

**Looking at Domestic Violence:
1991 Victim to Offender Relationships
for Selected Violent Crimes**

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Introduction

Information relating to domestic violence is frequently requested from the Statistical Analysis Center. Delaware does not have specific criminal statutes relating to domestic violence, therefore it is not possible to report directly on this pressing issue. We can, however, make inferences relating to domestic violence by examining the victim to offender relationships for specific Uniform Crime Report crime categories, specifically: homicide, forcible rape, other sexual assaults, aggravated assaults, and simple assault.

The Statistical Analysis Center uses a general grouping scheme for the analysis of victim to offender relationships. The groupings include (1) partner relationships, (2) relatives, (3) otherwise known, and (4) unknown. Itemized below, these groupings do not necessarily fit a "domestic" situation, but from the specific types of victim to offender relationships within each of these categories, the reader is free to draw their own conclusions.

Partner includes boy/girlfriend, common-law spouse, ex-husband/wife, homosexual relationship, and spouse.

Relative includes child of boy/girlfriend, child of natural parent, grandchild, grandparent, in-law, parent, sibling, step-child, step-sibling, step-parent, and other family members (i.e. aunt, uncle, etc.).

Otherwise known, cases in which victims are otherwise known to the assailant are excluded from the domestic violence definition, as are strangers and cases in which the relationship is undetermined.

Unknown includes cases in which the relationship of the victim to the offender can not be determined.

Stranger is used when it is clear that the victim is not acquainted with the offender. In masked assaults, the relationship may be classified as either stranger or unknown, at the discretion of the reporting officer. Some police agencies report masked assailants as strangers, others report them as unknown. As a result, there may be more stranger assaults than appear in the statistics.

Crime Definitions

Homicide includes murder, the willful killing of one individual by another, and includes negligent manslaughter, e.g. vehicular homicide, criminally negligent homicide, manslaughter, as well as first and second degree murder.

Forcible Rape is defined as the carnal knowledge of a male or female forcibly and against his or her will, and comprises the most serious sexual violence crimes, including: unlawful sexual penetration second or third degrees; unlawful sexual intercourse first, second, or third degrees.

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Other Sexual Assaults includes sexual harassment, indecent exposure, sexual exploitation of a child, and dealing in child pornography.

Aggravated Assault is determined by the severity of the injury as a result of the attack. When a person is severely injured, the assault is considered aggravated rather than simple. Attempted murder is classified as an aggravated assault.

Simple Assault includes offensive touching, menacing, second degree reckless endangering, and assault in the third degree. Some of these assaults could be aggravated depending upon circumstances.

Limitations

Care should be exercised in interpreting this data. First, the statistics are limited to those incidents reported to the police. We do not have information on unreported cases, so the available numbers under count actual domestic violence. Second, even in the reported data, there is a number of cases in which relationships are "unknown." Those cases in which relationships are "unknown" impact the proportions of other relationships. Third, note that the scales are not the same in all charts. For example, in the graph, *Reported Forcible Rape: Victim to Offender Relationships, 1991*, the "partner" and "relative" bar charts are on a scale of 0 to 50 offenses, whereas, the "otherwise known" bar chart is on a scale of 0 to 250. With those limitations considered, the following are our best available data, from police reports relating to domestic violence.

Organization

A summary table of available data is located immediately after this introduction. The charts following graphically display comparative information about victim to offender relationships within categories for selected violent offenses. That information is organized into five sections by type of crime: the first is homicide, the second is forcible rape offenses, the third includes other sexual assaults, the fourth section is on aggravated assault, and the final section covers simple assault.

Each section has two pages. A pie chart depicts overall victim to offender relationships for the selected crimes, including the number and percent of offenses in which relationships are undetermined, offenses against strangers, partners, relatives, and offenses against victims otherwise known. The facing page depicts three bar charts which show a breakdown in the composition of the categories: partner, relative, and otherwise known. Care must be exercised in comparing these categories using the bar charts because the scales differ. However, comparisons within a category can be easily made: the breakdown is ranked in descending order, left to right, by the number of reported offenses.

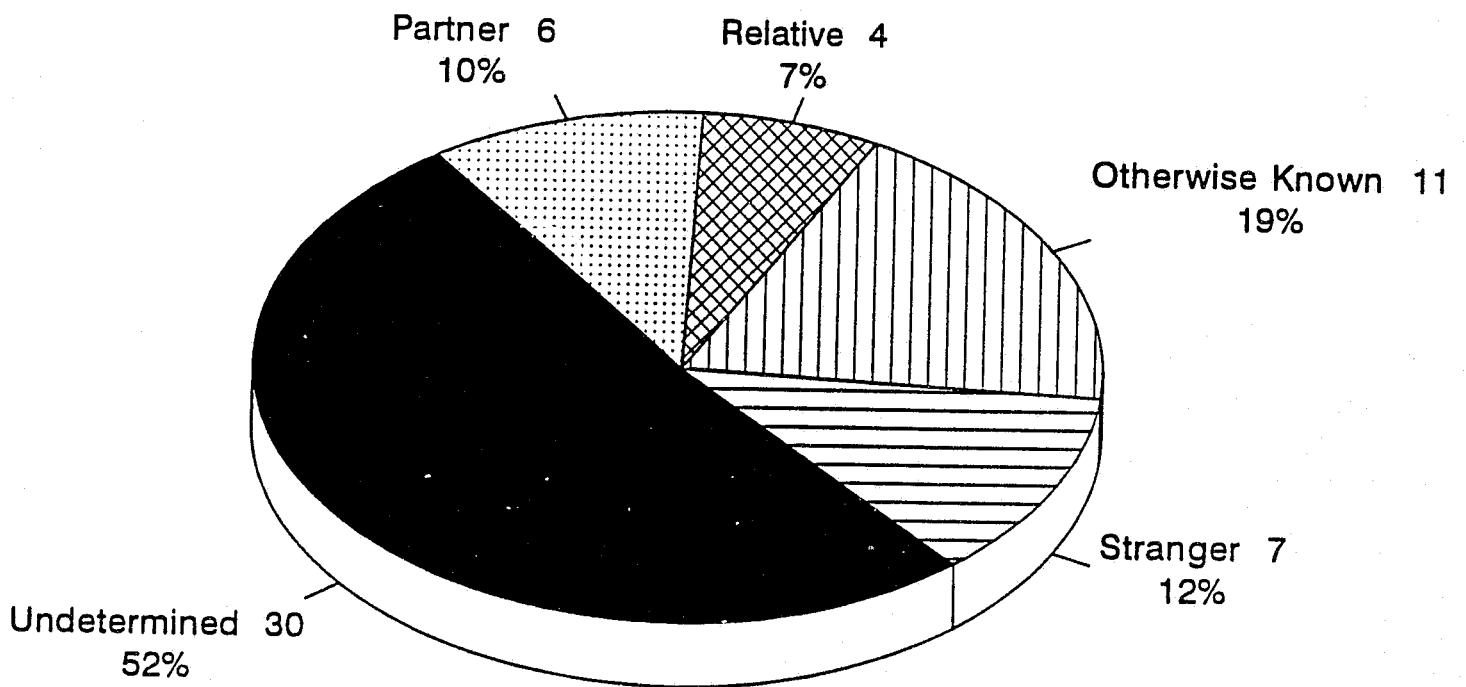
1991 Victim to Offender Relationships for Specific Violent Crimes

The Victim Was	Homicide	Forcible Rape	Other Sexual Assault	Aggravated Assault	Simple Assault	Total
1. KNOWN TO OFFENDER	21	513	394	1803	12623	15354
A. Partner	6	62	6	445	5228	5747
Spouse	2	14	2	161	2312	2491
Common-law spouse	0	1	0	8	50	59
Boy/Girlfriend	2	47	3	257	2654	2963
Homosexual Rel.	1	0	0	2	18	21
Ex-spouse	1	0	1	17	194	213
B. Relative	4	154	104	224	1343	1829
Child	1	43	43	72	230	389
Child of boy/girlfriend	0	7	7	5	30	49
Step-child	0	12	15	12	61	100
Grandchild	0	10	3	3	5	21
Sibling	0	19	5	52	310	386
Step-sibling	0	5	3	3	17	28
Parent	1	5	4	28	282	320
Step-parent	1	12	0	6	98	117
Grandparent	1	0	1	0	15	17
In-laws	0	2	0	16	114	132
Other Relative	0	39	23	27	181	270
C. Other Known	11	297	284	1134	6052	7778
Acquaintance	9	223	188	772	4217	5409
Employee/Employer	0	2	2	3	53	60
Friend	0	24	10	68	246	348
Neighbor	1	10	28	69	400	508
Babysitree (The baby)	1	3	3	3	7	17
Other Known	0	35	53	219	1129	1436
2. STRANGER AND UNKNOWN	37	199	586	1850	6019	8691
Stranger	7	48	172	740	2145	3112
Unknown	30	151	414	1110	3874	5579
TOTALS	58	712	980	3653	18642	24045
Percent Offender Unknown	63.8%	27.9%	59.8%	50.6%	32.3%	36.1%
Percent Offender Known	36.2%	72.1%	40.2%	49.4%	67.7%	63.9%
Domestic Violence Total*	10	216	110	669	6571	7576
Domestic Violence Percent*	17.2%	30.3%	11.2%	18.3%	35.2%	31.5%
A. Partner	10.3%	8.7%	0.6%	12.2%	28.0%	23.9%
B. Relative	6.9%	21.6%	10.6%	6.1%	7.2%	7.6%

*Estimates of reported domestic violence, only; includes (1A.) Partner and (1B.) Relative categories.

Source: SBI's Victim to Offender Relationship for Selected Crime Categories.

1991 Reported Homicide Victim to Offender Relationships

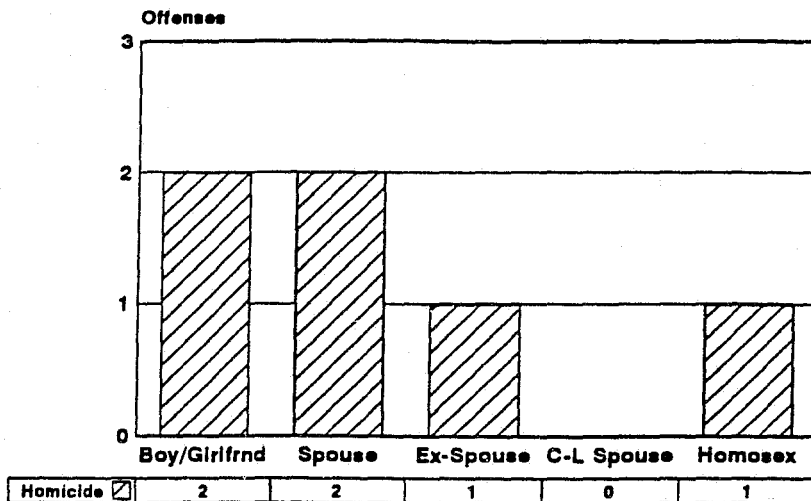


Partner includes spouse, common-law spouse, boy/girlfriend, homosexual rel., and ex-spouse.
Relative includes child, sibling, parent, grandparent/child, step-relative, and inlaws.

Homicide: Victim to Offender Relationships, 1991

Partner

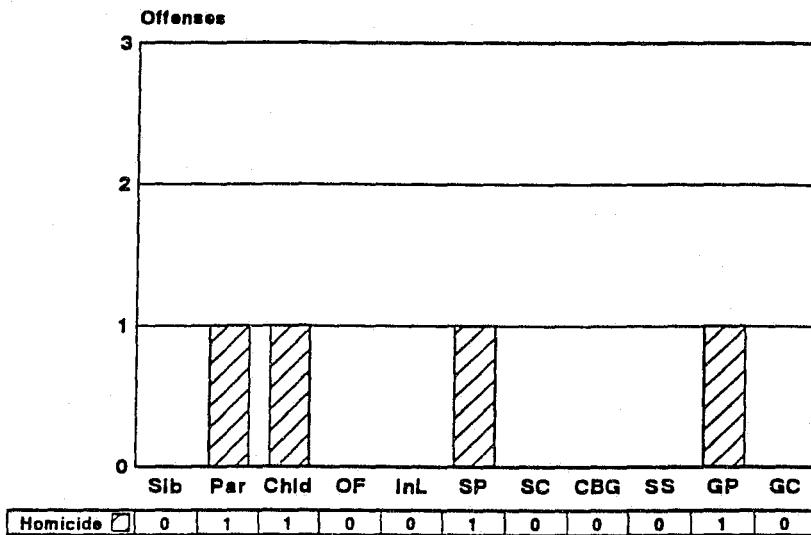
Relationship Known	28
Relationship Unknown	30
Total	58



Partner Key

- Boy/Girlfrnd Boy/Girlfriend
- C-L Spouse Common-Law Spouse
- Ex-Spouse Ex-Husband/Wife
- Homosex Homosexual Relationship
- Spouse Husband/Wife

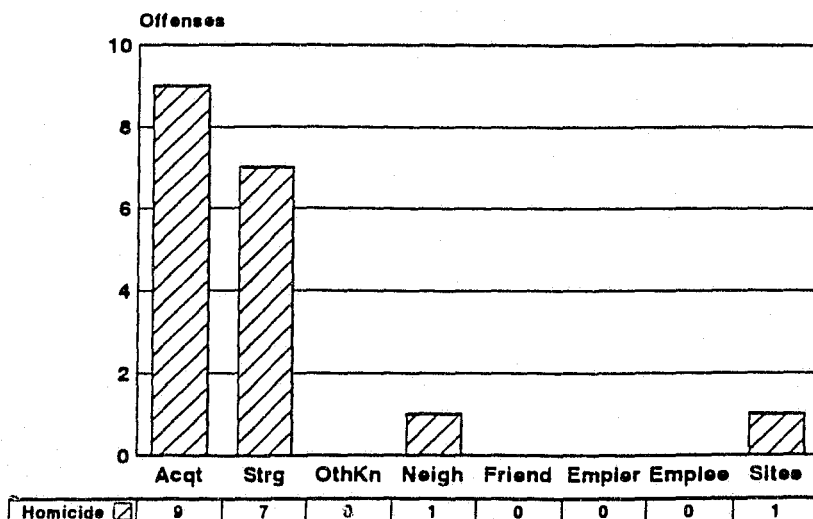
Relative



Relative Key

- CBG Child of Boy/Girlfriend
- Chld Child
- GC Grandchild
- GP Grandparent
- InL In-Law
- OF Other Family
- Par Parent
- Sib Sibling
- SC Step-Child
- SS Step-Sibling
- SP Step-Parent

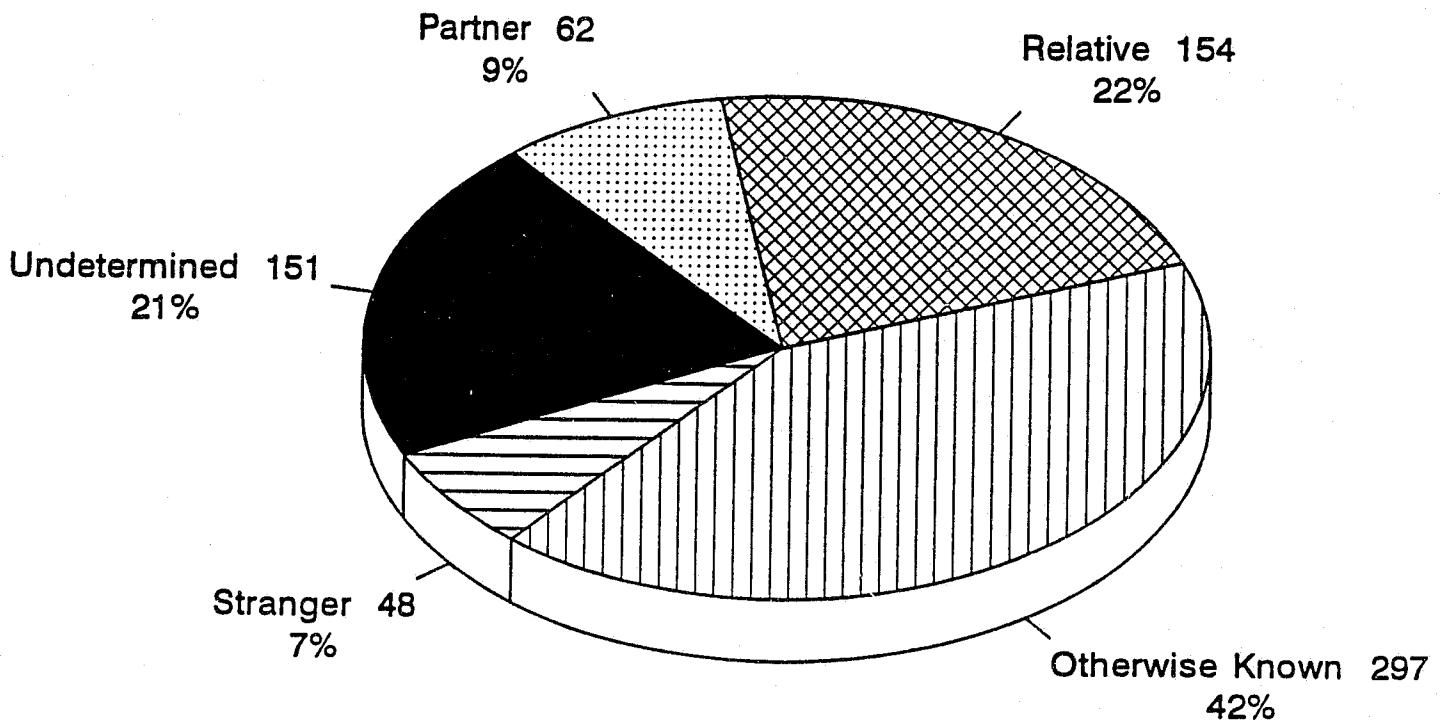
Otherwise Known



Otherwise Known Key

- Acqt Acquaintance
- Strg Stranger
- OthKn Other Known
- Friend Friend
- Neigh Neighbor
- Site Babysitree (the Baby)
- Empl Employee
- Emplor Employer

1991 Reported Rape Victim to Offender Relationships

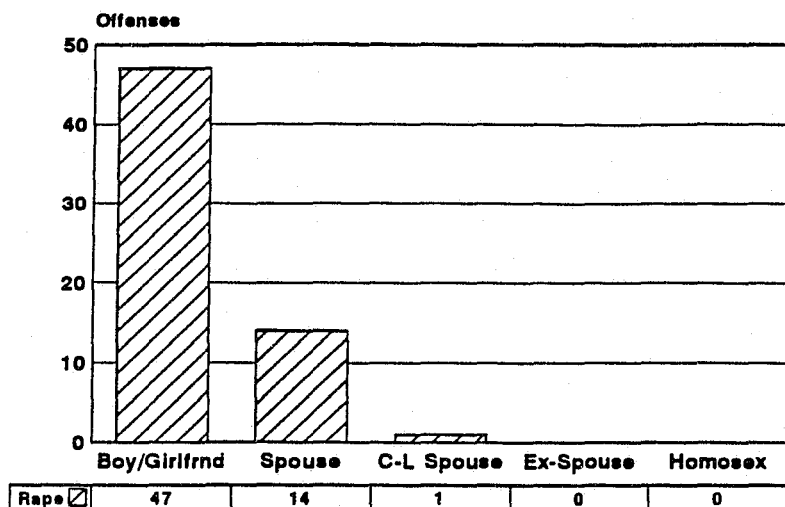


Partner includes spouse, common-law spouse, boy/girlfriend, homosexual rel., and ex-spouse.
Relative includes child, sibling, parent, grandparent/child, step-relative, and inlaws.

Reported Forcible Rape: Victim to Offender Relationships, 1991

Partner

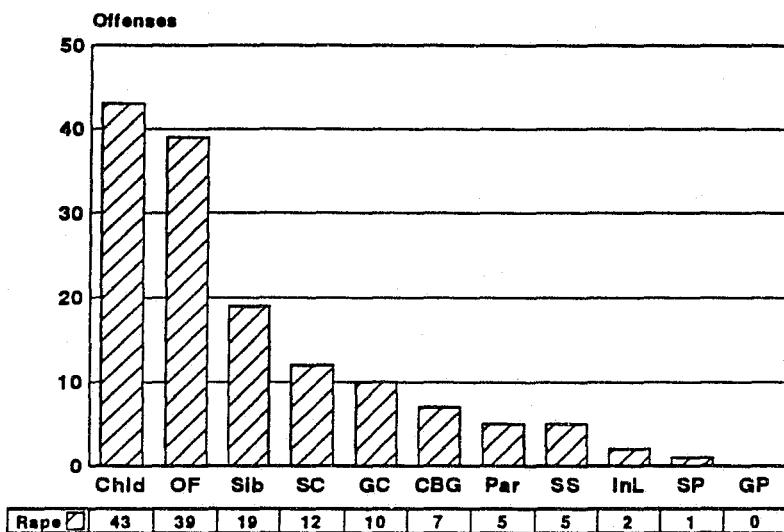
Relationship Known	561
Relationship Unknown	151
Total	712



Partner Key

- Boy/Girlfrnd Boy/Girlfriend
- C-L Spouse Common-Law Spouse
- Ex-Spouse Ex-Husband/Wife
- Homosex Homosexual Relationship
- Spouse Husband/Wife

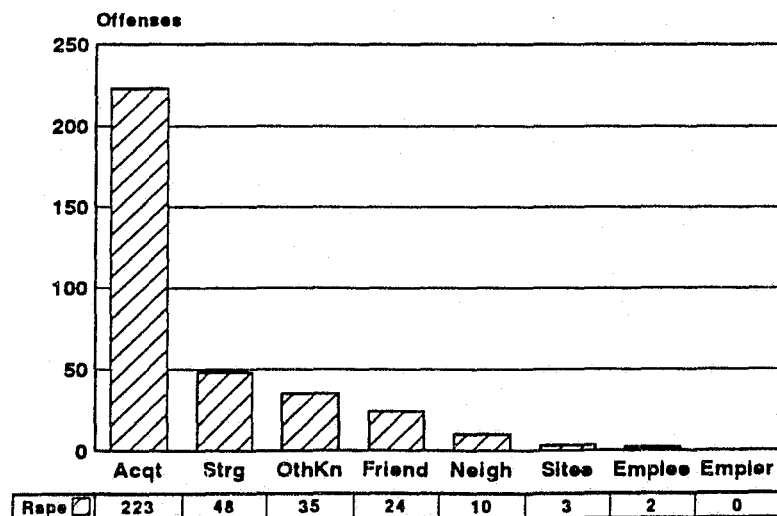
Relative



Relative Key

- CBG Child of Boy/Girlfriend
- Chld Child
- GC Grandchild
- GP Grandparent
- InL In-Law
- OF Other Family
- Par Parent
- Sib Sibling
- SC Step-Child
- SS Step-Sibling
- SP Step-Parent

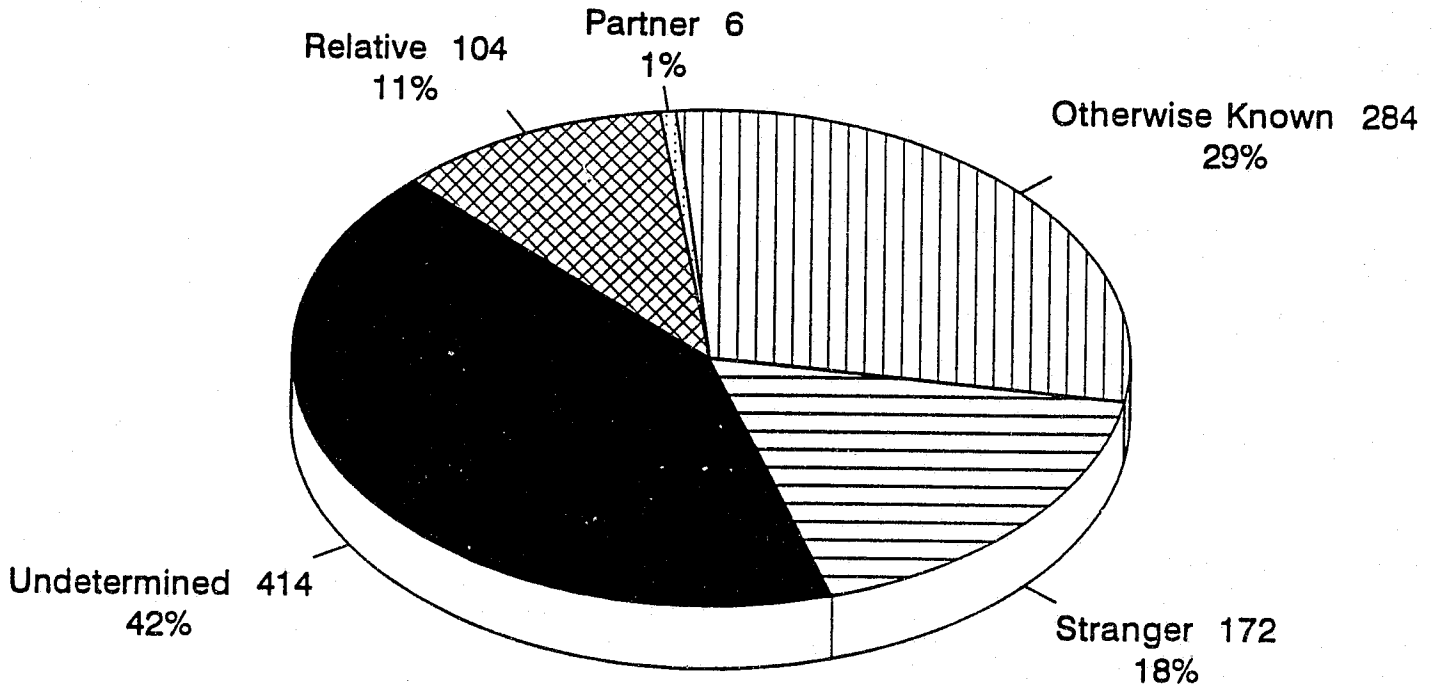
Otherwise Known



Otherwise Known Key

- Acqct Acquaintance
- Strg Stranger
- OthKn Other Known
- Friend Friend
- Neigh Neighbor
- Sitee Babysittee (the Baby)
- Empl Employee
- Empler Employer

1991 Reported Other Sexual Assault Victim to Offender Relationships

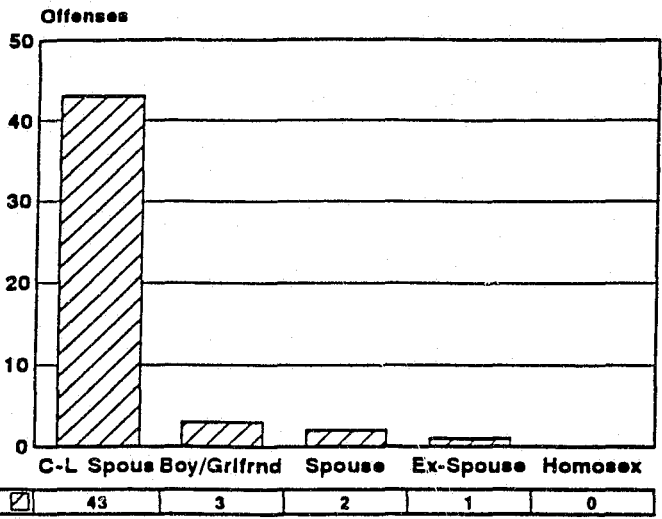


Partner includes spouse, common-law spouse, boy/girlfriend, homosexual rel., and ex-spouse.
Relative includes child, sibling, parent, grandparent/child, step-relative, and inlaws.

Other Sexual Assault: Victim to Offender Relationships, 1991

Partner

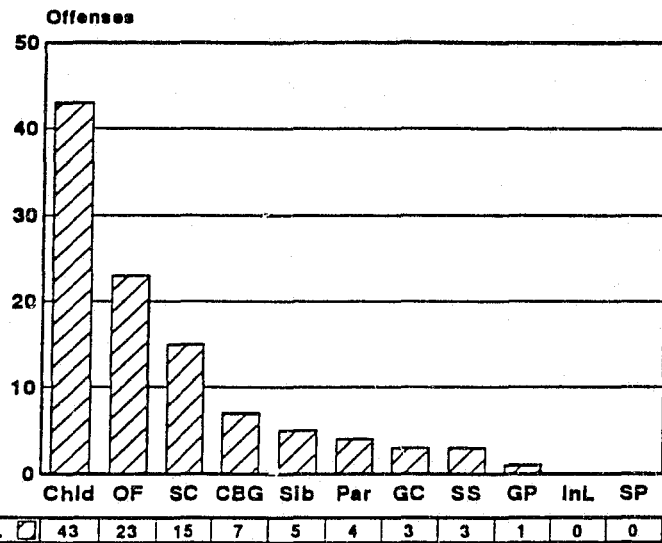
Relationship Known	566
Relationship Unknown	414
Total	980



Partner Key

- Boy/Grlfrnd Boy/Girlfriend
- C-L Spouse Common-Law Spouse
- Ex-Spouse Ex-Husband/Wife
- Homosex Homosexual Relationship
- Spouse Husband/Wife

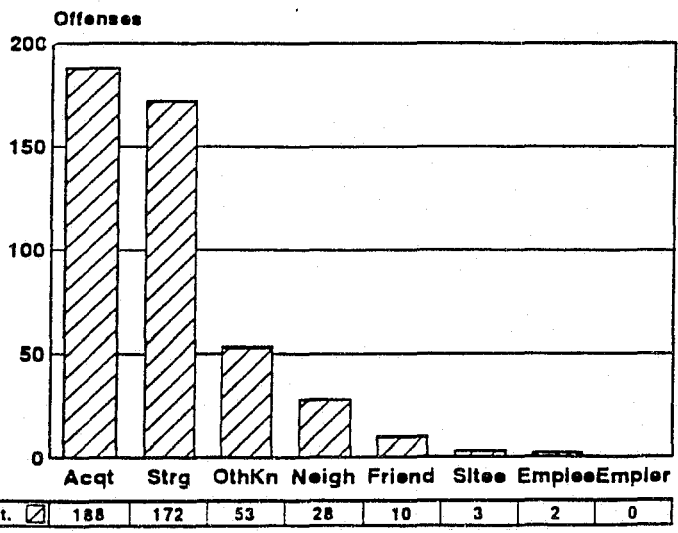
Relative



Relative Key

- CBG Child of Boy/Girlfriend
- Chld Child
- GC Grandchild
- GP Grandparent
- InL In-Law
- OF Other Family
- Par Parent
- Sib Sibling
- SC Step-Child
- SS Step-Sibling
- SP Step-Parent

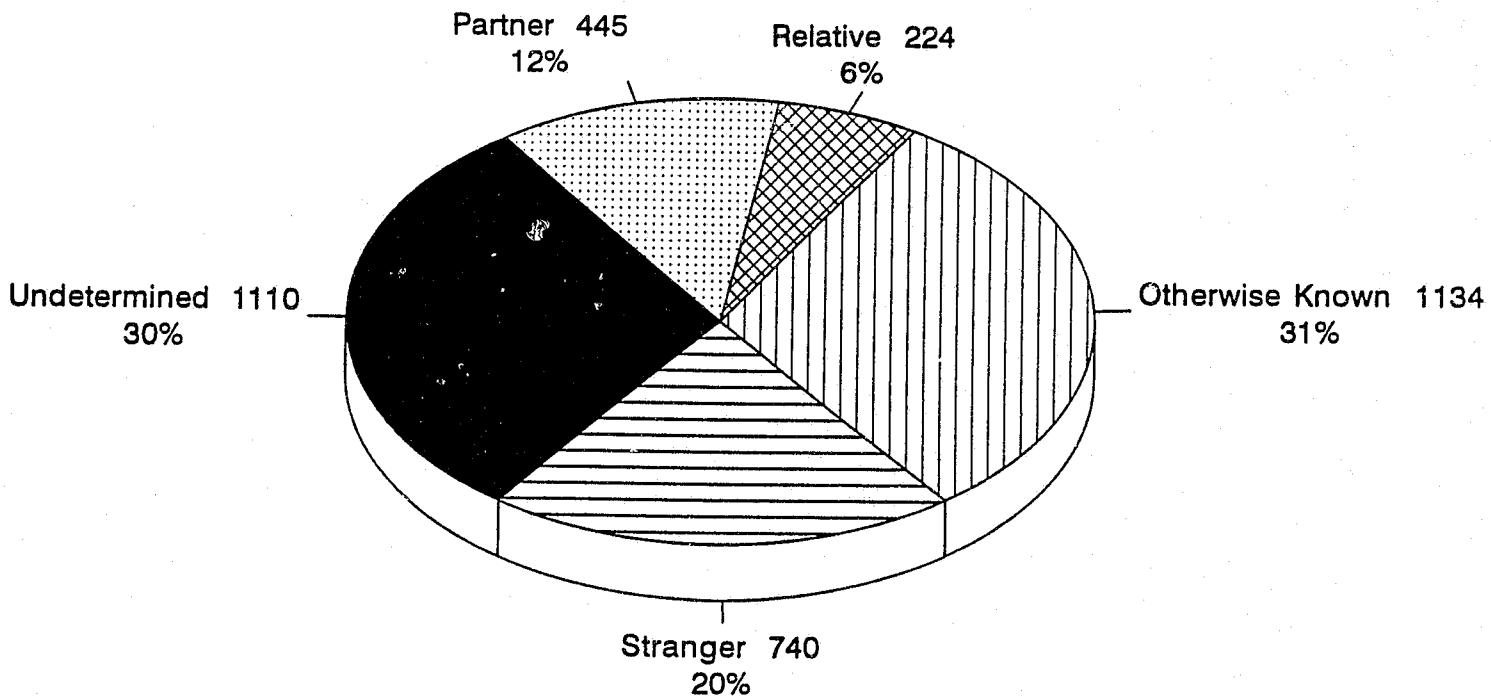
Otherwise Known



Otherwise Known Key

- Acqct Acquaintance
- Strg Stranger
- OthKn Other Known
- Friend Friend
- Neigh Neighbor
- Sitee Babysittee (the Baby)
- Empllee Employee
- Empller Employer

1991 Reported Aggravated Assault Victim to Offender Relationships

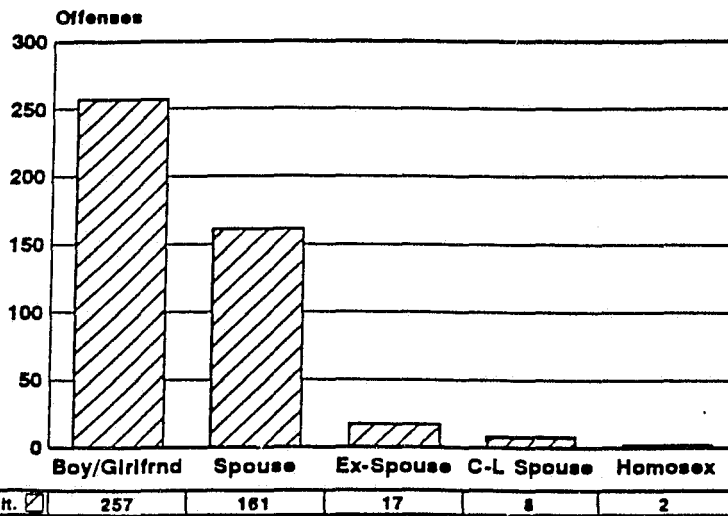


Partner includes spouse, common-law spouse, boy/girlfriend, homosexual rel., and ex-spouse.
Relative includes child, sibling, parent, grandparent/child, step-relative, and inlaws.

Aggravated Assault: Victim to Offender Relationships, 1991

Partner

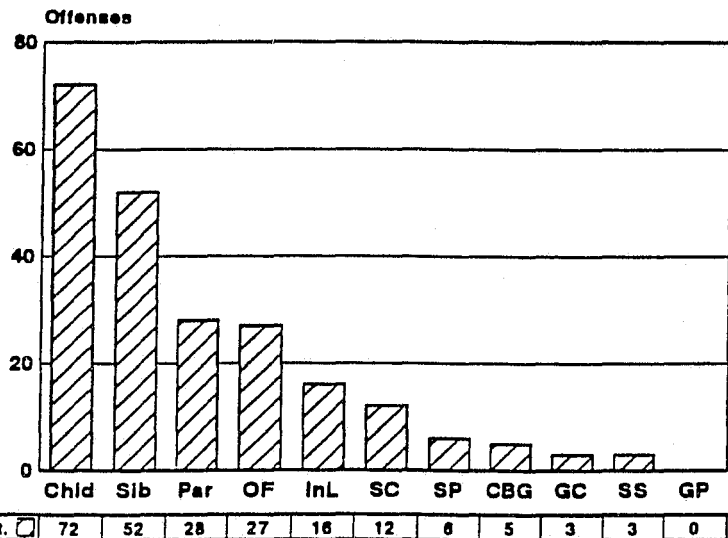
Relationship Known	2,543
Relationship Unknown	1,110
Total	3,653



Partner Key

- Boy/Girlfrnd Boy/Girlfriend
- C-L Spouse Common-Law Spouse
- Ex-Spouse Ex-Husband/Wife
- Homosex Homosexual Relationship
- Spouse Husband/Wife

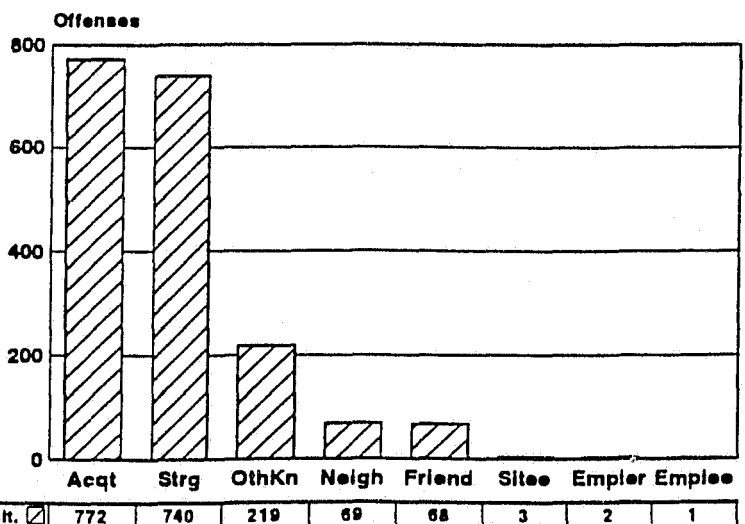
Relative



Relative Key

- CBG Child of Boy/Girlfriend
- Chld Child
- GC Grandchild
- GP Grandparent
- InL In-Law
- OF Other Family
- Par Parent
- Sib Sibling
- SC Step-Child
- SS Step-Sibling
- SP Step-Parent

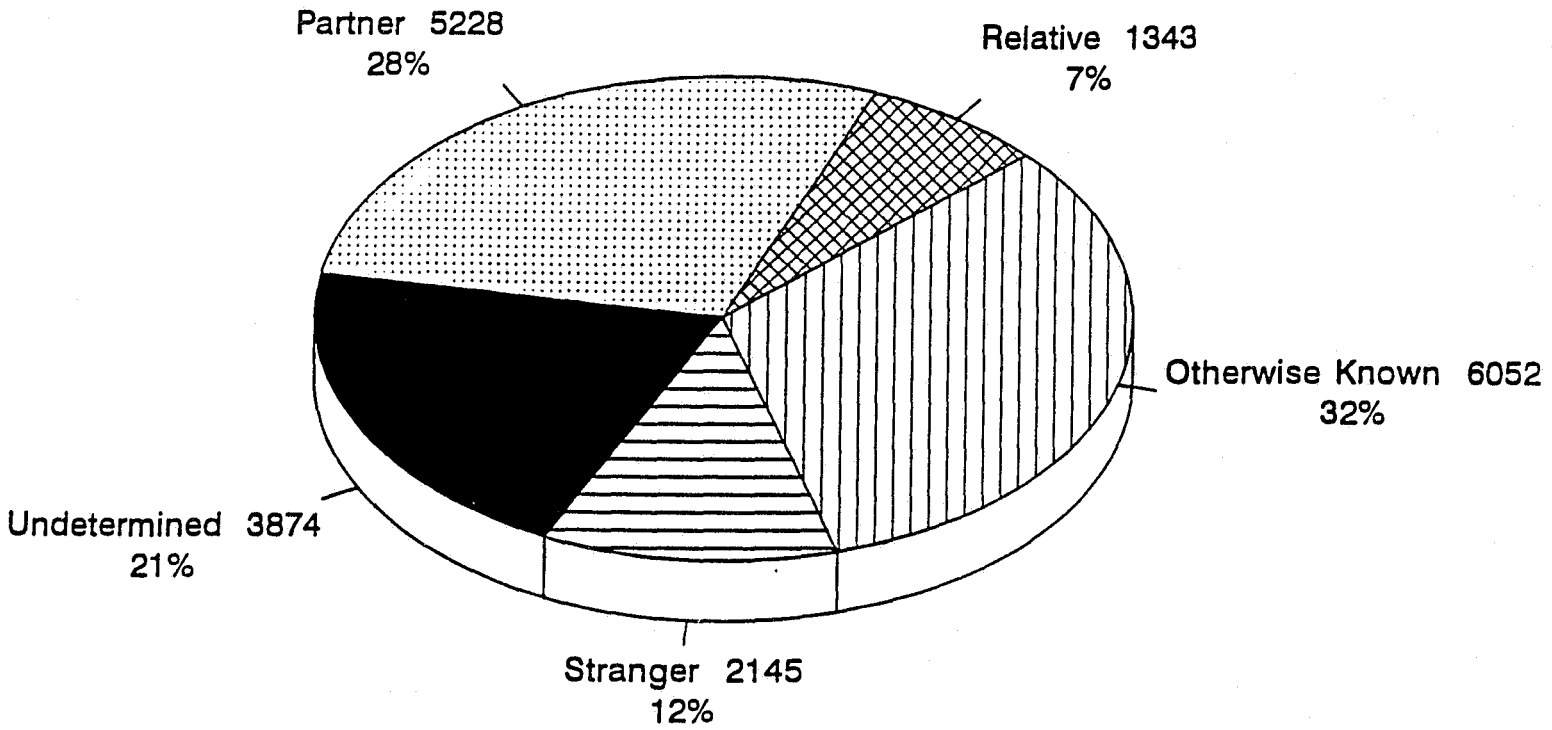
Otherwise Known



Otherwise Known Key

- Acqt Acquaintance
- Strg Stranger
- OthKn Other Known
- Friend Friend
- Neigh Neighbor
- Sitee Babysitree (the Baby)
- Emplie Employee
- Emplor Employer

1991 Reported Simple Assault
Victim to Offender Relationships

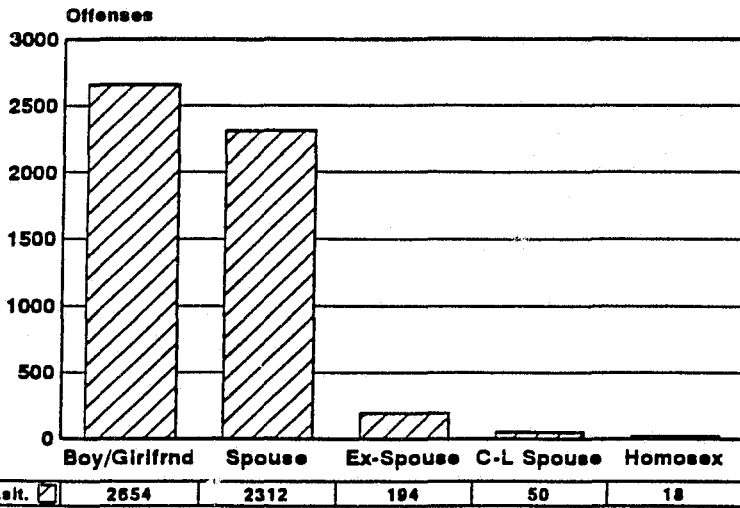


Partner includes spouse, common-law spouse, boy/girlfriend, homosexual rel., and ex-spouse.
Relative includes child, sibling, parent, grandparent/child, step-relative, and inlaws.

Simple Assault: Victim to Offender Relationships, 1991

Partner

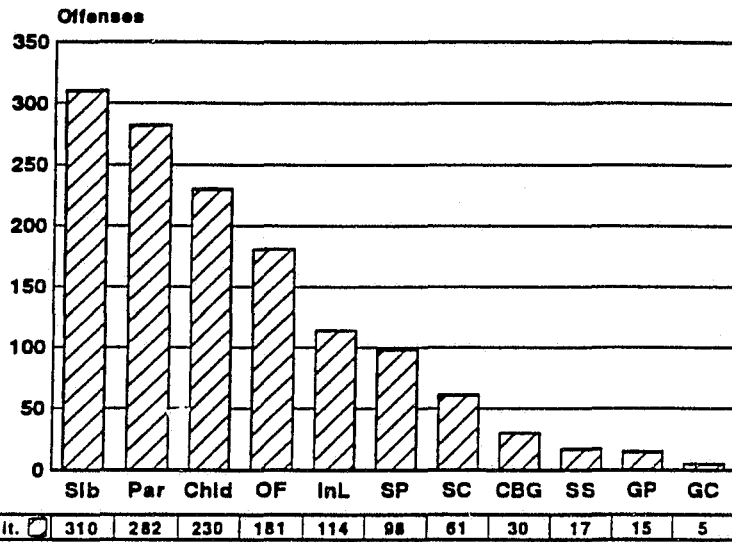
Relationship Known	14,768
Relationship Unknown	3,874
Total	18,642



Partner Key

- Boy/Girlfrnd Boy/Girlfriend
- C-L Spouse Common-Law Spouse
- Ex-Spouse Ex-Husband/Wife
- Homosex Homosexual Relationship
- Spouse Husband/Wife

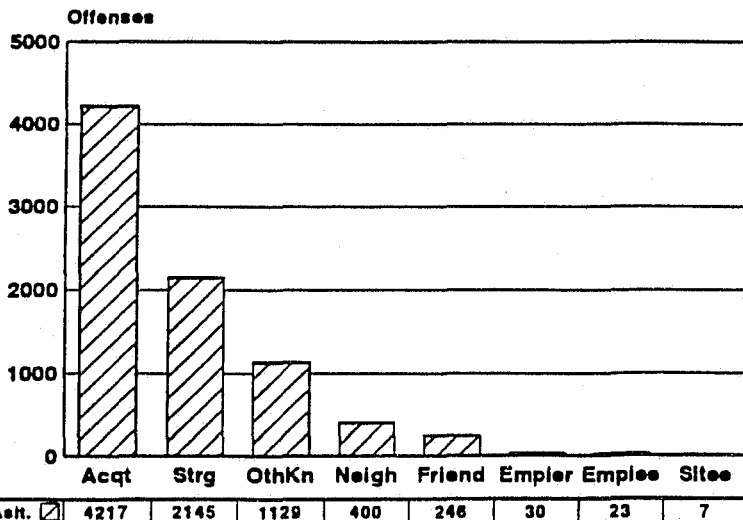
Relative



Relative Key

- CBG Child of Boy/Girlfriend
- Chld Child
- GC Grandchild
- GP Grandparent
- InL In-Law
- OF Other Family
- Par Parent
- Sib Sibling
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- Sitee Babysitter (the Baby)
- Emplse Employee
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