

180601

**STATE OF MARYLAND**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ANNUAL REPORT**

**A Statistical Report Encompassing 1996 and 1997 Statewide Data**  
**(Supplement to the 1997 Crime in Maryland Uniform Crime Report)**

**GOVERNOR PARRIS N. GLENDENING**  
**LT. GOVERNOR KATHLEEN KENNEDY TOWNSEND**  
**COLONEL DAVID B. MITCHELL, SUPERINTENDENT**  
**MARYLAND STATE POLICE**

**May 13, 1999**

**Executive Summary**  
**Domestic Violence Annual Report**  
**A Statistical Report Encompassing 1996 and 1997 Statewide Data**

A review of the Domestic Violence Annual Report reflects a **3.4 percent increase in domestic violence incidents when compared to 1996**, as reported to the Maryland Uniform Crime Reporting Program. There were 25,792 offences in 1997 and 24,940 in 1996.

With the exception of Murder the **Index offenses** reflected an increase when compared to 1996. **Murder** decreased -29.6% when compared to 1996. The **rate of increase** occurring in the following index offenses was: **Motor Vehicle Theft** 450.0%, **Larceny-Theft** 384.8%, **Breaking or Entering** 145.1%, **Rape** 43.9%, **Robbery** 43.8% and **Aggravated Assaults** .8%.

A breakdown of the following categories shows the **nature of domestic violence offenses**: Day of Week, Hour of Day, Circumstances, Alcohol or Drug Involvement, Relationship of Victim to Offender, Household Status, Injuries and Disposition.

In 1996 and 1997, Sunday was the day that showed the highest number of offenses 4,442 and 4,644 respectively, reflecting a 4.5 % increase. In 1996 during the hour of 10:00 to 11:00 p.m. showed the highest number of offenses 3,462 while in 1997 the hour of 9:00p.m. to 10:00p.m. had the highest frequencies, 3,714.

The **circumstances** surrounding the domestic violence offenses denoted that both in 1996 and 1997 the most frequent detailed circumstance was "Argument Over Infidelity" or "Claims of Unfaithfulness" reporting 1,572 vs. 1,589 respectively. Both in 1996 and 1997 reflected "none" as the most common choice when Alcohol or Drug Involvement is known. There were 8,955 in 1996 and 10,190 in 1997.

In the "**Relationship of Victim to Offender**" category the wife was the most frequent victim in 1996 (10,657) and in 1997 (10,054). The "**Injuries**" category reflected no injury and slight injury accounted for most of the domestic violence situations.

In the "**Disposition**" category exceptional clearance and arrest reflected most of the offenses. In 1996 there were 10,187 exceptional clearances and 9,680 arrests, while 1997 reflected 8,741 exceptional clearances and 10,551 arrests.

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ANNUAL REPORT

The Domestic Violence Act of 1994 mandated that all law enforcement agencies in Maryland submit copies of their police reports of incidences involving domestic violence to the Maryland State Police. Through the Maryland Uniform Crime Reporting Program, a revised Battered Spouse data collection form was created. This new form allowed for the collection of more data, which is based upon a revised definition of a domestic violence incident under the guidelines of the Maryland Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Under the Maryland Uniform Crime Reporting Program the definition for a domestic violence incident is considered "**An individual who has received deliberate physical injury or is in fear of imminent deliberate physical injury from a current or former spouse or a current or former cohabitant. This includes a homosexual relationship.**" In addition, a domestic violence incident in the Maryland Uniform Crime Reporting Program is considered to be any crime against:

- *A married person living with their spouse.*
- *A married person estranged from their spouse.*
- *A male and female in an intimate relationship who are not married to each other and who are cohabiting or had cohabited.*
- *Individuals of the same sex in an intimate relationship who are cohabiting or had cohabited.*

It should be noted that prior to 1996 the Crime in Maryland publications contained the Battered Spouse Report. The statistical information collected was only on assaults to domestic partner and did not include same sex in an intimate relationship who are cohabiting or had cohabited. As a supplement to the 1997 Crime in Maryland publication, the statistics presented in this report are for the period January 1, 1997 through December 31, 1997 compared to the same period for 1996. The following information gives a more comprehensive report that includes statistics based on the revised definition of domestic violence and additional crimes.

## Domestic Violence Crimes

There are limitations to the information collected which should be clearly understood before any conclusions are drawn from the data presented in this report. Procedures for handling domestic violence crimes vary between law enforcement agencies and counties of occurrence.

The current method of collecting domestic violence information for this report provides less than a complete picture. There is at present, no other statewide informational system in general use gathering these statistics from law enforcement agencies that will more accurately perform this task.

There was a total of 25,792 domestic violence crimes reported in 1997 as compared to 24,940 crimes in 1996, resulting in a 3.4 percent increase. The breakdown is as follows:

Crime	1996	1997	Percent Change
Homicide	27	19	- 29.6 %
Rape	66	95	43.9 %
Robbery	64	92	43.8 %
Assaults	24,255	24,457	0.8 %
Breaking or Entering	51	125	145.1 %
Larceny-Theft	46	223	384.8 %
Motor Vehicle Theft	4	22	450.0 %
Arson	1	6	500.0 %
Forgery	1	6	500.0 %
Fraud	0	6	N/A
Malicious Destruction of Property	103	252	144.7 %
Illegal Weapons	0	2	N/A
Sex Offenses	6	9	50.0 %
Offenses Against Family & Children	7	7	0.0 %
Disorderly Conduct	20	0	-100.0 %
All Other Offenses	289	471	63.0 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,940</b>	<b>25,792</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>

## Assaults

Assault is the most frequent domestic violence incident reported. During 1997, there were 24,457 domestic assaults, representing an .8 percent increase over 1996 domestic violence assaults. There were 3,569 domestic assaults reported as aggravated. Aggravated assaults were 15 percent of the total reported domestic assaults in 1997.

	1996	1997	Percent Change
<b>Aggravated</b>			
Firearm	233	289	24.0 %
Knife	836	997	19.3 %
Other Dangerous Weapons	1,638	1,759	7.4 %
Hands, Fists, Feet, Etc.	527	524	- 0.6 %
<b>Non-Aggravated</b>			
Simple	20,983	20,858	- 0.6 %
Stalking	38	30	-21.1 %
<hr/>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,255</b>	<b>24,457</b>	<b>.8 %</b>

## Monthly Occurrences

	1996	1997	Percent Change
January	2,187	1,832	- 16.2 %
February	1,883	1,604	- 14.8 %
March	2,109	1,891	- 10.3 %
April	2,073	2,072	- 0.0 %
May	2,076	2,053	- 1.1 %
June	2,351	2,289	- 2.6 %
July	2,258	2,443	8.2 %
August	2,112	2,441	15.6 %
September	2,033	2,312	13.7 %
October	2,047	2,232	9.0 %
November	1,762	2,197	24.7 %
December	2,049	2,426	18.4 %
<hr/>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,940</b>	<b>25,792</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>

## Day of Week

	1996	1997	Percent Change
Monday	3,590	3,550	- 1.1 %
Tuesday	3,412	3,314	- 2.9 %
Wednesday	3,156	3,291	4.3 %
Thursday	3,058	3,256	6.5 %
Friday	3,345	3,432	2.6 %
Saturday	3,937	4,305	9.3 %
Sunday	4,442	4,644	4.5 %
<hr/>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,940</b>	<b>25,792</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>

## Hour of Day

	1996	1997	Percent Change
12:00 A.M.	1,090	1,113	2.1 %
1:00 A.M.	1,370	1,518	10.8 %
2:00 A.M.	961	1,045	8.7 %
3:00 A.M.	662	704	6.3 %
4:00 A.M.	430	465	8.1 %
5:00 A.M.	306	337	10.1 %
6:00 A.M.	329	357	8.5 %
7:00 A.M.	457	489	7.0 %
8:00 A.M.	531	588	10.7 %
9:00 A.M.	731	789	7.9 %
10:00 A.M.	979	927	- 5.3 %
11:00 A.M.	998	1,137	13.9 %
12:00 Noon	1,107	1,025	- 7.4 %
1:00 P.M.	900	856	- 4.9 %
2:00 P.M.	1,030	991	- 3.8 %
3:00 P.M.	1,140	1,122	- 1.6 %
4:00 P.M.	1,116	1,164	4.3 %
5:00 P.M.	1,148	1,166	1.6 %
6:00 P.M.	1,328	1,357	2.2 %
7:00 P.M.	1,425	1,509	5.9 %
8:00 P.M.	1,655	1,677	1.3 %
9:00 P.M.	1,785	1,860	4.2 %
10:00 P.M.	1,791	1,854	3.5 %
11:00 P.M.	1,671	1,742	4.2 %
<hr/>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,940</b>	<b>25,792</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>

## Analysis

In 1997, 44 percent of all domestic violent crimes occurred between the hours of 7:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M., inclusive. Thirty-five percent of domestic violent crimes occurred during Saturday and Sunday. In 1996, the percent of all domestic violent crimes occurring between the hours of 7:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M. was 43 percent. Thirty-four percent of domestic violent crimes occurred on Saturday and Sunday. When combining these two categories this would indicate that an intensive period for domestic violent crimes occur between 7:00 P.M. and 1:00 A.M. on Saturday and Sunday.

## Victims

Sex	1996	1997	Percent Change
Female	19,742	20,174	2.2 %
Male	5,198	5,618	8.1 %
<hr/>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,940</b>	<b>25,792</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>

Race	1996	1997	Percent Change
American Indian	22	21	- 4.5 %
Asian	197	242	22.8 %
Black	11,081	12,295	11.0 %
White	13,286	12,847	- 3.3 %
<sup>1</sup> Other	354	387	9.3 %
<hr/>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,940</b>	<b>25,792</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>

## Age

Seventy-two percent of the victims of domestic violence are between 25 to 44 years of age, inclusive.

---

<sup>1</sup> Race selection categories are limited to American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black, White and Other (For Domestic Violence collection purposes, a Race not included in this selection is captured as Other Race)

Injuries	1996	1997	Percent Change
Serious	926	552	- 40.4 %
Slight	1,094	1,203	10.0 %
None	9,950	12,298	23.6 %
Unknown	12,970	11,739	- 9.5 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,940</b>	<b>25,792</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>

### Relationships

The domestic violence report collects five victim relationships, either current or former. The victim in the following was the:

	1996	1997	Percent Change
Husband	2,864	2,971	3.7 %
Wife	10,657	10,054	- 5.7 %
Male Cohabitant	2,212	2,522	14.0 %
Female Cohabitant	9,005	10,033	11.4 %
Homosexual	202	212	5.0 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,940</b>	<b>25,792</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>

### Household Status

	1996	1997	Percent Change
Living Together	5,315	6,796	27.9 %
Estranged	994	367	- 63.1 %
Unknown	18,631	18,629	- 0.0 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,940</b>	<b>25,792</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>



## Circumstances

Argument Over	1996	1997	Percent Change
Alcohol	918	772	- 15.9 %
Drug	254	222	- 12.6 %
Food or Cooking	143	174	21.7 %
Friends	228	207	- 9.2 %
Gambling	9	6	- 33.3 %
Household Chores	190	204	7.4 %
Infidelity	1,572	1,589	1.1 %
Job or Lack of Job	150	142	- 5.3 %
Mental Imbalance of Either	148	85	- 42.6 %
Money	1,013	1,110	9.6 %
Offspring	1,403	1,488	6.1 %
Property	952	1,044	9.7 %
Relatives	172	148	- 14.0 %
Sex	303	292	- 3.6 %
Sports or Hobby	14	18	28.6 %
Television	77	56	- 27.3 %
Separation	1,054	1,141	8.3 %
Divorce	223	194	- 13.0 %
Reconciliation	83	102	22.9 %
Staying Out Late	505	514	1.8 %
Other	3,832	4,132	7.8 %
Unknown	11,697	12,152	3.9 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,940</b>	<b>25,792</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>

## Alcohol and/or Drug Involvement

In domestic violence reporting the use of alcohol, drugs or both by either the offender or victim are captured.

	1996	1997	Percent Change
Alcohol	5,322	5,567	4.6 %
Drugs	309	248	- 19.7 %
Both Alcohol/Drugs	267	193	- 27.7 %
None	8,955	10,190	13.8 %
Unknown	10,087	9,594	- 4.9 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,940</b>	<b>25,792</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>

## Clearances

There are two ways of clearing a case. One is by making an arrest and charging the person(s) with the offense. The second is known as an exceptional clearance. Exceptional clearance means the police know the identity and location of the person(s) who committed the offense and have enough information to arrest them. However, there is some reason beyond their control that prevents them from making the arrest.

The arrest and exceptional clearances reported reflect the disposition at the time the domestic violence report form was forwarded to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. These reports are not updated, therefore, other arrests and exceptional clearances may occur but would not be reflected in the following totals.

	1996	1997	Percent Change
Arrest	9,680	10,551	9.0 %
Exceptional	10,187	8,741	- 14.2 %
Unknown	5,073	6,500	28.1 %
<hr/>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,940</b>	<b>25,792</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>
<hr/>			

During 1997, 75 percent of all domestic violence cases were cleared. In 1996, 80 percent of all domestic violence cases were cleared resulting in a 3 percent decrease. A breakdown of the clearances were in 1997, 41 percent by arrest, 34 percent by exceptional and 25 percent unknown. In 1996 the breakdown of clearances by arrest, exceptional and unknown were 39 percent, 41 percent and 20 percent respectively.

## County Totals

	1996	1997	Percent Change
<b>STATE</b>	<b>24,940</b>	<b>25,792</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>
<b>REGION I</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>13.7 %</b>
Caroline Co.	105	168	60.0 %
Cecil Co.	391	439	12.3 %
Dorchester Co.	127	131	3.1 %
Kent Co.	42	49	16.7 %
Queen Anne's Co.	76	61	- 19.7 %
Somerset Co.	175	237	35.4 %
Talbot Co.	107	123	15.0 %
Wicomico Co.	258	193	- 25.2 %
Worcester Co.	287	382	33.1 %
<b>REGION II</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>1,279</b>	<b>- 1.2 %</b>
Calvert Co.	302	287	- 5.0 %
Charles Co.	612	744	21.6 %
St. Mary's Co.	381	248	- 34.9 %
<b>REGION III</b>	<b>1,660</b>	<b>1,721</b>	<b>3.7 %</b>
Allegany Co.	318	354	11.3 %
Carroll Co.	401	435	8.5 %
Frederick Co.	600	563	- 6.2 %
Garrett Co.	107	80	- 25.2 %
Washington Co.	234	289	23.5 %
<b>REGION IV</b>	<b>8,718</b>	<b>9,429</b>	<b>8.2 %</b>
Montgomery Co.	3,728	3,586	- 3.8 %
Pr. George's Co.	4,990	5,843	17.1 %
<b>REGION V</b>	<b>11,693</b>	<b>11,578</b>	<b>- 1.0 %</b>
Anne Arundel Co.	1,734	1,381	- 20.4 %
Baltimore City	2,246	2,786	24.0 %
Baltimore Co.	6,242	5,948	- 4.7 %
Harford Co.	566	688	21.6 %
Howard Co.	905	775	- 14.4 %
<b>STATEWIDE AGENCIES</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>- 66.7 %</b>

## Crime Breakdown by Percent of Total

Classification of Offenses	Sex	1996 Offense Count	1997 Offense Count	Percent Change	1997	
					Percent of Male/Female Distribution	Percent of Grand Total
Total All Crimes	M	5,198	5,617	8.1 %	21.8 %	21.8 %
	F	19,742	20,175	2.2 %	78.2 %	78.2 %
Homicide Total	M	5	8	60.0 %	42.1 %	0.0 %
	F	22	11	- 50.0 %	57.9 %	0.0 %
Rape Total	M	0	0	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
	F	66	95	42.4 %	98.9 %	0.4 %
Forcible	M	0	0	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
	F	57	80	38.6 %	98.8 %	0.3 %
Attempted	M	0	0	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
	F	9	15	66.7 %	100.0 %	0.1 %
Robbery Total	M	6	8	33.3 %	8.7 %	0.0 %
	F	58	84	44.8 %	91.3 %	0.3 %
Firearm	M	0	1	N/A	20.0 %	0.0 %
	F	3	4	33.3 %	80.0 %	0.0 %
Knife	M	2	4	100.0 %	36.4 %	0.0 %
	F	7	7	0.0 %	63.6 %	0.0 %
Other Dangerous Weapon	M	1	0	- 100.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
	F	2	5	150.0 %	100.0 %	0.0 %
Strong arm	M	3	3	0.0 %	4.2 %	0.0 %
	F	46	68	47.8 %	95.8 %	0.3 %
Assault Total	M	5,100	5,347	4.8 %	21.9 %	20.7 %
	F	19,155	19,110	- 0.2 %	78.1 %	74.1 %
Aggravated Sub Total	M	1,195	1,362	14.0 %	38.2 %	5.3 %
	F	2,039	2,207	8.2 %	61.8 %	8.6 %
Firearm	M	32	48	50.0 %	16.6 %	0.2 %
	F	201	241	19.9 %	83.4 %	0.9 %
Knife	M	457	529	15.8 %	53.1 %	2.1 %
	F	379	468	23.5 %	46.9 %	1.8 %
Other Dangerous Weapon	M	664	733	10.4 %	41.7 %	2.8 %
	F	974	1,026	5.3 %	58.3 %	4.0 %
No Weapon	M	42	52	23.8 %	9.9 %	0.2 %
	F	485	472	2.7 %	90.1 %	1.8 %

Classification of Offenses	Sex	1996 Offense Count	1997 Offense Count	Percent Change	1997	
					Percent of Male/Female Distribution	Percent of Grand Total
Non Aggravated Sub Total	M	3,905	3,985	2.0 %	19.1 %	15.5 %
	F	17,116	16,903	- 1.2 %	80.9 %	65.5 %
Simple	M	3,904	3,985	2.1 %	19.1 %	15.5 %
	F	17,079	16,873	- 1.2 %	80.9 %	65.4 %
Stalking	M	1	0	-100.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
	F	37	30	- 18.9 %	100.0 %	0.1 %
Breaking or Entering Total	M	2	13	550.0 %	10.4 %	0.1 %
	F	49	112	128.6 %	89.6 %	0.4 %
Forcible	M	2	9	350.0 %	9.6 %	0.0 %
	F	38	85	123.7 %	90.4 %	0.3 %
Non Forcible	M	0	3	N/A	15.0 %	0.0 %
	F	7	17	142.9 %	85.0 %	0.1 %
Attempt	M	0	1	N/A	9.1 %	0.0 %
	F	4	10	150.0 %	90.0 %	0.0 %
Larceny-Theft Total	M	15	82	446.7 %	36.8 %	0.3 %
	F	31	141	354.8 %	63.2 %	0.5 %
Motor Vehicle Theft Total	M	0	4	N/A	18.2 %	0.0 %
	F	4	18	350.0 %	81.8 %	0.1 %
Automobiles	M	0	4	N/A	18.2 %	0.0 %
	F	4	18	350.0 %	81.8 %	0.1 %
Arson	M	0	3	N/A	50.0 %	0.0 %
	F	1	3	200.0 %	50.0 %	0.0 %
Forgery	M	0	0	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
	F	1	6	500.0 %	100.0 %	0.0 %
Fraud, Bad Checks, False Pretense	M	0	4	N/A	66.7 %	0.0 %
	F	0	2	N/A	33.3 %	0.0 %
Malicious Destruction of Property	M	29	84	189.7 %	33.3 %	0.3 %
	F	74	168	127.0 %	66.7 %	0.7 %
Illegal Weapons	M	0	1	N/A	50.0 %	0.0 %
	F	0	1	N/A	50.0 %	0.0 %

Classification of Offenses	Sex	1996 Offense Count	1997 Offense Count	Percent Change	1997 Percent of Male/Female Distribution	1997 Percent of Grand Total
Sex Offense (Except Rape)	M	0	0	0.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
	F	6	9	50.0 %	100.0 %	0.0 %
Offenses Against Family (Desertion/NonSupport/Neglect)	M	1	2	100.0 %	28.6 %	0.0 %
	F	6	5	- 16.7 %	71.4 %	0.0 %
Disorderly Conduct	M	2	0	-100.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
	F	18	0	-100.0 %	0.0 %	0.0 %
All Other Crimes	M	38	61	60.5 %	13.0 %	0.2 %
	F	251	410	63.3 %	87.0 %	1.6 %

**STATE OF MARYLAND**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ANNUAL REPORT**

A Statistical Report Encompassing 1996 and 1997 Statewide Data

(Supplement to the 1997 Crime in Maryland Uniform Crime Report)

Prepared by: Uniform Crime Reporting Program  
Central Records Division  
Maryland State Police

May 13, 1999