

Between 2006 and 2015, police were notified in more than half (56%) of the 1.3 million nonfatal domestic violence victimizations that occurred each year. These victimizations were committed by intimate partners, immediate family members, or other relatives and included both serious violence (rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) and simple assaults.

Victimization reporting rates

Police were notified by the victim in about three-quarters (76%) of reported victimizations, and about a quarter (24%) of reports came from another person. Reporting rates for victimizations were the same whether they involved serious violence or simple assault.

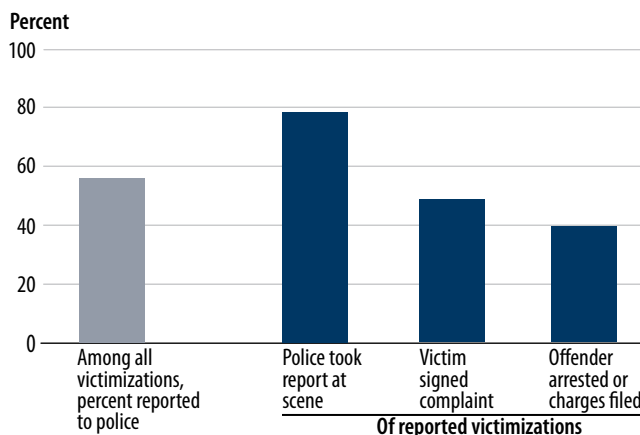
Victimizations were also reported at the same rates regardless of victim-offender relationship. Victim-offender relationship categories included intimate partner (spouse, former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend) or another victim-offender relationship (parent, child, sibling, or other relative). Females reported victimizations that involved a serious injury (54%) or no injury (55%) at a slightly lower rate than victimizations that resulted in a minor injury (62%). Males reported a greater percentage of victimizations to police when a serious injury was involved (77%) than when there was a minor injury (57%) or no injury (49%).

Police response to reported victimizations

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of the time, police responded to the scene within 10 minutes of being notified of a nonfatal domestic violence victimization. Police took a report at the scene more than three-quarters (78%) of the time. During some initial responses, officers also questioned persons (36%), conducted searches (14%), or collected evidence (11%).

The victim or another household member signed a criminal complaint against the offender in about half (48%) of reported victimizations. Police followed up 52% of the time when a victim or another household member signed a criminal complaint compared to 17% of the time when there was no signed complaint. Follow-up actions included taking a report, questioning persons, conducting a search, collecting evidence, or making an arrest. The offender was arrested or charged in 39% of reported victimizations, either

Nonfatal domestic violence victimizations reported to police, 2006-2015



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

during the initial response or during follow-up. When serious injury occurred and a criminal complaint was signed, the offender was arrested or charged 89% of the time.

Unreported victimizations

There were an average of nearly 600,000 unreported nonfatal domestic violence victimizations each year between 2006 and 2015. In about a third (32%) of unreported victimizations, victims cited the personal nature of the incident as a reason for not reporting it. 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%).

Domestic violence victimizations involving serious violence (31%) were more likely to go unreported due to fear of reprisal than victimizations involving simple assault (13%). An estimated 61% of female victimizations involving a serious injury were not reported 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 due to fear of reprisal.

The full report ([Police Response to Domestic Violence, 2006-2015](#), NCJ 250231), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.

