

2024

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN TENNESSEE

- *DOMESTIC OFFENSE BREAKDOWN*
- *VICTIM ANALYSIS*
- *VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS*



A PUBLICATION OF THE TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER | CJIS SUPPORT CENTER



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DAVID B. RAUSCH
Director

December 30, 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Each year the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation releases annual reports on crimes reported by law enforcement agencies to the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS) program in seven different reports. The TIBRS data contains a wide range of incident level information including victim and offender demographics.

The issue of domestic violence is by no means a novel problem in American society. The persistence of domestic violence and the large number of related incidents reported to law enforcement necessitate continued awareness about this issue. In an effort to gain more insight into the problem of domestic violence within the state of Tennessee, the current study analyzes crime data collected from the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System, hereafter referred to as TIBRS. Utilizing this TIBRS crime data, offenses flagged as domestic violence for 2024 are included in the report.

I would like to thank all contributing agencies for their hard work and contributions to making this report a thorough and accurate picture of crime in Tennessee. It is only with their support the state continues to maintain such a successful program.

Sincerely,

Director
David B. Rausch



INTRODUCTION

The issue of domestic violence is by no means a novel problem in the American society. However, the persistence of domestic violence and the large number of related incidents reported to law enforcement necessitate continued awareness about this issue. In an effort to gain more insight into the problem of domestic violence within the state of Tennessee, this study analyzes recent crime data collected from the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS). Utilizing this TIBRS crime data, offenses flagged as domestic related in 2024 were examined.

OVERALL FINDINGS

Upon initially examining the TIBRS data submitted for domestic violence offenses, several parameters for the study were established. The data included in this study had to meet the following criteria: Crimes Against Persons offense(s); offense(s) flagged by the law enforcement agency as being domestically related; and victim gender could not be reported as Unknown. The total number of domestic violence victims reported in the state for 2024 amounted to 60,635. It should be noted that individuals who reported domestic abuse in more than one incident during the study period will be duplicated accordingly in this report's victim count. The majority of these victims were female (70.79%), over double the amount of male victims (29.21%).

An analysis of race breakdown revealed that White victims, the racial majority for nearly all offenses, accounted for 51.63% of victims reported in 2024. A total of 7,040 juveniles, or individuals under age eighteen, accounted for 11.62% of all victims. When examining relationship types, domestic violence occurred predominately in Boyfriend/Girlfriend relationships at 37.71%, followed by Spouse at 15.59% in 2024. The most common weapon reported was Personal Weapons (hands, feet, teeth, etc.) with 56,903 reports. A total of 58.77% of domestic violence cases were cleared in 2024.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES

Crimes identified as domestically related in TIBRS must always have the victim type of Individual. Crimes Against Society and Crimes Against Property cannot be flagged as domestic violence in TIBRS. There are 17 offenses considered to be Crimes Against Persons. Of these, 12 were included in the study with the five omitted offenses being Negligent Manslaughter, Negligent Vehicular Manslaughter, Justifiable Homicide, Commercial Sex Acts, and Involuntary Servitude. Findings found that from 2023 to 2024, domestic violence offenses decreased 0.15%.

Domestic Violence Offense Type	2022	2023	2024
Murder	101	92	82
Kidnapping/Abduction	1,292	1,483	1,456
Rape	634	580	569
Sodomy	146	114	136
Sexual Assault W/Object	76	70	53
Criminal Sexual Contact	675	543	513
Incest	10	20	6
Statutory Rape	72	80	72
Aggravated Assault	10,368	9,929	9,700
Simple Assault	40,557	39,543	39,615
Intimidation	7,420	7,322	7,536
Stalking	958	950	897
Total	62,309	60,726	60,635

Statewide Violent Offense Totals	2022	2023	2024
Murder	655	722	583
Kidnapping/Abduction	1,980	2,140	2,072
Rape	2,296	2,262	2,173
Sodomy	521	491	483
Sexual Assault W/Object	234	214	195
Criminal Sexual Contact	3,085	2,643	2,704
Incest	21	27	23
Statutory Rape	339	383	331
Aggravated Assault	36,894	37,271	35,966
Simple Assault	73,434	74,633	74,731
Intimidation	25,161	27,487	27,749
Stalking	1,878	2,038	1,819
Total	146,498	150,311	148,829

Note: The above chart has been generated from data gathered from the 2024 "Crime in Tennessee" publication.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

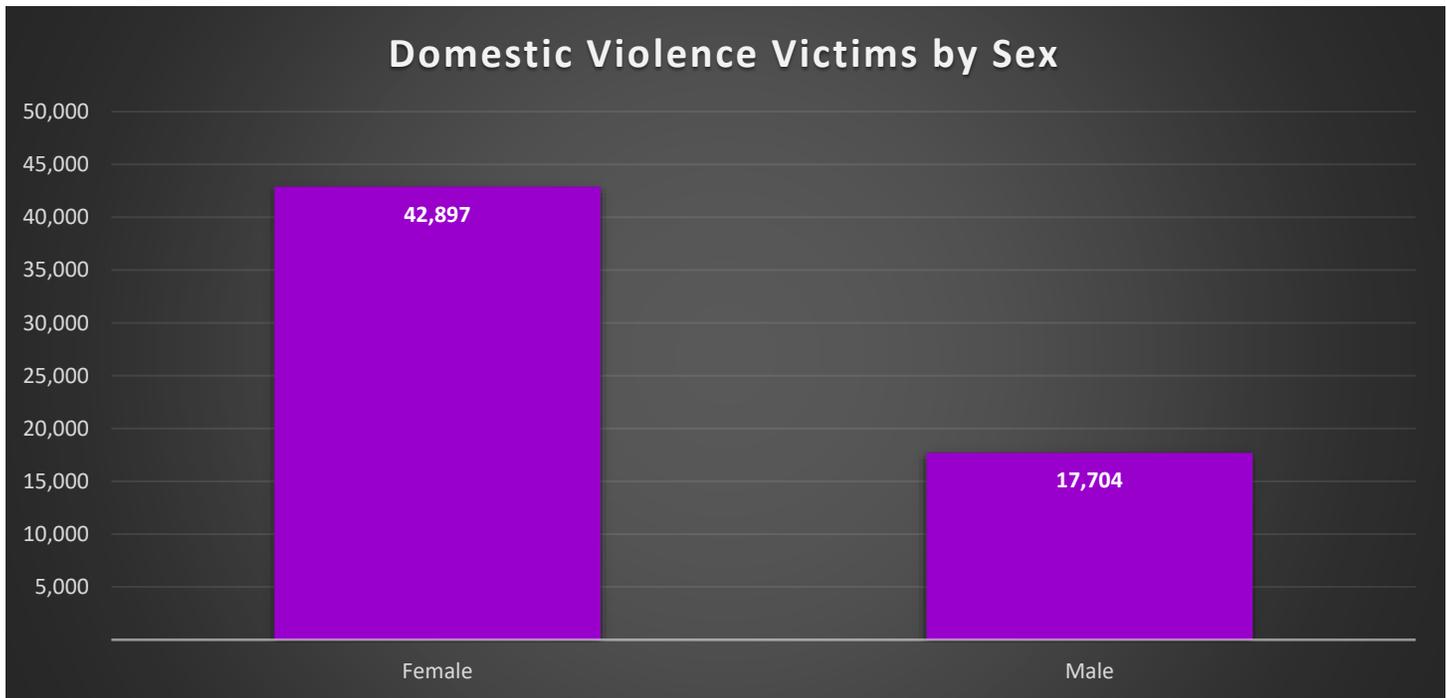
Domestic violence may often be perceived as violence against women. There are numerous agencies nationally and locally which advocate specifically for battered and abused women. The current analyses of domestic offenses in the state of Tennessee support this notion that domestic violence is most often reported as being committed toward a female victim.

Total Percentage of Victims by Offense

Offense	Female		Male		Unknown		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Murder	58	0.14%	24	0.14%	0	0.00%	82	0.14%
Kidnapping/Abduction	1,026	2.39%	430	2.43%	0	0.00%	1,456	2.40%
Rape	563	1.31%	6	0.03%	0	0.00%	569	0.94%
Sodomy	79	0.18%	57	0.32%	0	0.00%	136	0.22%
Sexual Assault W/Object	48	0.11%	5	0.03%	0	0.00%	53	0.09%
Criminal Sexual Contact	442	1.03%	71	0.40%	0	0.00%	513	0.85%
Incest	4	0.01%	2	0.01%	0	0.00%	6	0.01%
Statutory Rape	65	0.15%	7	0.04%	0	0.00%	72	0.12%
Aggravated Assault	6,475	15.09%	3,214	18.15%	11	32.35%	9,700	16.00%
Simple Assault	27,585	64.31%	12,010	67.84%	20	58.82%	39,615	65.33%
Intimidation	5,782	13.48%	1,751	9.89%	3	8.82%	7,536	12.43%
Stalking	770	1.79%	127	0.72%	0	0.00%	897	1.48%
Total	42,897	100.00%	17,704	100.00%	34	100.00%	60,635	100.00%

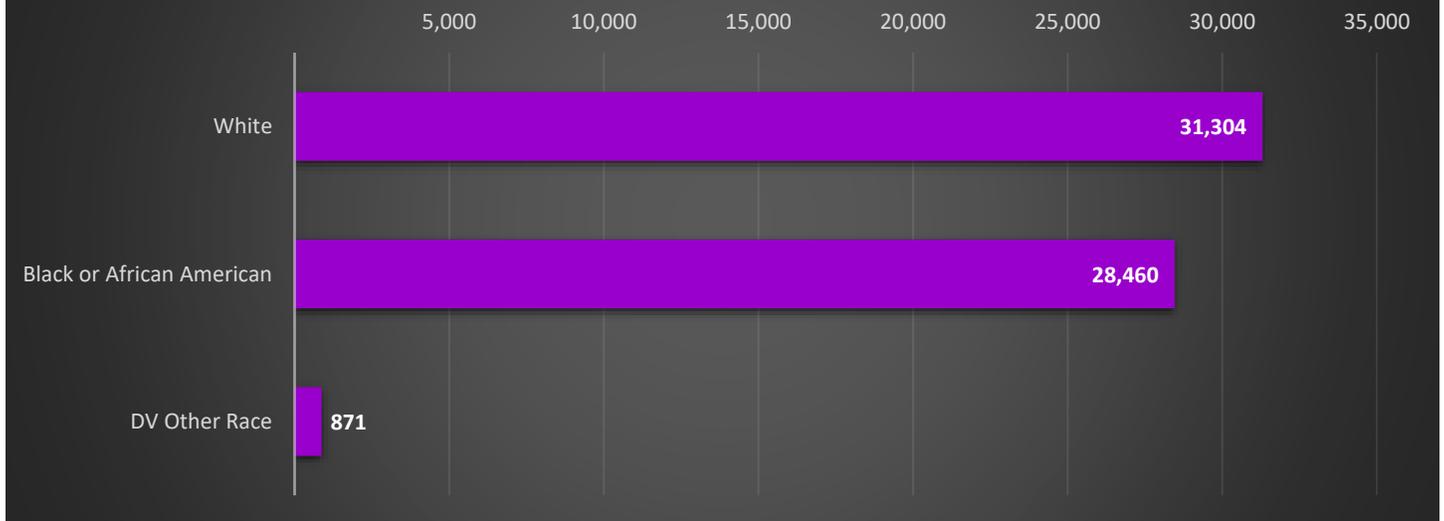
Note: Unknown is listed in this table to accurately represent data reported in 2024. The category of unknown will not be listed in other tables or charts throughout this report.

In 2024, a total of 60,635 domestic violence victims were reported to the TIBRS program. Per TIBRS reporting guidelines, up to 10 offenses may be reported per each incident, such as the ones listed in the above table.



Domestic violence victims in 2024 were overwhelmingly Female, accounting for 70.79% of victims of a known sex. This makes up over double the amount of Males, who make up 29.21% of domestic violence victims.

Domestic Violence Victims by Race

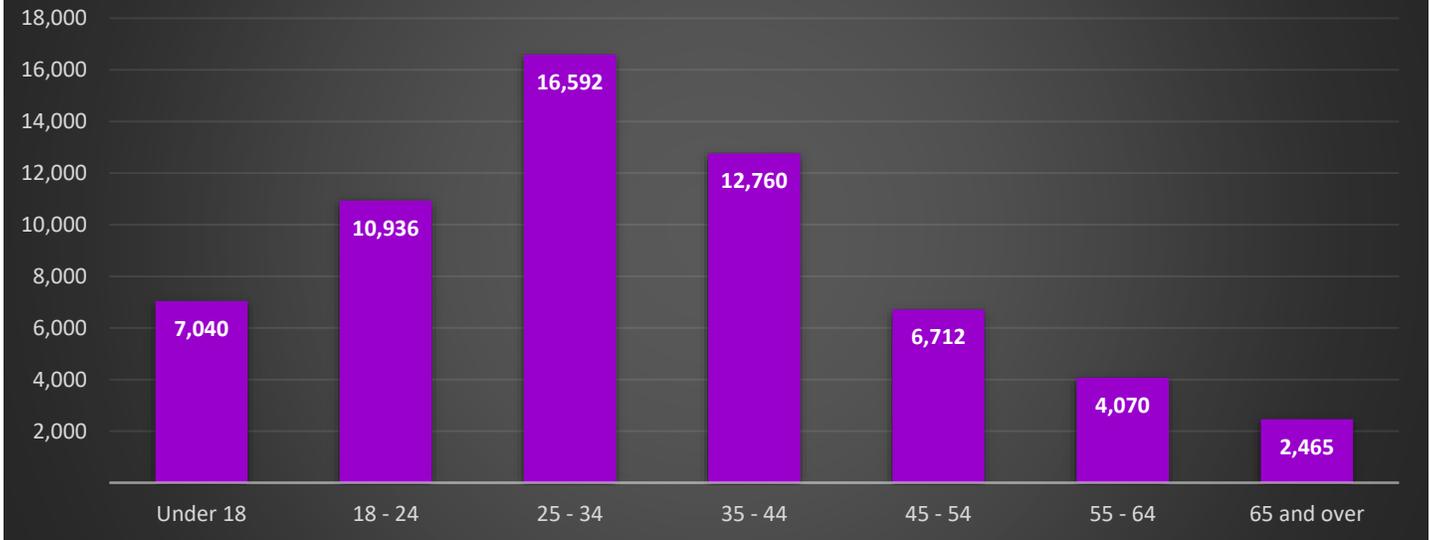


The races of victims of domestic violence in 2024 almost entirely fell into either the category of White or Black or African American, with all other races making up 1.44% of reported victims. Of the groups with a larger portion of reports, White victims made up the majority at 51.63% of reported victims and Black or African American victims comprised the remaining 46.94%.

Offense Type	White	Black or African American
Murder	45	37
Kidnapping/Abduction	678	753
Rape	385	165
Sodomy	75	60
Sexual Assault W/Object	37	14
Criminal Sexual Contact	335	162
Incest	5	1
Statutory Rape	52	17
Aggravated Assault	4,686	4,904
Simple Assault	21,385	17,640
Intimidation	3,137	4,322
Stalking	484	385

When breaking down different domestic violence offenses between White and Black or African American victims, a few notable details emerge. First, while reported victims categorized as White make up a higher amount of most offenses, as would be expected, the opposite is true for the victims of Kidnapping/Abduction, Aggravated Assault, and Intimidation offenses. The majority of victims in those categories are reported as Black or African American. Second, the category of victims listed as White in the offenses of Rape, Sexual Assault with an Object, Criminal Sexual Contact, and Statutory Rape are reported as over twice as many as those victims listed as Black or African American victims.

Domestic Violence Victims by Age



Another facet of reported domestic violence victims examined was their age. When examining reported age groups, the peak number of reported victims were in the age range 25-34, accounting for 27.39% of domestic violence victims. After age 34, the number of reported victims gradually declines, with individuals aged 65 and older representing the smallest group at just 4.07%

VICTIM TO OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS



When breaking down domestic violence reports by victim offender relationships, the most commonly reported relationship by far is Boyfriend/Girlfriend, with 37.71% of reported relationships. Following that, Spouse was the second most reported relationship at 15.59%.

Racial Breakdown of Spouse/Ex-Spouse Domestic Offenses		
Spouse	2024	%
Male	1,992	
White	1,431	16.82%
Black or African American	561	6.59%
Female	5,529	
White	4,093	48.11%
Black or African American	1,436	16.88%
Ex-Spouse	2024	
Male	256	
White	188	2.21%
Black or African American	68	0.80%
Female	730	
White	532	6.25%
Black or African American	198	2.33%
Total	8,507	100.00%

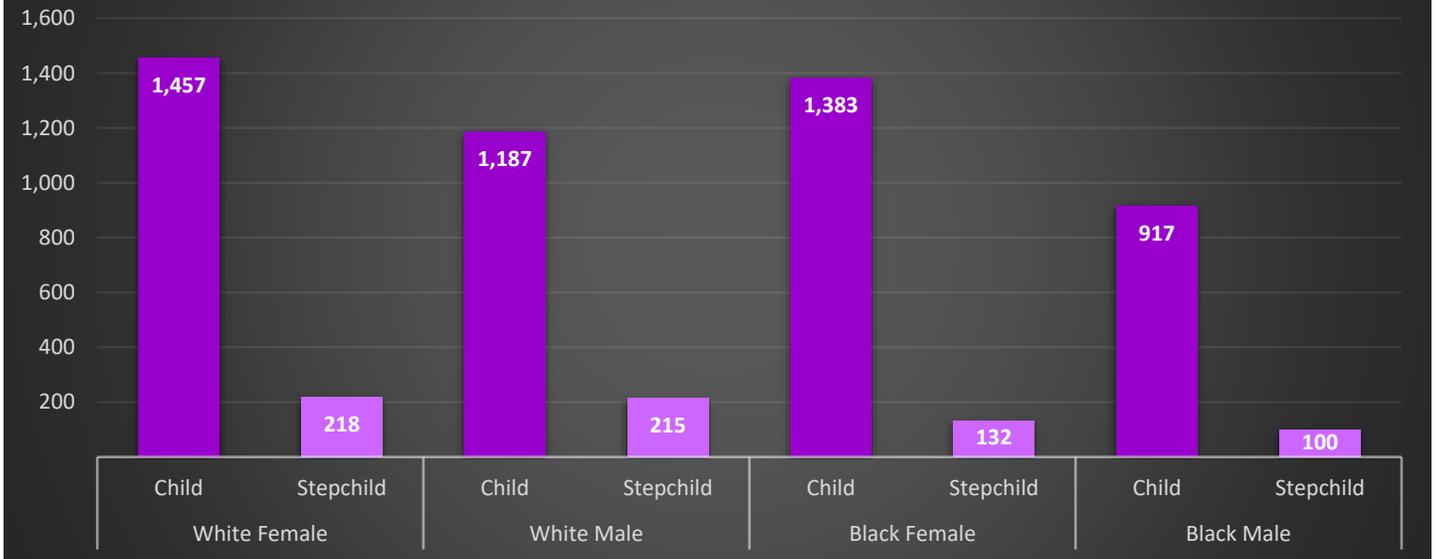
Note: Due to the racial groups White or Black or African American being reported in the vast majority of cases, other racial groups were not statistically significant enough to be included in the above table.

In all incidents involving domestic violence between spouses or ex-spouses, White victims are reported more frequently than Black or African American victims, with most categories showing White victims reported at more than twice the rate



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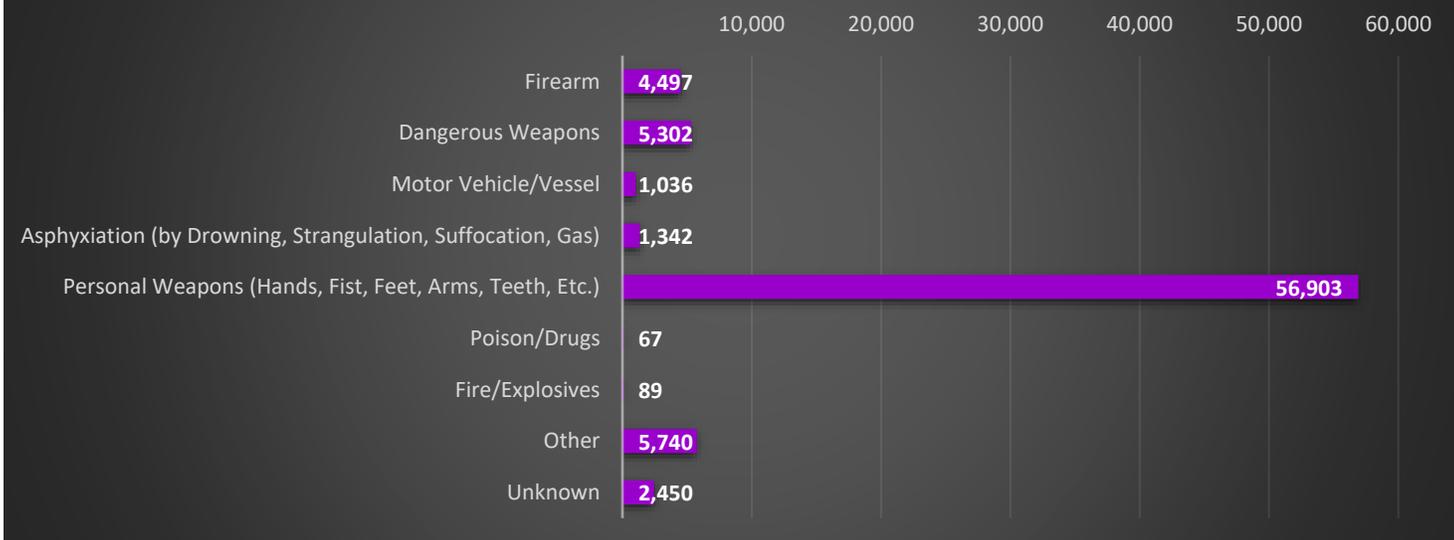
Child and Stepchild by Race and Sex



Domestic Violence victims reported as Child happened drastically more often than those reported as Stepchild, with the two totaling 4,944 and 665 victims respectively. In all categories, reported White victims outnumbered Black and African American victims, however the reported numbers tended to trend close to one another in their respective groups. As other reported races were negligible in number, they were excluded from this chart.

WEAPONS AND INJURIES

Weapons Used in Domestic Violence



In TIBRS, up to three weapons may be submitted per offense when reporting weapons used. In 2024, a total of 77,426 weapon types were reported. Given the fact that Simple Assault counted for the majority of reported domestic violence offenses, Personal Weapons accounted for the vast majority, at 73.49% of reported weapon types. Other notable weapon types reported include Other (7.41%), Dangerous Weapons (6.85%), and Firearms (5.81%)



When examining reported injuries stemming from Domestic Violence incidents, the most commonly reported category was None, accounting for 50.56% of reported injury types, followed by Apparent Minor Injury at 45.15%. All other categories only made up the remaining 4.29% of reported injuries.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CLEARANCES



Clearing domestic violence incidents can be difficult when considering the compounding factors that contribute to the cooperation of victims and potential witnesses. Because of the very nature of domestic violence and the close interpersonal relationships that exist between the victim and offender, it can be challenging for law enforcement to complete an arrest. Cohabiting domestic violence victims and offenders can present an obvious challenge in clearing an incident due to victims not cooperating in order to prevent subsequent abuse and turmoil within the household.

In 2024, 58.77% of domestic violence incidents were cleared either by arrest or by exceptional means. In the majority of cases, clearances occurred via arrest, with those accounting for 80.39% of reported clearances. When looking at exceptional clearances, the majority of occurrences were categorized as Victim Refused to Cooperate, making up 16.52% of total clearances. As defined by TIBRS, Victim Refused to Cooperate can only clear an incident when the victim has actually stated or made it known to the agency that they refuse to cooperate or pursue prosecution of the offender.

SUMMARY

The findings of the study revealed that the number of domestic incidents decreased by 0.15% from 2023 to 2024. Overall, females were more than twice as likely to be reported as victims than males, and victim Race was most often documented as White (51.63%). Although the injury type of None accounted for the highest reported injury type in 2024 with 26,502 instances, Apparent Minor Injury was reported with similar frequency, with 23,668 reported injuries. TIBRS data supports the fact that women generally have the highest potential for domestic abuse victimization. Local, state, and national agencies across several disciplines, including law enforcement and social and child services, avidly oppose domestic violence and advocate for its victims. These various institutions and coalitions battle domestic abuse by providing prevention training, intervention, shelter, and counseling for both victims and potential victims of domestic violence. Hopefully, the current assessment of domestic violence in Tennessee exposes the need for continued and increased efforts in the battle against domestic abuse within our community.



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