of agencies	Total	Agency has specialized unit with—		Agency addresses but does not have specialized unit		Agency does not formally address
			Full-time personnel	Part-time personnel	Dedicated personnel	Policies, procedures, or training only	
Local police departments	12,326	100%	11%	6%	14%	58%	11%
250,000 or more	104	100%	90	1	2	7	0
50,000–249,999	669	100%	41	9	26	22	2
10,000–49,999	2,858	100%	11	9	23	52	5
9,999 or fewer	8,695	100%	8	4	11	64	13
Sheriffs' offices	3,012	100%	17%	5%	18%	52%	8%
250,000 or more	211	100%	40	9	24	22	4
50,000–249,999	702	100%	19	8	22	47	5
10,000–49,999	1,471	100%	15	4	17	55	9
9,999 or fewer	628	100%	11	1	16	62	11
Primary state agencies	50	100%	14%	5%	14%	39%	30%

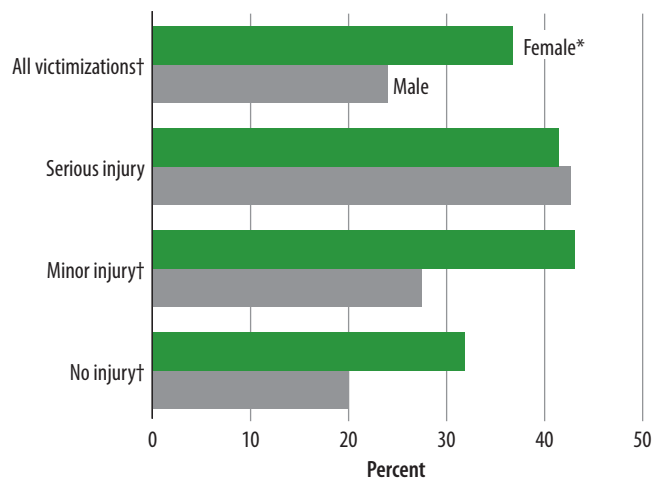
Note: See appendix table 23 for standard errors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics Survey, 2013.

Police were more likely to follow up on nonfatal domestic violence victimizations involving injuries

After the initial contact, police followed up with about 4 in 10 reported nonfatal domestic violence victimizations involving a serious injury, regardless of whether the victim was female (42%) or male (43%) (figure 6). Police follow-up was more likely to occur with female victimizations than male victimizations when there was a minor injury (43% for female compared to 28% for male) or no injury (32% compared to 20%).

FIGURE 6
Police follow-up with nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by severity of injury and sex of victim, 2006–2015

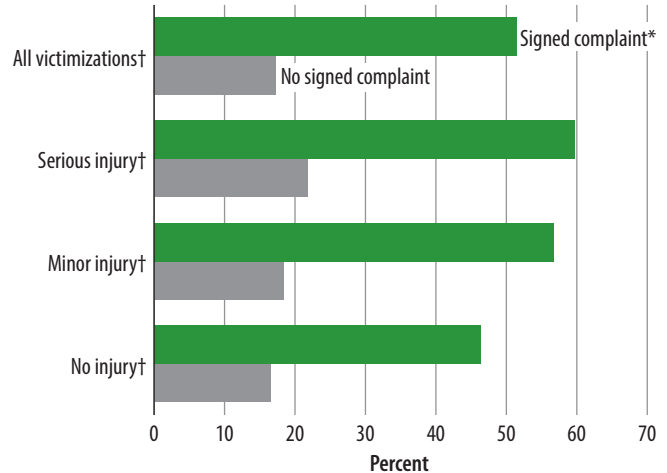


Note: See appendix table 24 for estimates and standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Male victimizations are significantly different from the female comparison group at 95% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

Police followed up with about half of nonfatal domestic violence victimizations that included a signed complaint

When a victim or other household member signed a criminal complaint against an offender, police followed up 52% of the time (figure 7). In comparison, police followed up with 17% of victimizations without a signed complaint. Police were more likely to follow up with victimizations for which a signed complaint was obtained than those without a signed complaint, regardless of whether the victim was seriously injured (60% with a complaint compared to 22% without), received a minor injury (57% compared to 18%), or was not injured (46% compared to 17%).

FIGURE 7
Police follow-up with nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by whether a signed complaint was obtained and severity of injury, 2006–2015



Note: See appendix table 25 for estimates and standard errors.
*Comparison group.
†Victimizations with no signed complaint are significantly different from the signed complaint comparison group at 95% confidence level.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

The offender was arrested or charges were filed in about 2 in 5 nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police

In an estimated 39% of domestic violence victimizations reported to police, the offender had been arrested or charges were filed by the time of the NCVS interview (table 11).⁷ Arrests or filed charges were more likely for victimizations involving intimate partners (42%) than other victim-offender relationships (33%). Arrests or filed charges occurred in about two-fifths of victimizations whether they involved serious violence (42%) or simple assault (38%). (See appendix table 7 for more information on offenders arrested or charges were filed.)

⁷For all victimizations included in the analysis, the median time from incident to interview was about 4 months. See *Methodology*.

TABLE 11
Arrest or charges filed in nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of victimizations reported to police	Percent resulting in arrest or charges filed
All victimizations	704,493	39%
Intimate partner*	472,409	42
Other relation	232,084	33 †
Serious violence ^a	261,841	42%
Intimate partner*	173,961	43
Other relation	87,880	40
Simple assault	442,652	38%
Intimate partner*	298,448	42
Other relation	144,203	29 †

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Data on whether there was an arrest or charges filed were available for 96% of victimizations. Intimate partner includes current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Other relation includes immediate family (except spouses) and other relatives. See appendix table 26 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

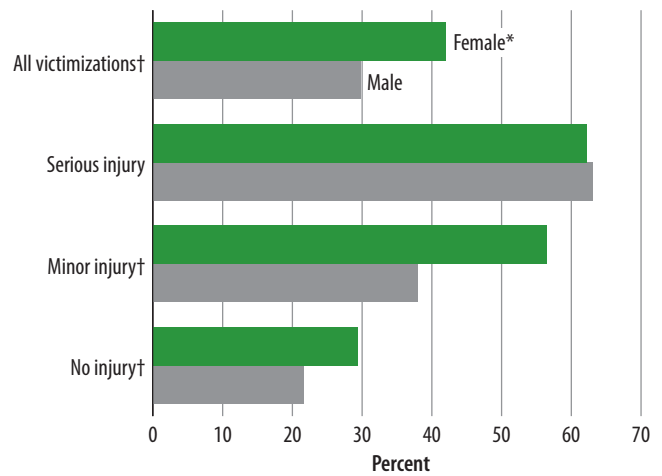
^aIncludes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

Offenders who seriously injured the victim were more likely than other offenders to be arrested or charged

In a majority of nonfatal domestic violence victimizations that involved serious victim injury, the offender was arrested or charges were filed whether the victim was female (62%) or male (63%) (figure 8). The offender was arrested or charges were filed when the victim was female in more than half (56%) of the victimizations that involved a minor injury, compared to 38% of the victimizations when the victim was male. When there was no victim injury, the offender was arrested or charges were filed in 29% of the victimizations involving a female victim, compared to 22% of those involving a male victim.

FIGURE 8
Arrest or charges filed related to nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by severity of injury and sex of victim, 2006–2015



Note: See appendix table 27 for estimates and standard errors.

*Comparison group.

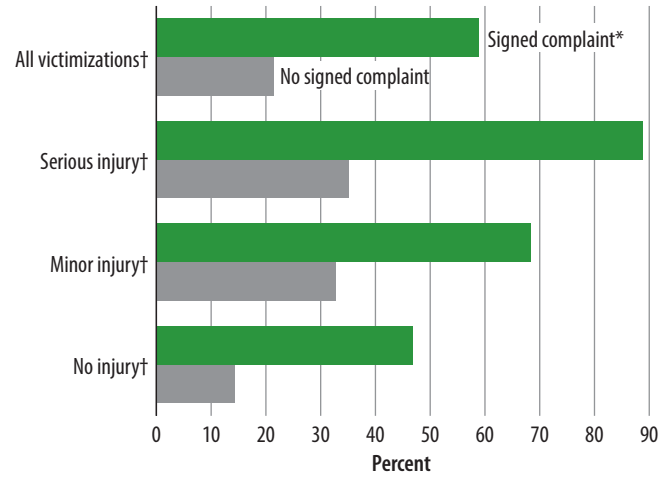
†Victimizations with no signed complaint are significantly different from the signed complaint comparison group at 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

About 9 in 10 offenders were arrested or charged when the victim was seriously injured and signed a complaint

Among nonfatal domestic violence victimizations, offenders were arrested or charges were filed 59% of the time when the victim or other household member signed a criminal complaint against the offender, compared to 21% of the time when they did not sign a complaint (figure 9). When the victim was seriously injured, the offender was arrested or charges were filed in 89% of the cases with a signed complaint, compared to 35% of the cases without a complaint. When the victim was uninjured, an arrest was made or a charge was filed in 47% of the cases with a complaint, compared to 14% of the cases without.

FIGURE 9
Arrest or charges filed related to nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by severity of injury and whether a signed complaint was obtained, 2006–2015



Note: See appendix table 28 for estimates and standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Male victimizations are significantly different from the female comparison group at 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

About half of local police departments and a third of sheriffs' offices serving 250,000 or more residents operated a full-time victim assistance unit

Victim assistance is an important part of the response to domestic violence for many law enforcement agencies. Data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics survey indicated that, in 2013, about 8 in 10 sheriffs' offices (82%) and local police departments (79%) formally addressed victim assistance through a specialized unit, other dedicated personnel, policies, procedures, or training. About two-thirds (66%) of state law enforcement agencies did so (table 12).

As with domestic violence units, larger agencies were the most likely to operate a specialized victim assistance unit. In 2013, about half (49%) of local police departments serving a

population of 250,000 or more operated a victim assistance unit with personnel assigned full time. About a third of sheriffs' offices serving 250,000 or more residents (32%) and local police departments serving 50,000 to 249,999 residents (29%) had a victim assistance unit with full-time personnel. A quarter (25%) of state law enforcement agencies operated such a unit. Overall, 36% of state and local law enforcement agencies employing 100 or more full-time sworn personnel operated a full-time victim assistance unit in 2013, compared to 33% in 2003 (not shown).

TABLE 12

State and local law enforcement agencies with a specialized unit for victim assistance, 2013

Type of law enforcement agency and population served	Number of agencies	Total	Agency has specialized unit with—		Agency addresses but does not have specialized unit		Agency does not formally address
			Full-time personnel	Part-time personnel	Dedicated personnel	Policies, procedures, or training only	
Local police departments	12,326	100%	8%	4%	10%	56%	21%
250,000 or more	104	100%	49	3	16	27	6
50,000–249,999	669	100%	29	10	16	30	15
10,000–49,999	2,858	100%	8	6	18	53	15
9,999 or fewer	8,695	100%	6	3	8	60	23
Sheriffs' offices	3,012	100%	14%	4%	16%	47%	18%
250,000 or more	211	100%	32	6	16	27	18
50,000–249,999	702	100%	20	6	16	42	17
10,000–49,999	1,471	100%	12	3	15	50	20
9,999 or fewer	628	100%	8	3	19	55	15
Primary state agencies	50	100%	25%	0%	5%	36%	34%

Note: See appendix table 29 for standard errors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics Survey, 2013.

Continued on next page

About half of local police departments and a third of sheriffs' offices serving 250,000 or more residents operated a full-time victim assistance unit (continued)

Domestic violence victimizations that were reported to police were about twice as likely to result in assistance from victim service agency

Victim service agencies in the community provide assistance to domestic violence victims, often in addition to that provided by law enforcement. In some areas, these agencies may be the only source of such assistance. Like specialized units operated by law enforcement, victim service agencies provide victims with support and services to aid their physical and emotional recovery, offer protection from future victimizations, guide them through the criminal justice process, and assist them in obtaining restitution.⁸

During the 10-year aggregate period from 2006-15, an estimated 21% of domestic violence victimizations, or about 280,000 per year, resulted in a victim receiving assistance from a victim service agency (table 13). Those who reported their victimization to police were about twice as likely to receive assistance (28%) from a victim service agency as those who did not report (13%). Domestic violence victims received assistance more often when an incident involved an intimate partner (24%) than when it involved other victim-offender relationships (16%).

⁸For more information on victim service agencies, see *Use of Victim Service Agencies by Victims of Serious Violent Crime, 1993-2009* (NCJ 234212, BJS web, August 2011).

TABLE 13
Domestic violence victimizations in which assistance from a victim service agency was received, by type of crime, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Total		Reported to police		Not reported to police	
	Average annual number ^a	Percent receiving assistance	Average annual number	Percent receiving assistance	Average annual number	Percent receiving assistance
All victimizations	1,311,634	21%	726,371	28%	577,437	13%
Intimate partner*	890,789	24	490,605	30	394,262	15
Other relation	420,845	16 †	235,766	24 †	183,176	8 †
Serious violence^b	472,317	24%	265,790	27%	205,610	19%
Intimate partner*	323,425	26	176,390	30	146,117	23
Other relation	148,892	18 †	89,400	23 ‡	59,492	9 †
Simple assault	839,317	20%	460,581	29%	371,828	10%
Intimate partner*	567,364	22	314,215	31	248,144	11
Other relation	271,953	16 †	146,366	24 †	123,684	7 †

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. Data on whether victim used a victim service agency were available for 99% of victimizations. Intimate partner includes current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Other relation includes immediate family (except spouses) and other relatives. See appendix table 30 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison group at 90% confidence level.

^aTotal includes victimizations for which it was unknown if they were reported to police.

^bIncludes rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

Methodology

Survey coverage

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is an annual data collection conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The NCVS is a self-report survey in which persons are asked about the number and characteristics of victimizations they experienced in the preceding 6 months. The NCVS collects information on nonfatal personal crimes (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, and personal larceny) and household property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and other theft) both reported and not reported to police. Because the NCVS is based on interviews with victims, it does not measure homicide.

The NCVS is administered to persons age 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of households in the United States. The NCVS defines a household as a group of members who all reside at a sampled address. Persons are considered household members when the sampled address is their usual place of residence at the time of the interview and when they have no usual place of residence elsewhere. It includes persons living in group quarters, such as dormitories, rooming houses, and religious group dwellings, but excludes persons living in military barracks and institutional settings, such as correctional or hospital facilities. It also excludes homeless persons.

Once selected, households remain in the sample for 3 years, and eligible persons in these households are interviewed every 6 months for a total of seven interviews. Generally, all first interviews are conducted in person with subsequent interviews conducted either in person or by phone. New households rotate into the sample on an ongoing basis to replace outgoing households that have been in the sample for the 3-year period.

Survey respondents provide information about themselves (age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, marital status, education level, and income) and whether they experienced a victimization. The NCVS also collects information from the victim's perspective on each victimization incident about—

- the offender (age, race, Hispanic origin, sex, and victim-offender relationship)
- characteristics of the crime (including time and place of occurrence, use of weapons, nature of injury, and economic consequences)
- whether the crime was reported to police
- reasons the crime was or was not reported
- victim experiences with the criminal justice system.

All of this information is provided by the victim, and the victim's account may differ from the information maintained in official records.

Victimization is the basic unit of analysis used in this report. A victimization is a crime that affects one person or household. For personal crimes, the number of victimizations is equal to the number of victims present during a criminal incident. The number of victimizations may be greater than the number of criminal incidents because more than one person may be victimized during an incident.

Because the information provided by victims for use in this report is limited to the NCVS interview reference period, it is limited to victimizations that occurred in the preceding 6 months. The median time elapsed from incident to interview for the domestic violence victimizations analyzed for this report was about 4 months. For an estimated 18% of victimizations, the domestic violence incident being referenced occurred less than 1 month before the interview. For these victimizations, some related events, especially those involving police follow-up activities, may not have occurred yet.

By the time of the interview, the offender was arrested or charges were filed in a smaller percentage of victimizations with a short-term reference period (30%) than victimizations with a longer reference period (41%). Because these short-term cases accounted for nearly a fifth of domestic violence victimizations analyzed for this report, the estimates related to police follow-up activities, including arrests or charges filed that occurred after the initial response, may be slightly underestimated.

Nonresponse and weighting adjustments

In 2015, there were 95,760 households and 163,880 persons age 12 or older interviewed for the NCVS. Each household was interviewed twice during the year. The response rate was 82% for households and 86% for eligible persons. Victimization that occurred outside of the United States were excluded from this report. In 2015, fewer than 1% of the unweighted victimizations occurred outside of the United States.

Estimates in this report use 10-year aggregate data from the 2006 to 2015 NCVS data files, weighted to produce annual estimates of victimization for persons age 12 or older living in U.S. households. Because the NCVS relies on a sample rather than a census of the entire U.S. population, weights are designed to inflate sample point estimates to known population totals and to compensate for survey nonresponse and other aspects of the sample design.

The NCVS data files include both person and household weights. Person weights provide an estimate of the population represented by each person in the sample. Household weights provide an estimate of the U.S. household population represented by each household in the sample. After proper adjustment, both household and person weights are also typically used to form the denominator in calculations of crime rates.

Victimization weights used in this analysis account for the number of persons present during an incident and for high-frequency repeat victimizations (or series victimizations). Series victimizations are similar in type but occur with such frequency that a victim is unable to recall each individual event or describe each event in detail. Survey procedures allow NCVS interviewers to identify and classify these similar victimizations as series victimizations and to collect detailed information on only the most recent incident in the series.

The weight counts series incidents as the actual number of incidents reported by the victim, up to a maximum of 10 incidents. Including series victimizations in national rates results in increases in the level of violent victimization. However, trends in violent crime are generally similar regardless of whether series victimizations are included.

In 2015, series incidents accounted for about 1% of all victimizations and 4% of all violent victimizations. Weighting series incidents as the number of incidents up to a maximum of 10 incidents produces more reliable estimates of crime levels, and it minimizes the effect of extreme outliers on the rates. Additional information on counting series incidents is detailed in the report *Methods for Counting High-Frequency Repeat Victimizations in the National Crime Victimization Survey* (NCJ 237308, BJS web, April 2012).

Standard error computations

When national estimates are derived from a sample, as with the NCVS, use caution when comparing one estimate to another estimate or when comparing estimates over time. Although one estimate may be larger than another, estimates based on a sample have some degree of sampling error. The sampling error of an estimate depends on several factors, including the amount of variation in the responses and the size of the sample. When the sampling error around an estimate is accounted for, estimates that appear different may not be statistically different.

One measure of the sampling error associated with an estimate is the standard error. The standard error may vary from one estimate to the next. Generally, an estimate with a small standard error provides a more reliable approximation

of the true value than an estimate with a large standard error. Estimates with relatively large standard errors are associated with less precision and reliability and should be interpreted with caution.

To generate standard errors around numbers and estimates from the NCVS, the U.S. Census Bureau produced generalized variance function (GVF) parameters for BJS. The GVF parameters account for aspects of the NCVS's complex sample design and represent the curve fitted to a selection of individual standard errors using the Jackknife Repeated Replication technique. The GVF parameters were used to generate standard errors for each point estimate (such as counts, percentages, and rates) in this report.

BJS conducted tests to determine if differences in estimated numbers and percentages in this report were statistically significant when accounting for the sampling error. Using statistical programs developed specifically for the NCVS, BJS tested all comparisons in this report for significance. The Student's t-statistic, which tests the difference between two sample estimates, was the primary test procedure.

Data users can use the estimates and the standard errors of the estimates provided in this report to generate a confidence interval around the estimate as a measure of the margin of error. The following example illustrates how standard errors can be used to generate confidence intervals:

According to the NCVS, during 2006-15, 55.7% of all nonfatal domestic violence victimizations were reported to police. Using the GVF parameters, it was determined that the estimated percentage had a standard error of 1.5 (see appendix table 10). A confidence interval around the estimate was generated by multiplying the standard error by ± 1.96 (the t-score of a normal, two-tailed distribution that excludes 2.5% at either end of the distribution). Therefore, the 95% confidence interval around the 55.7% estimate from 2015 is $55.7 \pm (1.5 \times 1.96)$ or (52.8 to 58.6). In other words, if different samples using the same procedures were taken from the U.S. population for the years 2006 to 2015, 95% of the time the reporting rate for nonfatal domestic violence would be within the 52.8% to 58.6% range.

BJS also calculated a coefficient of variation (CV) for all estimates, which represents the ratio of the standard error to the estimate. CVs provide a measure of reliability and a means for comparing the precision of estimates across measures with differing levels or metrics (not presented in this report). When the CV was greater than 50%, or the unweighted sample had 10 or fewer cases, the estimate was noted with a “!” symbol. (Interpret data with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or the CV is greater than 50%.)

The LEMAS survey

This report uses data from the 2013 Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey. The LEMAS survey periodically collects data from more than 3,000 general purpose law enforcement agencies, including state police/highway patrol agencies, local police departments, and sheriffs' offices. The survey includes all agencies that employ 100 or more sworn officers and a nationally representative sample of smaller agencies.

Previous LEMAS data collections occurred in 1987, 1990, 1993, 1997, 1999 (limited scope), 2000, 2003, and 2007. LEMAS obtains data on—

- functions performed
- operating expenditures
- job functions of sworn and nonsworn employees
- officer salaries and special pay
- demographic characteristics of officers
- education and training requirements
- types of weapons authorized
- body armor policies
- computers and information systems
- types of vehicles operated
- use of special units
- task force participation
- community policing activities.

For more methodological information on the LEMAS survey including sample design and selection, response rates, and imputation procedures, see *Local Police Departments, 2013* (NCJ 248767, BJS web, July 2015).

APPENDIX TABLE 1**Characteristics of nonfatal domestic violence victimizations, 2006–2015**

Characteristic	All victimizations*		Reported to police	
	Average annual number	Percent	Average annual number	Percent
Sex of victim				
Female	1,014,073	76%	570,183	78%
Male	313,579	24	162,656	22
Race/Hispanic origin of victim^a				
White	903,598	68%	490,742	67%
Black	191,257	14	111,711	15
Hispanic	130,253	10	81,407	11
Other	102,544	8	48,979	7
Offender had weapon				
Weapon	236,390	18%	142,921	20%
No weapon	1,041,697	82	560,901	80
Victim injury				
Serious injury	87,039	7%	50,652	7%
Minor injury	463,582	36	281,962	39
Not injured	744,910	57	389,737	54
Location of incident				
At or near home/lodging	1,030,066	78%	576,840	79%
Other location	297,586	22	155,999	21
Location of residence				
Urban	463,798	35%	259,802	35%
Suburban	595,196	45	315,606	43
Rural	268,659	20	157,431	21
Prior incident(s) in last 6 months				
Yes	664,518	51%	312,575	43% †
No	627,652	49	409,786	57 †
Other household members				
Yes, with children age 11 or younger	596,066	45%	348,625	48%
Yes, no children age 11 or younger	461,180	35	243,776	33
None	270,406	20	140,438	19

Note: Detail may not sum to total due to rounding. See appendix table 2 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

^aExcludes persons of Hispanic/Latino origin, unless specified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 2**Standard errors for appendix table 1: Characteristics of nonfatal domestic violence victimizations, 2006–2015**

Characteristic	All victimizations		Reported to police	
	Average annual number	Percent	Average annual number	Percent
Sex of victim				
Female	96,020	1.3%	66,505	1.6%
Male	45,882	1.2	30,897	1.4
Race/Hispanic origin of victim				
White	89,142	1.4%	60,530	1.8%
Black	34,024	0.9	24,777	1.2
Hispanic	27,103	0.7	20,633	1.0
Other	23,574	0.7	15,463	0.8
Offender had weapon				
Weapon	38,641	1.1%	28,623	1.4%
No weapon	97,702	1.2	65,821	1.6
Victim injury				
Serious injury	21,443	0.6%	15,758	0.8%
Minor injury	58,415	1.4	43,000	1.8
Not injured	78,777	1.5	52,448	1.8
Location of incident				
At or near home/lodging	96,996	1.3%	66,993	1.6%
Other location	44,437	1.2	30,142	1.4
Location of residence				
Urban	58,432	1.4%	40,913	1.7%
Suburban	68,329	1.5	46,063	1.8
Rural	41,754	1.1	30,305	1.4
Prior incident(s) in last 6 months				
Yes	73,260	1.5%	45,792	1.8%
No	70,659	1.5	54,103	1.8
Other household members				
Yes, with children age 11 or younger	68,392	1.5%	48,963	1.8%
Yes, no children age 11 or younger	58,227	1.4	39,366	1.7
None	41,919	1.1	28,329	1.3

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 3**Percent of nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by selected characteristics, 2006–2015**

Characteristic	Average annual number of victimizations	Percent reported to police
Sex of victim		
Female*	1,002,844	57%
Male	311,749	52
Race/Hispanic origin of victim^a		
White*	895,894	55%
Black	188,984	59
Hispanic	128,026	64 †
Other	101,689	48
Offender had weapon		
Weapon*	234,363	61%
No weapon	1,031,614	54 †
Victim injury		
Serious injury*	87,039	58%
Minor injury	460,671	61
Not injured	734,761	53
Location of incident		
At or near home/lodging*	1,021,532	56%
Other location	293,061	53
Location of residence		
Urban*	459,588	57%
Suburban	589,130	54
Rural	265,874	59
Prior incident(s) in last 6 months		
Yes*	655,355	48%
No	624,089	66 †
Other household members		
Yes, with children age 11 or younger*	588,017	59%
Yes, no children age 11 or younger	456,683	53 †
None	269,893	52 †

Note: Data on whether police were informed were available for 99% of victimizations. Includes victimizations that police became aware of through other means and when police were already at the scene. Intimate partner includes current or former spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends. Other relation includes immediate family (except spouses) and other relatives. See appendix table 4 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

^aExcludes persons of Hispanic/Latino origin, unless specified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 4**Standard errors for appendix table 3: Percent of nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by selected characteristics, 2006–2015**

Characteristic	Average annual number of victimizations	Percent reported to police
Sex of victim		
Female	95,332	1.7%
Male	45,718	2.5
Race/Hispanic origin of victim		
White	88,653	1.7%
Black	33,782	3.0
Hispanic	26,831	3.4
Other	23,459	3.8
Offender had weapon		
Weapon	38,441	2.7%
No weapon	97,090	1.6
Victim injury		
Serious injury	21,443	4.1%
Minor injury	58,187	2.1
Not injured	78,091	1.8
Location of incident		
At or near home/lodging	96,476	1.6%
Other location	44,023	2.5
Location of residence		
Urban	58,101	2.2%
Suburban	67,889	2.0
Rural	41,491	2.6
Prior incident(s) in last 6 months		
Yes	72,618	1.9%
No	70,406	1.9
Other household members		
Yes, with children age 11 or younger	67,808	1.9%
Yes, no children age 11 or younger	57,872	2.2
None	41,871	2.6

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 5

Nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police resulting in a signed criminal complaint against the offender, by selected characteristics, 2006–2015

Characteristic	Average annual number of victimizations reported to police ^a	Percent resulting in signed complaint
Sex of victim		
Female*	567,374	51%
Male	160,881	38 †
Race/Hispanic origin of victim^b		
White*	486,680	49%
Black	111,711	49
Hispanic	80,885	49
Other	48,979	35 †
Offender had weapon		
Weapon*	142,671	56%
No weapon	556,566	46 †
Victim injury		
Serious injury*	50,375	52%
Minor injury	281,314	57
Not injured	386,383	41 ‡
Location of incident		
At or near home/lodging*	573,246	48%
Other location	155,009	49
Location of residence		
Urban*	258,347	50%
Suburban	312,724	47
Rural	157,185	49
Prior incident(s) in last 6 months		
Yes*	311,080	51%
No	407,102	47
Other household members		
Yes, with children age 11 or younger*	347,266	52%
Yes, no children age 11 or younger	241,764	42 †
None	139,225	50
Who informed police		
Victim*	540,994	52%
Other household member	70,466	50
Person outside household	100,945	34 †

Note: Data on whether a signed complaint was obtained were available for 99% of victimizations known to police. See appendix table 6 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison group at 90% confidence level.

^aCounts exclude victimizations for which complaint status was unknown.

^bExcludes persons of Hispanic/Latino origin, unless specified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 6

Standard errors for appendix table 5: Nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police resulting in a signed criminal complaint against the offender, by selected characteristics, 2006–2015

Characteristic	Average annual number of victimizations reported to police	Percent resulting in signed complaint
Sex of victim		
Female	66,298	2.0%
Male	30,697	3.0
Race/Hispanic origin of victim		
White	60,216	2.1%
Black	24,776	3.7
Hispanic	20,557	4.2
Other	15,463	4.9
Offender had weapon		
Weapon	28,594	3.3%
No weapon	65,501	2.0
Victim injury		
Serious injury	15,709	5.1%
Minor injury	42,939	2.6
Not injured	52,169	2.2
Location of incident		
At or near home/lodging	66,730	2.0%
Other location	30,029	3.2
Location of residence		
Urban	40,774	2.7%
Suburban	45,805	2.5
Rural	30,277	3.2
Prior incident(s) in last 6 months		
Yes	45,658	2.5%
No	53,883	2.5
Other household members		
Yes, with children age 11 or younger	48,846	2.3%
Yes, no children age 11 or younger	39,169	2.7
None	28,185	3.4
Who informed police		
Victim	64,343	2.0%
Other household member	18,998	4.4
Person outside household	23,360	3.6

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 7

Nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police resulting in the offender being arrested or charged, by selected characteristics, 2006–2015

Characteristic	Average annual number of victimizations reported to police	Percent resulting in arrest or charges filed
Sex of victim		
Female*	547,043	42%
Male	157,450	30 †
Race/Hispanic origin of victim^a		
White*	477,604	39%
Black	100,926	42
Hispanic	79,274	49 †
Other	46,689	23 †
Offender had weapon		
Weapon*	139,862	45%
No weapon	540,962	38 ‡
Victim injury		
Serious injury*	49,754	62%
Minor injury	264,336	53 ‡
Not injured	380,221	27 †
Location of incident		
At or near home/lodging*	553,143	40%
Other location	151,350	37
Location of residence		
Urban*	245,091	41%
Suburban	306,743	40
Rural	152,659	34 ‡
Prior incident(s) in last 6 months		
Yes*	300,758	34%
No	394,507	44 †
Other household members		
Yes, with children age 11 or younger*	333,697	42%
Yes, no children age 11 or younger	239,641	34 †
None	131,155	42
Who informed police		
Victim*	519,874	38%
Other household member	70,207	49 †
Person outside household	99,054	43

Note: Data on whether there was an arrest or charges filed were available for 96% of victimizations. See appendix table 8 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison group at 90% confidence level.

^aExcludes persons of Hispanic/Latino origin, unless specified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 8

Standard errors for appendix table 7: Nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police resulting in the offender being arrested or charged, by selected characteristics, 2006–2015

Characteristic	Average annual number of victimizations reported to police	Percent resulting in arrest or charges filed
Sex of victim		
Female	64,794	2.0%
Male	30,308	2.8
Race/Hispanic origin of victim		
White	59,512	2.0%
Black	23,357	3.7
Hispanic	20,322	4.2
Other	15,053	4.3
Offender had weapon		
Weapon	28,261	3.3%
No weapon	64,341	1.9
Victim injury		
Serious injury	15,600	5.0%
Minor injury	41,345	2.6
Not injured	51,653	2.0
Location of incident		
At or near home/lodging	65,247	1.9%
Other location	29,608	3.1
Location of residence		
Urban	39,494	2.6%
Suburban	45,267	2.4
Rural	29,759	3.0
Prior incident(s) in last 6 months		
Yes	44,726	2.3%
No	52,845	2.5
Other household members		
Yes, with children age 11 or younger	47,664	2.2%
Yes, no children age 11 or younger	38,961	2.5
None	27,213	3.4
Who informed police		
Victim	62,755	2.0%
Other household member	18,958	4.4
Person outside household	23,105	3.8

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 9**Estimates and standard errors for figure 1: Nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015**

	Estimate	Standard error
All reported victimizations	56%	1.5%
Police took report at scene	78	1.6
Victim signed complaint	48	1.8
Offender arrested or charges were filed	39	1.8

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 10**Standard errors for table 1: Average annual number of nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015**

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of victimizations	Victimizations reported to police	
		Average annual number	Percent of all victimizations
All victimizations	113,650	77,961	1.5%
Intimate partner	88,215	60,814	1.7
Other relation	55,388	38,840	2.2
Serious violence	45,970	32,206	1.7%
Intimate partner	36,172	25,157	1.9
Other relation	23,056	16,919	2.5
Simple assault	82,365	56,787	1.7%
Intimate partner	64,161	44,799	1.9
Other relation	40,840	28,368	2.5

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 11**Estimates and standard errors for figure 2: Nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by severity of injury and sex of victim, 2006–2015**

Injury to victim	Female*		Male	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
All reported victimizations	57%	1.7%	52%	2.5%
Serious injury	54	3.4	77 †	5.6
Minor injury	62	2.3	57	4.0
No injury	55	2.1	49 ‡	2.9

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison group at 90% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 12**Standard errors for table 2: Person reporting nonfatal domestic violence victimizations to police, 2006–2015**

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of reported victimizations	Member of household		Not a member of household	
		Victim	Other	Official	Other
All victimizations	76,845	1.6%	0.9%	0.5%	1.0%
Intimate partner	59,967	1.8	0.8	0.7	1.2
Other relation	38,302	2.6	2.0	0.6	1.6
Serious violence	31,990	1.8%	1.1%	0.7%	1.1%
Intimate partner	24,995	2.0	1.0	0.9	1.3
Other relation	16,806	3.0	2.3	0.6	2.0
Simple assault	55,759	1.8%	1.1%	0.6%	1.1%
Intimate partner	44,012	2.0	0.9	0.8	1.4
Other relation	27,869	3.1	2.4	0.8	1.7

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 13**Standard errors for table 3: Reasons cited by victims for not reporting nonfatal domestic violence victimizations to police, 2006–2015**

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of unreported victimizations	Personal matter	Protect offender	Crime was minor or unimportant	Fear of reprisal	Inefficient or biased police
All victimizations	67,352	1.8%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	0.9%
Intimate partner	52,850	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.1
Other relation	33,589	2.9	2.5	2.0	1.8	1.1
Serious violence	27,765	2.0%	1.7%	1.6%	2.0%	1.3%
Intimate partner	22,434	2.3	1.8	1.9	2.4	1.6
Other relation	13,786	3.3	3.3	2.2	3.0	1.7
Simple assault	49,468	2.0%	1.7%	1.7%	1.3%	0.9%
Intimate partner	38,612	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.1
Other relation	25,558	3.4	2.7	2.5	1.5	1.0

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 14**Standard errors for table 4: Violent crime victimizations, by level of violence and sex of victim, 2006–2015**

Type of violent crime victimization	Average annual number of violent crime victimizations with known victim-offender relationships	Domestic violence			Not domestic violence
		Total	Intimate partner	Other relation	
Serious violence	112,028	0.8%	0.7%	0.5%	0.9%
Female victim	72,263	1.2	1.1	0.7	1.3
Male victim	70,186	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.9
Simple assault	219,055	0.8%	0.7%	0.4%	0.9%
Female victim	137,293	1.2	1.1	0.6	1.3
Male victim	138,235	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.9

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 15**Estimates and standard errors for figure 3: Reasons for not reporting a nonfatal domestic violence victimization to police, by sex of victim, 2006–2015**

Injury to victim	Female*		Male	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
Fear of reprisal	24%	1.8%	6% †	1.3%
Protect offender	21	1.7	20	2.5
Inefficient or biased police	7	0.9	10 ‡	1.8
Personal matter	31	2.0	36	3.1
Crime was minor or unimportant	17	1.5	28 †	2.9

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison group at 90% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 16

Standard errors for table 5: Police times for nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of reported victimizations	10 minutes or less	More than 10 minutes but within 1 hour	More than 1 hour
All victimizations	66,687	2.0%	1.7%	0.8%
Intimate partner	50,902	2.3	2.0	1.0
Other relation	35,087	2.8	2.6	1.0
Serious violence	28,205	2.2%	2.0%	0.9%
Intimate partner	21,440	2.6	2.5	1.2
Other relation	15,729	2.9	2.6	1.1
Simple assault	48,261	2.2%	2.0%	0.9%
Intimate partner	37,432	2.6	2.3	1.2
Other relation	25,293	3.4	3.2	1.3

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 17

Standard errors for table 6: Police actions during initial response to nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of victimizations reported to police	Took report	Questioned persons	Conducted search	Collected evidence
All victimizations	72,717	1.6%	1.8%	1.2%	1.0%
Intimate partner	56,309	1.8	2.0	1.5	1.3
Other relation	36,975	2.5	2.8	1.4	1.3
Serious violence	30,382	1.7%	1.9%	1.6%	1.3%
Intimate partner	23,364	1.9	2.3	2.1	1.7
Other relation	16,507	2.6	3.0	1.9	1.4
Simple assault	52,790	1.9%	2.1%	1.2%	1.1%
Intimate partner	41,564	2.2	2.3	1.5	1.3
Other relation	26,654	3.0	3.3	1.4	1.6

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 18

Standard errors for table 7: Arrests made during initial police response to nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of victimizations reported to police	Percent of initial responses that included arrest
All victimizations	72,717	1.5%
Intimate partner	56,309	1.8
Other relation	36,975	2.1
Serious violence	30,382	1.7%
Intimate partner	23,364	2.1
Other relation	16,507	2.4
Simple assault	52,790	1.7%
Intimate partner	41,564	2.0
Other relation	26,654	2.5

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 19

Estimates and standard errors for figure 4: Offender arrested during initial police response to nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by severity of injury and sex of victim, 2006–2015

Injury to victim	Female*		Male	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
All victimizations	24%	1.7%	22%	2.6%
Serious injury	32	4.2	44	7.5
Minor injury	32	2.6	27	4.6
No injury	16	1.8	16	2.8

*Comparison group.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 20**Standard errors for table 8: Signed criminal complaints obtained in nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015**

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of victimizations reported to police	Percent resulting in signed complaint
All victimizations	77,650	1.8%
Intimate partner	60,641	2.1
Other relation	38,609	2.7
Serious violence	32,127	2.0%
Intimate partner	25,065	2.4
Other relation	16,919	3.1
Simple assault	56,520	2.1%
Intimate partner	44,698	2.4
Other relation	28,104	3.0

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 21**Estimates and standard errors for figure 5: Complaint signed by victim or other household member in nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by severity of injury and sex of victim, 2006–2015**

Injury to victim	Female*		Male	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
All victimizations	51%	2.0%	38% †	3.0%
Serious injury	58	4.4	32 †	6.9
Minor injury	60	2.8	45 †	5.0
No injury	43	2.5	35 ‡	3.6

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

‡Significant difference from comparison group at 90% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 22**Standard errors for table 9: Police follow-up response to nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015**

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of victimizations reported to police	Had later contact with victim	Took follow-up actions	Made arrest during follow-up
All victimizations	77,185	1.8%	1.7%	1.0%
Intimate partner	60,460	2.1	2.0	1.2
Other relation	38,164	2.6	2.5	1.2
Serious violence	31,806	2.0%	1.9%	1.1%
Intimate partner	24,956	2.4	2.3	1.4
Other relation	16,583	3.0	2.9	1.3
Simple assault	56,332	2.0%	1.9%	1.1%
Intimate partner	44,606	2.3	2.2	1.4
Other relation	27,944	2.9	2.8	1.4

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 23

Standard errors for table 10: State and local law enforcement agencies with a specialized domestic violence unit, 2013

Type of law enforcement agency and population served	Agency has specialized unit with—		Agency addresses but does not have specialized unit		Agency does not formally address
	Full-time personnel	Part-time personnel	Dedicated personnel	Policies, procedures, or training only	
Local police departments	1.0%	0.7%	0.9%	1.5%	1.1%
250,000 or more	1.1	0.4	0.6	1.0	0.0
50,000–249,999	1.4	1.0	1.4	1.6	0.5
10,000–49,999	1.1	1.0	1.5	1.9	1.0
9,999 or fewer	1.3	0.9	1.2	2.1	1.6
Sheriffs' offices	1.4%	0.7%	1.5%	2.0%	1.1%
250,000 or more	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.6	1.5
50,000–249,999	2.4	1.5	2.6	3.3	1.5
10,000–49,999	2.2	1.2	2.3	3.1	1.8
9,999 or fewer	3.1	1.1	3.7	4.9	3.1

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics Survey, 2013.

APPENDIX TABLE 24

Estimates and standard errors for figure 6: Police follow-up with nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by severity of injury and sex of victim, 2006–2015

Injury to victim	Female*		Male	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
All victimizations	37%	1.9%	24% †	2.6%
Serious injury	42	4.4	43	7.5
Minor injury	43	2.7	28 †	4.4
No injury	32	2.3	20 †	3.0

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 25

Estimates and standard errors for figure 7: Police follow-up with nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by whether a signed complaint was obtained and severity of injury, 2006–2015

Injury to victim	Signed complaint*		No signed complaint	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
All victimizations	52%	2.4%	17% †	1.6%
Serious injury	60	5.2	22 †	4.5
Minor injury	57	3.2	18 †	2.6
No injury	46	3.2	17 †	1.9

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 26

Standard errors for table 11: Arrest or charges filed in nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Average annual number of victimizations reported to police	Percent resulting in arrest or charges filed
All victimizations	76,028	1.8%
Intimate partner	59,107	2.1
Other relation	38,215	2.5
Serious violence	31,802	2.0%
Intimate partner	24,876	2.3
Other relation	16,681	3.0
Simple assault	55,035	2.0%
Intimate partner	43,163	2.4
Other relation	27,900	2.8

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 27

Estimates and standard errors for figure 8: Arrest or charges filed related to nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by severity of injury and sex of victim, 2006–2015

Injury to victim	Female*		Male	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
All victimizations	42%	2.0%	30% †	2.8%
Serious injury	62	4.4	63	7.3
Minor injury	56	2.9	38 †	4.9
No injury	29	2.2	22 †	3.1

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 28

Estimates and standard errors for figure 9: Arrest or charges filed related to nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, by severity of injury and whether a signed complaint was obtained, 2006–2015

Injury to victim	Signed complaint*		No signed complaint	
	Estimate	Standard error	Estimate	Standard error
All victimizations	59%	2.4%	21% †	1.8%
Serious injury	89	3.4	35 †	5.2
Minor injury	68	3.1	33 †	3.3
No injury	47	3.2	14 †	1.8

*Comparison group.

†Significant difference from comparison group at 95% confidence level.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.

APPENDIX TABLE 29

Standard errors for table 12: State and local law enforcement agencies with a specialized unit for victim assistance, 2013

Type of law enforcement agency and population served	Agency has specialized unit with—		Agency addresses but does not have specialized unit		
	Full-time personnel	Part-time personnel	Dedicated personnel	Policies, procedures, or training only	Agency does not formally address
Local police departments	0.9%	0.6%	0.9%	1.6%	1.4%
250,000 or more	1.9	0.7	1.4	1.7	0.9
50,000–249,999	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.4
10,000–49,999	0.9	0.8	1.4	1.9	1.4
9,999 or fewer	1.2	0.8	1.1	2.1	1.9
Sheriffs' offices	1.3%	0.7%	1.4%	2.0%	1.6%
250,000 or more	2.3	2.2	1.7	2.5	3.0
50,000–249,999	2.4	1.3	2.3	3.3	2.6
10,000–49,999	2.0	1.1	2.2	3.1	2.6
9,999 or fewer	2.7	1.8	3.9	5.0	3.6

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics Survey, 2013.

APPENDIX TABLE 30

Standard errors for table 13: Domestic violence victimizations in which assistance from a victim service agency was received, by type of crime, 2006–2015

Type of domestic violence victimization	Total		Reported to police		Not reported to police	
	Average annual number	Percent receiving assistance	Average annual number	Percent receiving assistance	Average annual number	Percent receiving assistance
All victimizations	113,483	1.1%	77,522	1.6%	67,036	1.2%
Intimate partner	88,328	1.4	60,519	1.9	52,824	1.5
Other relation	55,004	1.5	38,580	2.2	33,159	1.4
Serious violence	45,722	1.3%	32,092	1.7%	27,487	1.6%
Intimate partner	36,174	1.6	25,082	2.1	22,434	2.0
Other relation	22,685	1.8	16,846	2.5	13,349	2.0
Simple assault	82,438	1.2%	56,413	1.8%	49,399	1.2%
Intimate partner	64,285	1.5	44,543	2.1	38,582	1.5
Other relation	40,787	1.7	28,146	2.6	25,495	1.5

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006–2015.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable and valid statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Jeri M. Mulrow is acting director.

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