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MARYLAND BATTERED SPOUSE REPORT 1988

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STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

MARYLAND STATE POLICE
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BISHOP L. ROBINSON
SECRETARY
PUBLIC SAFETY AND
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

COLONEL ELMER H. TIPPETT
SUPERINTENDENT
MARYLAND STATE POLICE

April 20, 1989

To: The Members of the General Assembly of
Maryland State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Maryland State Police, in compliance with House Joint Resolution #32, "Battered Spouses," provides the enclosed data on Domestic Violence.

We continue to receive numerous requests for copies of this report. The data contained herein is utilized by criminal justice agencies, social service organizations, etc., dealing with the problems of Spousal Assaults.

We will continue to produce the Maryland Battered Spouse Report with the goal of providing users with valuable information to better understand and develop ways to curb Domestic Violence.

Sincerely,

Elmer H. Tippett

Elmer H. Tippett
Superintendent

DS:rs

Attachment

The 1988 Maryland Battered Spouse Report was prepared by the Maryland State Police, Criminal Justice Information Systems-Central Repository. Those responsible for the report are:

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LIMITATIONS OF A BATTERED SPOUSE REPORTING PROGRAM

The main goal of the Maryland Battered Spouse Program is to furnish the legislature with statistics on Battered Spouses. However, there are limitations to the information collected which should be clearly understood before any conclusions are drawn from the data presented in this report.

Domestic Assaults of a non-aggravated nature are many times handled informally and, as a consequence, incomplete or inaccurate recording of the event may result. Procedures for handling non-aggravated domestic assaults vary between departments.

Non-aggravated domestic assaults in some instances are taken directly to the Court system and are not reported to a police department. This varies depending upon the county in which the assault occurs.

While the current method of collecting Battered Spouse information for this report provides less than a complete picture, there is at present, no other informational system in general use gathering these statistics from police agencies that will more accurately perform this task.

INTRODUCTION

The Maryland Battered Spouse Program was established through House Joint Resolution 32 which was introduced by Delegate Pauline Menes, requesting the Maryland State Police to maintain certain information on complaints of domestic assaults. The statistics in this report were collected from January 1, 1984 through December 31, 1988.

DEFINITION

A Battered Spouse in the Maryland UCR Program is considered to be:

1. A married person living with their spouse upon whom an aggravated or non-aggravated assault was committed by their mate.

2. A married person estranged from their spouse upon whom an aggravated or non-aggravated assault was committed by their mate.

3. A male and female not married to each other and who are living together or had lived together at some time, upon whom an aggravated or non-aggravated assault was committed by their mate.

REPORTING PROCEDURES

The Battered Spouse report is part of the Uniform Crime Reports which are submitted monthly to Maryland State Police by 130 police agencies.

Under the Maryland Battered Spouse Program, law enforcement agencies are required to submit a specified Battered Spouse Report. The necessary information for this report is gathered monthly from each agency's record of complaints, investigation, and arrests. The UCR Field Representatives provided assistance and training to law enforcement agencies in the completion of this report.

CLASSIFICATION

Aggravated Assault, as defined under the Maryland Uniform Crime Reporting Program, is an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm.

Attempts are included since it is not necessary that any injury result when a gun, knife, or other weapon is used which would result in serious personal injury if the crime were successfully completed. An assault in which hands, fists and feet are used, and severe personal injury to the victim results, is also classified as an aggravated assault.

Any assault in which hands, fists, and feet are used and no serious injury to the victim results, is classified as a non-aggravated assault.

*VOLUME

A total of 14,521 spousal assaults were reported to law enforcement agencies during 1988. This represents an increase of 2.9% when compared to 1987.

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
JANUARY	1,084	1,089	1,034	891	716
FEBRUARY	1,016	1,017	978	846	689
MARCH	1,140	1,209	1,205	957	794
APRIL	1,201	1,131	1,173	954	763
MAY	1,308	1,247	1,292	1,126	791
JUNE	1,265	1,284	1,412	1,161	917
JULY	1,439	1,318	1,577	1,166	962
AUGUST	1,464	1,257	1,331	1,182	841
SEPTEMBER	1,163	1,131	1,327	1,058	816
OCTOBER	1,224	1,118	1,180	1,173	1,035
NOVEMBER	1,123	1,161	1,157	1,109	851
DECEMBER	1,094	1,145	1,122	1,035	1,010
TOTAL	14,521	14,107	14,788	12,658	10,185

*Does not include spousal assaults reported by Military Installations. See "Military Installation - Domestic Assault Section" in this report.

Analysis: There is no apparent statistical correlation by month. The 1988 statistics show a 2.9% increase in domestic assaults.

DAY OF WEEK

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday comprised 50% of assaults. 19% of all assaults occurred on Sunday, as compared to 18% on Saturday of 1988.

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
MONDAY	1,911	1,881	1,918	1,572	1,294
TUESDAY	1,865	1,684	1,770	1,568	1,162
WEDNESDAY	1,704	1,725	1,820	1,498	1,171
THURSDAY	1,771	1,804	1,804	1,569	1,236
FRIDAY	1,983	1,900	2,062	1,683	1,375
SATURDAY	2,586	2,487	2,665	2,370	1,951
SUNDAY	2,701	2,626	2,749	2,398	1,996
TOTAL	14,521	14,107	14,788	12,658	10,185

Analysis: Friday, Saturday and Sunday comprised over 50% of all assaults in the 5 year study.

HOUR OF THE DAY

57% of the spousal assaults occurred from 6:00 P.M. through 2:00 A.M.

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
12:00 A.M.	806	870	896	808	655
1:00 A.M.	801	749	827	655	580
2:00 A.M.	711	753	772	670	581
3:00 A.M.	537	479	545	486	351
4:00 A.M.	336	328	317	289	242
5:00 A.M.	245	245	243	205	150
6:00 A.M.	248	229	237	165	149
7:00 A.M.	303	320	298	210	172
8:00 A.M.	315	333	313	273	166
9:00 A.M.	379	334	350	302	225
10:00 A.M.	395	360	338	320	255
11:00 A.M.	385	383	384	295	275
12:00 Noon	485	469	455	392	313
1:00 P.M.	410	403	401	312	278
2:00 P.M.	437	389	432	396	281
3:00 P.M.	449	475	505	420	338
4:00 P.M.	593	530	542	499	393
5:00 P.M.	707	722	733	640	513
6:00 P.M.	839	847	862	769	613
7:00 P.M.	924	872	944	796	629
8:00 P.M.	1,001	983	1,011	908	723
9:00 P.M.	1,065	994	1,161	930	760
10:00 P.M.	1,079	1,020	1,136	928	745
11:00 P.M.	1,071	1,020	1,086	990	798

Analysis: Over 50% of all assaults occur from 6: P.M. through 2:00 A.M. Coupled with the hour of the day trend, 50% of all assaults will occur on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6:00 P.M. through 2:00 A.M.

AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS

A total of 2,824 aggravated assaults of a spousal nature were reported during 1988. This comprised 20 percent of the total spousal assaults. Also this represents a 19.5 percent increase when compared to the 2,364 aggravated spousal assaults reported in 1987.

A total of 11,697 non-aggravated or simple assaults were reported during 1988. This comprises 80.6 percent of the total spousal assaults. This represents a .4 percent decrease when compared to the 11,743 non-aggravated spousal assaults reported in 1987.

VICTIMS OF SPOUSAL ASSAULTS BY WEAPON

Firearms comprised 10.3 percent of the total aggravated assaults and 2.0 percent of the total assaults. In 1987, firearms comprised 12.0 percent of the total aggravated assaults and 2.0 percent of the total assaults.

Knife or cutting instruments comprised 26.9 percent of the total aggravated assaults and 5.2 percent of the total assaults. In 1987, knife or cutting instruments comprised 28.7 percent of the total aggravated assaults and 4.8 percent of the total assaults.

Other dangerous weapons comprised 36.9 percent of the total aggravated assaults and 7.2 percent of the total assaults. In 1987, other dangerous weapons comprised 32.8 percent of the total aggravated assaults and 5.5 percent of the total assaults.

Aggravated assaults by physical force comprised 25.9 percent of the aggravated assaults and 5.0 percent of the total assaults. In 1987, aggravated assaults by physical force comprised 26.6 percent of the total aggravated assaults and 4.4 percent of the total assaults.

Non-aggravated simple assaults accounted for 80.6 percent of all spousal assaults. In 1987, non-aggravated simple assaults comprised 83.2 percent of all spousal assaults.

VICTIMS

In 1988, spousal assault victims were female in 84.8 percent of all cases as compared to 85.7 percent in 1987. This represents a .9 percent decrease in female victims.

55.6 percent of the victims were white, while 43.3 percent were black and 1.1 percent were of other races. In 1987, 56.9 percent were white, 42.3 percent were black, and .7 percent were of other races.

VICTIMS

% OF AGGRAVATED VS. NON-AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS

FIVE YEAR TREND

CLASSIFICATION	SEX	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
FIREARM	M	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5
	F	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1
KNIFE OR CUTTING INSTRUMENT	M	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.7	2.8
	F	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.9	3.1
OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPON	M	2.4	1.7	2.3	2.9	2.8
	F	4.8	3.8	4.9	6.0	5.7
HANDS, FISTS, FEET, ETC.	M	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5
	F	4.7	4.1	5.0	8.0	6.7
TOTAL AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS	M	5.5	4.5	5.7	6.7	6.5
	F	14.0	12.2	14.1	18.8	17.6
TOTAL NON-AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS	M	9.7	9.7	8.7	8.5	8.1
	F	70.9	73.5	71.5	66.0	67.8
GRAND TOTAL	M	15.2	14.3	14.4	15.2	14.7
	F	84.8	85.7	85.6	84.8	85.3

ASSAULTS

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

FIVE YEAR TREND

CLASSIFICATION	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
FIREARM	290	283	325	298	259
KNIFE	760	678	735	704	597
OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPONS	1,042	775	1,057	1,134	866
HANDS, FISTS, FEET, ETC.	732	628	810	1,095	733
NON-AGGRAVATED	11,697	11,743	11,861	9,427	7,730
TOTAL	14,521	14,107	14,788	12,658	10,185

HOUSEHOLD STATUS

Statistics show that 75.6 percent of the total spousal assaults occurred while spouses were living together at the time of the assault, while 15.9 percent were estranged. In 8.6 percent of the cases, the household status were unknown. In 1987, 74.8 percent of the total spousal assaults occurred while spouses were living together, while 16.0 percent were estranged. In 9.2 percent of the 198 cases, the household status were unknown. Those assaults counted in the living together category included married persons, as well as those unmarried couples, living together.

CIRCUMSTANCES

21.4 percent of the circumstances were reported to police departments as "arguments" with no further explanation. In 37.3 percent of the spousal assault cases, no reason at all was given to the responding officer. In 1987, 20.6 percent were reported as "arguments" with no further explanation, and in 36.7 percent of the cases, no reason was given at all.

The only significant reason given to police was alcohol related situations which accounted for 17.7 percent of the total. In 1987, alcohol related situations accounted for 18.9 percent of the total, also the most significant reason given to police.

CIRCUMSTANCES

FIVE YEAR TREND

NATURE OF ARGUMENT	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
ALCOHOL	2,563	2,673	2,600	2,284	1,635
DRUGS	290	202	165	119	72
FOOD/COOKING	84	99	121	66	92
FRIENDS	125	137	232	139	140
GAMBLING	5	2	10	9	3
HOUSEHOLD CHORES	77	66	117	78	53
INFIDELITY	710	744	732	707	545
EMPLOYMENT JOB RELATED	80	97	103	107	90
MENTAL IMBALANCE	44	45	50	54	37
MONEY	714	585	615	603	462
OFFSPRING	652	648	760	702	599
PROPERTY	361	424	538	490	331
RELATIVES	114	91	116	128	91
SEX	130	144	172	162	95
HOBBY	4	4	17	12	6
T.V.	35	29	26	24	24
OTHER	3,112	2,909	2,673	2,100	1,661
UNKNOWN	5,421	5,172	5,741	4,874	4,249
TOTAL	14,521	14,107	14,788	12,658	10,185

CLEARANCES

There are two ways of clearing a case. One is by making an arrest and charging the person with the offense. The second method is known as an exceptional clearance, whereby the police department knows who committed the offense, knows the location of the offender so that they can take him into custody. They must also have enough information to support an arrest, charge, and turning over to the court for prosecution. However, there is some reason beyond police control that prevents the department from making an arrest. The most frequent reason is the victim's refusal to cooperate in the prosecution.

88.3 percent of all spousal assault cases reported to law enforcement agencies are known to be cleared. 21.4 percent were cleared by arrest and 66.9 percent were exceptionally cleared. In 11.6 percent of the incidents, the clearance was unknown. In 1987, 82.5 percent were cleared, 22.2 percent were cleared by arrest, and 60.3 percent were exceptionally cleared. In 17.4 percent of the incidents, the clearance was unknown.

BATTERED SPOUSE - BY COUNTY

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
REGION I - EASTERN SHORE	659	698	670	614	507
Caroline County	27	47	52	40	34
Cecil County	218	233	250	175	157
Dorchester County	53	51	63	61	45
Kent County	25	15	13	23	21
Queen Anne's County	78	62	40	42	37
Somerset County	48	56	37	37	31
Talbot County	26	30	39	39	23
Wicomico County	117	126	115	122	90
Worcester County	67	78	61	75	69
REGION II - SOUTHERN MARYLAND	643	655	419	262	198
Calvert County	123	96	127	86	108
Charles County	300	346	104	36	27
St. Mary's County	220	213	188	140	63
REGION III - WESTERN MARYLAND	698	638	666	598	447
Allegany County	116	82	57	39	54
Carroll County	197	212	238	200	148
Frederick County	231	184	234	242	182
Garrett County	102	95	85	65	12
Washington County	52	65	52	52	51

BATTERED SPOUSE - BY COUNTY

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
REGION IV - WASH. METRO REGION	3,247	3,137	3,326	1,644	1,271
Montogomery County	1,072	909	759	548	486
Pr. George's County	2,175	2,228	2,567	1,096	785
REGION V - BALTO. METRO REGION	9,271	8,970	9,700	9,539	7,762
Baltimore City	2,886	3,087	3,400	3,304	2,844
Anne Arundel County	513	468	536	555	774
Baltimore County	4,990	4,766	5,168	5,058	3,648
Harford County	351	343	378	372	324
Howard County	531	306	218	250	172
PARKS	3	9	7	1	0
STATE TOTAL	14,521	14,107	14,788	12,658	10,185

Analysis: As a result of continued training, there now seems to be consistent figures generated by law enforcement agencies.

COUNTY TRENDS

AGGRAVATED VS. NON-AGGRAVATED

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
REGION I - EASTERN SHORE					
CAROLINE COUNTY					
Aggravated	11	8	10	13	9
Non-Aggravated	16	39	42	27	25
Total	27	47	52	40	34
Ranking	21st	22nd	19th	19th	19th
CECIL COUNTY					
Aggravated	40	45	42	38	27
Non-Aggravated	178	188	208	137	130
Total	218	233	250	175	157
Ranking	10th	9th	7th	10th	9th
DORCHESTER COUNTY					
Aggravated	21	11	16	22	17
Non-Aggravated	32	40	47	39	28
Total	53	51	63	61	45
Ranking	18th	21st	16th	16th	17th
KENT COUNTY					
Aggravated	4	5	3	1	1
Non-Aggravated	21	10	10	22	20
Total	25	15	13	23	21
Ranking	23rd	24th	23rd	23rd	23rd
Queen Anne's County					
Aggravated	17	21	8	8	11
Non-Aggravated	61	41	32	34	26
Total	78	62	40	42	37
Ranking	16th	19th	20th	18th	18th
SOMERSET COUNTY					
Aggravated	11	6	7	10	9
Non-Aggravated	37	50	30	27	22
Total	48	56	37	37	31
Ranking	20th	20th	22nd	21st	20th

COUNTY TRENDS

AGGRAVATED VS. NON-AGGRAVATED

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
TALBOT COUNTY					
Aggravated	5	10	7	4	8
Non-Aggravated	21	20	32	35	15
Total	26	30	39	39	23
Ranking	22nd	23rd	21st	20th	22nd
WICOMICO COUNTY					
Aggravated	35	32	24	12	6
Non-Aggravated	82	94	91	110	84
Total	117	126	115	122	90
Ranking	13th	13th	13th	12th	12th
WORCESTER COUNTY					
Aggravated	17	18	15	19	22
Non-Aggravated	50	60	46	56	47
Total	67	78	61	75	69
Ranking	17th	17th	17th	14th	13th
REGION II - SOUTHERN MARYLAND					
CALVERT COUNTY					
Aggravated	26	19	28	16	25
Non-Aggravated	97	77	99	70	83
Total	123	96	127	86	108
Ranking	12th	14th	12th	13th	11th
CHARLES COUNTY					
Aggravated	69	70	16	6	5
Non-Aggravated	231	276	88	30	22
Total	300	346	104	36	27
Ranking	8th	6th	14th	22nd	21st
ST MARY'S COUNTY					
Aggravated	53	42	42	34	11
Non-Aggravated	167	171	146	106	52
Total	220	213	188	140	63
Ranking	10th	10th	11th	11th	14th

COUNTY TRENDS

AGGRAVATED VS. NON-AGGRAVATED

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
REGION III - WESTERN MARYLAND					
ALLEGANY COUNTY					
Aggravated	23	14	13	13	13
Non-Aggravated	93	68	44	26	41
Total	116	82	57	39	54
Ranking	14th	16th	18th	20th	15th
CARROLL COUNTY					
Aggravated	25	38	39	47	30
Non-Aggravated	172	174	199	153	118
Total	197	212	238	200	148
Ranking	11th	11th	8th	9th	10th
FREDERICK COUNTY					
Aggravated	64	57	74	89	62
Non-Aggravated	167	127	160	153	120
Total	231	184	234	242	182
Ranking	9th	12th	9th	8th	7th
GARRETT COUNTY					
Aggravated	5	19	15	8	1
Non-Aggravated	97	76	70	57	11
Total	102	95	85	65	12
Ranking	15th	15th	15th	15th	24th
WASHINGTON COUNTY					
Aggravated	24	22	16	14	18
Non-Aggravated	28	43	36	38	33
Total	52	65	52	52	51
Ranking	19th	18th	19th	17th	16th

COUNTY TRENDS

AGGRAVATED VS. NON-AGGRAVATED

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
REGION IV - WASHINGTON METRO REGION					
MONTGOMERY COUNTY					
Aggravated	124	91	96	79	51
Non-Aggravated	948	818	663	469	435
Total	1,072	909	759	548	486
Ranking	4th	4th	4th	5th	5th
PR. GEORGES COUNTY					
Aggravated	470	466	542	339	283
Non-Aggravated	1,705	1,762	2,025	757	502
Total	2,175	2,228	2,567	1,096	785
Ranking	3rd	3rd	3rd	3rd	3rd
REGION V - BALTIMORE METRO REGION					
BALTIMORE CITY					
Aggravated	437	457	487	547	453
Non-Aggravated	2,449	2,630	2,913	2,757	2,391
Total	2,886	3,087	3,400	3,304	2,844
Ranking	2nd	2nd	2nd	2nd	2nd
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY					
Aggravated	154	125	123	181	191
Non-Aggravated	359	343	413	374	583
Total	513	468	536	555	774
Ranking	6th	5th	5th	4th	4th
BALTIMORE COUNTY					
Aggravated	1,042	712	1,220	1,644	1,143
Non-Aggravated	3,948	4,054	3,948	3,414	2,505
Total	4,990	4,766	5,168	5,058	3,648
Ranking	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st

COUNTY TRENDS

AGGRAVATED VS. NON-AGGRAVATED

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984
HARFORD COUNTY					
Aggravated	81	48	50	60	44
Non-Aggravated	270	295	328	312	280
Total	351	343	378	372	324
Ranking	7th	7th	6th	6th	6th
HOWARD COUNTY					
Aggravated	66	27	29	27	15
Non-Aggravated	465	279	189	223	157
Total	531	306	218	250	172
Ranking	5th	8th	10th	7th	8th

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

DOMESTIC ASSAULTS

1988

	AGGRAVATED	NON-AGGRAVATED	TOTAL
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND	0	7	7
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE	11	52	63
FORT RITCHIE	0	3	3
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE	18	7	25
PATUXENT NAVAL AIR STATION	0	0	0
FORT DETRICK	0	0	0
U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY	0	6	6
GRAND TOTAL	29	75	104

MARYLAND SUPPLEMENTARY BATTERED SPOUSE REPORT

9

AGENCY IDENTIFIER

Forward By 7th Day After The End of Each Month To:
Incident Based Reporting Section
Maryland State Police, Pikesville, Md. 21208

Page _____ of _____

Assault Classification i.e. 4C	Date MMDD	Day of Week **	Time ***	Victim Age	Victim Sex	Victim Race	Offender Age	Offender Sex	Offender Race	INJURIES (Serious, slight, none) Code		HOUSEHOLD STATUS (Living together or estranged) Code		DISPOSITION (Arrest, Exceptional, Unknown) Code		CIRCUMSTANCES (Argument over mate's infidelity, argument over money, etc.) Code	
	*	*	*														

* Fill in bottom space only
** Code (1) Sunday
(2) Monday
(3) Tuesday
(4) Wednesday
(5) Thursday
(6) Friday
(7) Saturday

*** Code—
Military Time
i.e.: 1:00AM = 0100
1:00PM = 1300

Injuries Codes:
(0) Unknown
(1) Serious
(2) Slight
(3) None

Household Status Codes:
(0) Unknown
(1) Living Together
(2) Estranged

Disposition Codes:
(0) Unknown
(1) Arrest
(2) Exceptional clearance
(3) Unfounded

Circumstances:
Do not code unless you are already coding

Department Reporting

Report for Month of 19

Date of Report

Prepared By Telephone No.

Head of Department

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE	
	INITIALS
RECORDED	
EDITED	
PUNCHED	
VERIFIED	
ADJUSTED	

Md UCR Form 9
Rev. 10/88

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