M A R Y L A N D

B A T T E R E D

S P O U S E

R E P O R T

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STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

MARYLAND STATE POLICE
PIKESVILLE, MARYLAND 21208-3899
AREA CODE 301 486-3101
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CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

COLONEL GEORGE BROSAN
SUPERINTENDENT
MARYLAND STATE POLICE

April 7, 1987

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In response to House Joint Resolution #32, concerning Battered Spouses, passed in the 1977 session of the Maryland General Assembly, the Maryland State Police respectfully submits this collection of data on domestic violence.

Due to the enthusiasm and requests for copies of this report by criminal justice, social services, and other societies and committees dealing with Spousal Assaults, the Maryland State Police will continue to collect these statistics.

Hopefully, this report will be helpful in finding ways to curb this type of violence.

Sincerely,

Superintendent

GB:bls

Attachment

The 1986 Maryland Battered Spouse Report was prepared by the Maryland State Police, Criminal Records-Central Repository. Those responsible for the report are:

COLONEL GEORGE BROSAN
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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, 1982 through December 31, 1986.

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 nonaggravated assault was committed by their mate.

2. A married person estranged from their spouse upon whom an aggravated or nonaggravated 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 128 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 14,778 spousal assaults were reported to law enforcement agencies during 1986. This represents an increase of 16.8% when compared to 1985.

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
JANUARY	1,034	891	716	613	665
FEBRUARY	978	846	689	551	681
MARCH	1,205	957	794	649	754
APRIL	1,173	954	763	644	811
MAY	1,292	1,126	791	676	834
JUNE	1,412	1,161	917	717	825
JULY	1,577	1,166	962	763	885
AUGUST	1,331	1,182	841	802	728
SEPTEMBER	1,327	1,058	816	804	712
OCTOBER	1,180	1,173	1,035	768	774
NOVEMBER	1,157	1,109	851	765	722
DECEMBER	1,122	1,035	1,010	788	674
TOTAL	14,788	12,658	10,185	8,540	9,065

*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 1986 statistics show a 16.8% increase in domestic assaults. We feel a large percentage is the direct result of specific training seminars involving law enforcement submission of this crime.

DAY OF WEEK

Friday, Saturday and Sunday comprised 51% of assaults. 19% of all assaults occurred on Sunday, as compared to 18% on Saturday of 1986.

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
MONDAY	1,918	1,572	1,294	1,017	1,051
TUESDAY	1,770	1,568	1,162	1,055	1,005
WEDNESDAY	1,820	1,498	1,171	977	1,043
THURSDAY	1,804	1,569	1,236	1,067	1,114
FRIDAY	2,062	1,683	1,375	1,218	1,330
SATURDAY	2,665	2,370	1,951	1,641	1,842
SUNDAY	2,749	2,398	1,996	1,565	1,680
TOTAL	14,788	12,658	10,185	8,540	9,065

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

HOUR OF THE DAY

59% of the spousal assaults occurred from 6:00 P.M. through 2:00 A.M.

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
12:00 A.M.	896	808	655	552	612
1:00 A.M.	827	655	580	510	539
2:00 A.M.	772	670	581	483	486
3:00 A.M.	545	486	351	302	383
4:00 A.M.	317	289	242	194	235
5:00 A.M.	243	205	150	147	138
6:00 A.M.	237	165	149	131	127
7:00 A.M.	298	210	172	151	144
8:00 A.M.	313	273	166	154	146
9:00 A.M.	350	302	225	177	205
10:00 A.M.	338	320	255	218	215
11:00 A.M.	384	295	275	234	254
12:00 Noon	455	392	313	275	271
1:00 P.M.	401	312	278	210	246
2:00 P.M.	432	396	281	236	272
3:00 P.M.	505	420	338	278	287
4:00 P.M.	542	499	393	350	361
5:00 P.M.	733	640	513	425	463
6:00 P.M.	862	769	613	520	543
7:00 P.M.	944	796	629	556	582
8:00 P.M.	1,011	908	723	528	577
9:00 P.M.	1,161	930	760	620	608
10:00 P.M.	1,136	928	745	644	700
11:00 P.M.	1,086	990	798	645	671

Analysis: Over 50% of all assaults occur from 6:00 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 2,927 aggravated assaults of a spousal nature were reported during 1986. This comprised 20 percent of the total spousal assaults. Also this represents a 9.4 percent decrease when compared to the 3,231 aggravated spousal assaults reported in 1985.

A total of 11,861 non-aggravated or simple assaults were reported during 1986. This comprises 80.0 percent of the total spousal assaults. This represents a 25.8 percent increase when compared to the 9,427 non-aggravated spousal assaults reported in 1985.

VICTIMS OF SPOUSAL ASSAULTS BY WEAPON

Firearms comprised 11.1 percent of the total aggravated assaults and 2.2 percent of the total assaults. In 1985, firearms comprised 9.2 percent of the total aggravated assaults and 2.3 percent of the total assaults.

Knife or cutting instruments comprised 25.1 percent of the total aggravated assaults and 5.0 percent of the total assaults. In 1985, knife or cutting instruments comprised 21.8 percent of the total aggravated assaults and 5.6 percent of the total assaults.

Other dangerous weapons comprised 36.1 percent of the total aggravated assaults and 7.1 percent of the total assaults. In 1985, other dangerous weapons comprised 35.1 percent of the total aggravated assaults and 8.9 percent of the total assaults.

Aggravated assaults by physical force comprised 27.7 percent of the aggravated assaults and 5.5 percent of the total assaults. In 1985, aggravated assaults by physical force comprised 33.9 percent of the total aggravated assaults and 8.6 percent of the total assaults.

Non-aggravated simple assaults accounted for 80.2 percent of all spousal assaults. In 1985, non-aggravated simple assaults comprised 74.5 percent of all spousal assaults.

VICTIMS

In 1986, spousal assault victims were female in 85.6 percent of all cases as compared to 84.8 percent in 1985. This represents a .9 percent increase in female victims.

57.4 percent of the victims were white, while 41.8 percent were black and .9 percent were of other races. In 1985, 60.5 percent were white, 38.6 percent were black, and .8 percent were of other races.

VICTIMS

% OF AGGRAVATED VS. NON-AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS

FIVE YEAR TREND

CLASSIFICATION	SEX	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
FIREARM	M	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7
	F	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.6	2.4
KNIFE OR CUTTING INSTRUMENT	M	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.2	3.1
	F	2.5	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.9
OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPON	M	2.3	2.9	2.8	2.1	2.0
	F	4.9	6.0	5.7	5.5	5.0
HANDS, FISTS, FEET, ETC.	M	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.9
	F	5.0	8.0	6.7	8.4	9.2
TOTAL AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS	M	5.7	6.7	6.5	6.7	6.7
	F	14.1	18.8	17.6	19.5	19.5
TOTAL NON-AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS	M	8.7	8.5	8.1	6.6	6.3
	F	71.5	66.0	67.8	67.2	67.5
GRAND TOTAL	M	14.4	15.2	14.7	13.3	13.0
	F	85.6	84.8	85.3	86.7	87.0

ASSAULTS

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

FIVE YEAR TREND

CLASSIFICATION	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
FIREARM	325	298	259	268	283
KNIFE	735	704	597	534	547
OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPON	1,057	1,134	866	649	631
HANDS, FISTS, FEET, ETC.	810	1,095	733	781	916
NON-AGGRAVATED	11,861	9,427	7,730	6,308	6,688
TOTAL	14,788	12,658	10,185	8,540	9,065

HOUSEHOLD STATUS

Statistics show that 71.9 percent of the total spousal assaults occurred while spouses were living together at the time of the assault, while 18.1 percent were estranged. In 10.0 percent of the cases, the household status was unknown. In 1985, 72.3 percent of the total spousal assaults occurred while spouses were living together, while 17.1 percent were estranged. In 10.5 percent of the 1985 cases, the household status was unknown. Those assaults counted in the living together category included married persons, as well as those unmarried couples, living together.

CIRCUMSTANCES

18.1 percent of the circumstances were reported to police departments as "arguments" with no further explanation. In 38.8 percent of the spousal assault cases, no reason at all was given to the responding officer. In 1985, 16.6 percent were reported as "arguments" with no further explanation, and in 38.5 percent of the cases, no reason was given at all.

The only significant reason given to police was alcohol related situations which accounted for 17.6 percent of the total. In 1985, alcohol related situations accounted for 18.0 percent of the total, also the most significant reason given to police.

CIRCUMSTANCES

FIVE YEAR TREND

NATURE OF ARGUMENT	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
ALCOHOL	2,600	2,284	1,635	1,454	1,483
DRUGS	165	119	72	48	67
FOOD/COOKING	121	66	92	46	60
FRIENDS	232	139	140	139	137
GAMBLING	10	9	3	5	6
HOUSEHOLD CHORES	117	78	53	49	63
INFIDELITY	732	707	545	360	339
EMPLOYMENT/ JOB RELATED	103	107	90	57	67
MENTAL IMBALANCE	50	54	37	35	41
MONEY	615	603	462	315	325
OFFSPRING	760	702	599	509	481
PROPERTY	538	490	331	293	314
RELATIVES	116	128	91	59	86
SEX	172	162	95	79	80
HOBBY	17	12	6	6	7
T.V.	26	24	24	11	25
OTHER	2,673	2,100	1,661	937	2,340
UNKNOWN	5,741	4,874	4,249	4,138	3,144
TOTAL	14,788	12,658	10,185	8,540	9,065

CLEARANCES

68.2 percent of all spousal assault cases reported to law enforcement agencies are known to be cleared. 23.0 percent were cleared by arrest and 45.2 percent were exceptionally cleared. In 31.5 percent of the incidents, the clearance was unknown. In 1985, 52.5 percent were cleared, 19.0 percent were cleared by arrest, and 33.5 percent were exceptionally cleared. In 47.4 percent of the incidents, the clearance was unknown.

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.

BATTERED SPOUSE - BY COUNTY

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
REGION I - EASTERN SHORE	670	614	507	455	372
Caroline County	52	40	34	35	29
Cecil County	250	175	157	121	109
Dorchester County	63	61	45	46	45
Kent County	13	23	21	19	25
Queen Anne's County	40	42	37	42	25
Somerset County	37	37	31	29	23
Talbot County	39	39	23	10	26
Wicomico County	115	122	90	111	66
Worcester County	61	75	69	42	24
REGION II - SOUTHERN MARYLAND	419	262	198	152	127
Calvert County	127	86	108	95	63
Charles County	104	36	27	34	27
St. Mary's County	188	140	63	23	37
REGION III - WESTERN MARYLAND	666	598	447	511	460
Allegany County	57	39	54	48	42
Carroll County	238	200	148	137	129
Frederick County	234	242	182	235	191
Garrett County	85	65	12	18	27
Washington County	52	52	51	73	71
REGION IV - WASH. METRO REGION	3,326	1,644	1,271	863	790
Montgomery County	759	548	486	425	401
Pr. George's County	2,567	1,096	785	438	389

BATTERED SPOUSE - BY COUNTY

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
REGION V - BALTO. METRO REGION	9,700	9,539	7,762	6,559	7,315
Baltimore City	3,400	3,304	2,844	2,934	3,770
Anne Arundel County	536	555	774	443	225
Baltimore County	5,168	5,058	3,648	2,776	2,979
Harford County	378	372	324	205	142
Howard County	218	250	172	201	199
PARKS	7	1	0	0	1
STATE TOTAL	14,788	12,658	10,185	8,540	9,065

Analysis: As a result of continued training, a large percentage of the 1986 increase is believed to be due to better reporting procedures.

COUNTY TRENDS

AGGRAVATED VS. NON-AGGRAVATED

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
REGION I - EASTERN SHORE					
CAROLINE COUNTY					
Aggravated	10	13	9	13	11
Non-Aggravated	42	27	25	22	18
Total	52	40	34	35	29
Ranking	19th	19th	19th	18th	17th
CECIL COUNTY					
Aggravated	42	38	27	22	30
Non-Aggravated	208	137	130	99	79
Total	250	175	157	121	109
Ranking	7th	10th	9th	10th	10th
DORCHESTER COUNTY					
Aggravated	16	22	17	13	18
Non-Aggravated	47	39	28	33	27
Total	63	61	45	46	45
Ranking	16th	16th	17th	15th	14th
KENT COUNTY					
Aggravated	3	1	1	2	4
Non-Aggravated	10	22	20	17	21
Total	13	23	21	19	25
Ranking	23rd	23rd	23rd	22nd	21st
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY					
Aggravated	8	8	11	16	10
Non-Aggravated	32	34	26	26	15
Total	40	42	37	42	25
Ranking	20th	18th	18th	16th	21st
SOMERSET COUNTY					
Aggravated	7	10	9	3	8
Non-Aggravated	30	27	22	26	15
Total	37	37	31	29	23
Ranking	22nd	21st	20th	20th	24th

COUNTY TRENDS

AGGRAVATED VS. NON-AGGRAVATED

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
TALBOT COUNTY					
Aggravated	7	4	8	5	7
Non-Aggravated	32	35	15	5	19
Total	39	39	23	10	26
Ranking	21st	20th	22nd	24th	20th
WICOMICO COUNTY					
Aggravated	24	12	6	26	27
Non-Aggravated	91	110	84	85	39
Total	115	122	90	111	66
Ranking	13th	12th	12th	11th	12th
WORCESTER COUNTY					
Aggravated	15	19	22	12	5
Non-Aggravated	46	56	47	30	19
Total	61	75	69	42	24
Ranking	17th	14th	13th	16th	23rd
REGION II - SOUTHERN MARYLAND					
CALVERT COUNTY					
Aggravated	28	16	25	23	9
Non-Aggravated	99	70	83	72	54
Total	127	86	108	95	63
Ranking	12th	13th	11th	12th	13th
CHARLES COUNTY					
Aggravated	16	6	5	13	8
Non-Aggravated	88	30	22	21	19
Total	104	36	27	34	27
Ranking	14th	22nd	21st	19th	18th
ST. MARY'S COUNTY					
Aggravated	42	34	11	6	6
Non-Aggravated	146	106	52	17	31
Total	188	140	63	23	37
Ranking	11th	11th	14th	21st	16th

COUNTY TRENDS

AGGRAVATED VS. NON-AGGRAVATED

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
REGION III - WESTERN MARYLAND					
ALLEGANY COUNTY					
Aggravated	13	13	13	10	12
Non-Aggravated	44	26	41	38	30
Total	57	39	54	48	42
Ranking	18th	20th	15th	14th	15th
CARROLL COUNTY					
Aggravated	39	47	30	34	34
Non-Aggravated	199	153	118	103	95
Total	238	200	148	137	129
Ranking	8th	9th	10th	9th	9th
FREDERICK COUNTY					
Aggravated	74	89	62	91	52
Non-Aggravated	160	153	120	144	139
Total	234	242	182	235	191
Ranking	9th	8th	7th	6th	7th
GARRETT COUNTY					
Aggravated	15	8	1	1	9
Non-Aggravated	70	57	11	17	18
Total	85	65	12	18	27
Ranking	15th	15th	24th	23rd	18th
WASHINGTON COUNTY					
Aggravated	16	14	18	30	25
Non-Aggravated	36	38	33	43	46
Total	52	52	51	73	71
Ranking	19th	17th	16th	13th	11th
REGION IV - WASHINGTON METRO REGION					
MONTGOMERY COUNTY					
Aggravated	96	79	51	69	50
Non-Aggravated	663	469	435	356	351
Total	759	548	486	425	401
Ranking	4th	5th	5th	5th	3rd

COUNTY TRENDS

AGGRAVATED VS. NON-AGGRAVATED

FIVE YEAR TREND

	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
PR. GEORGE'S COUNTY					
Aggravated	542	339	283	205	237
Non-Aggravated	2,025	757	502	233	152
Total	2,567	1,096	785	438	389
Ranking	3rd	3rd	3rd	4th	4th
REGION V - BALTIMORE METRO REGION					
BALTIMORE CITY					
Aggravated	487	547	453	488	597
Non-Aggravated	2,913	2,757	2,391	2,446	3,173
Total	3,400	3,304	2,844	2,934	3,770
Ranking	2nd	2nd	2nd	1st	1st
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY					
Aggravated	123	181	191	122	72
Non-Aggravated	413	374	583	321	153
Total	536	555	774	443	225
Ranking	5th	4th	4th	3rd	5th
BALTIMORE COUNTY					
Aggravated	1,220	1,644	1,143	994	1,091
Non-Aggravated	3,948	3,414	2,505	1,782	1,888
Total	5,168	5,058	3,648	2,776	2,979
Ranking	1st	1st	1st	2nd	2nd
HARFORD COUNTY					
Aggravated	50	60	44	12	25
Non-Aggravated	328	312	280	193	117
Total	378	372	324	205	142
Ranking	6th	6th	6th	7th	8th
HOWARD COUNTY					
Aggravated	29	27	15	22	30
Non-Aggravated	189	223	157	179	169
Total	218	250	172	201	199
Ranking	10th	7th	8th	8th	6th

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

DOMESTIC ASSAULTS

1986

	AGGRAVATED	NON-AGGRAVATED	TOTAL
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND	10	26	36
FT. GEORGE G. MEADE	1	42	43
FT. RITCHIE	2	8	10
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE	3	24	27
PATUXENT NAVAL AIR STATION	12	41	53
FT. DETRICK	0	1	1
U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY	4	7	11
GRAND TOTAL	32	149	181

MARYLAND SUPPLEMENTARY BATTERED SPOUSE REPORT

9

AGENCY IDENTIFIER

Forward By 30th Day After The End of Each Month To:
Criminal Records – Central Repository
Maryland State Police, Pikesville, Md. 21208

Assault Classification	Date	Day of Week	Time	Victim			Offender			INJURIES (Serious, slight, none)	HOUSEHOLD STATUS (Living together or estranged)	DISPOSITION (Arrest, Exceptional, Unknown)	CIRCUMSTANCES (Argument over third party, argument over money, etc.)
				Age	Sex	Race	Age	Sex	Race				

Department Reporting

Report for Month of 19

Date of Report

Prepared By Title

Head of Department

MARYLAND UCR COPY

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE	
	INITIALS
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PUNCHED	
VERIFIED	
ADJUSTED	

Md UCR Form 9