



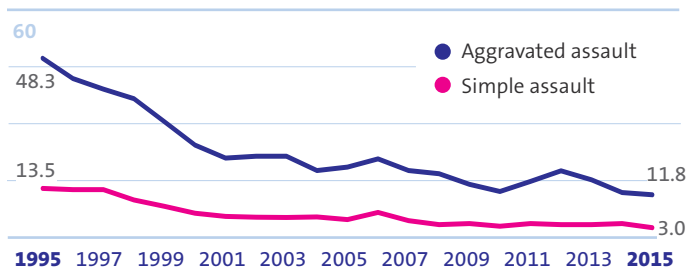
# Assault

In broad terms, assault is an act that intentionally causes another person to fear harmful or violent contact. An assault may or may not result in physical injury. The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) collects information on both **aggravated and simple assault**. According to the NCVS, aggravated assault is defined as an attack with a weapon, an attack that causes serious bodily harm, or a threatened assault with a weapon. Simple assault is defined as an unlawful attack or threat of attack that does not cause serious bodily harm.<sup>A</sup> Assault victimization varies largely by sex and geography. Some professions, including law enforcement and emergency room nurses, are at an increased risk.<sup>B</sup>

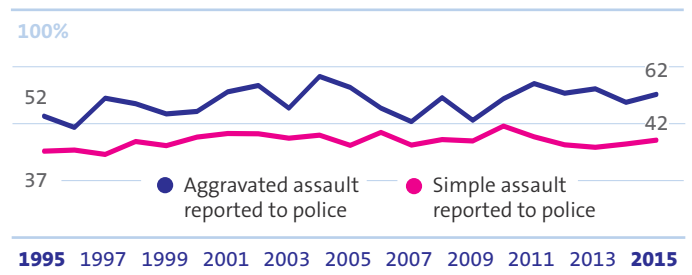
## CRIME TRENDS

Consistent with crimes trends as a whole, assault victimization rates have **decreased over the past two decades**. In 1995, an estimated 48 of every 1,000 people were victims of simple assault, while nearly 14 of every 1,000 people were victims of aggravated assault. In 2015, an estimated **12 of every 1,000 people** were victims of **simple assault**, while nearly **3 of every 1,000 people** were victims of **aggravated assault**.<sup>C</sup> The percentage of aggravated and simple assaults reported to the police annually has remained relatively constant over the past 20 years. In 2015, nearly 62% of aggravated assault victims and 42% of simple assault victims said that they reported their victimization to the police.<sup>C</sup>

**Aggravated and Simple Assault<sup>C</sup>**  
rate per 1,000 people

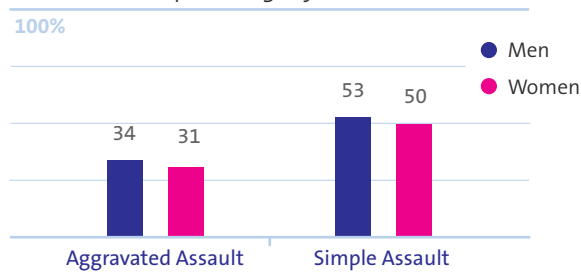


**Aggravated and Simple Assault Reported to Police<sup>C</sup>**



The NCVS estimates that **the vast majority of all victims do not receive services** from victim service agencies. In 2015, just 14% of aggravated assault victims and 6% of simple assault victims reported that they received any services from victim service agencies. A higher percentage of women (21%) who reported they had been victims of aggravated assault also reported that they received services from a victim service agency, compared to 5% of men. Less than 10% of men and women who reported they had been victims of simple assault also reported that they received services.<sup>C</sup>

**Victims Who Receive Services<sup>C</sup>**  
percentage by sex



## DID YOU KNOW?

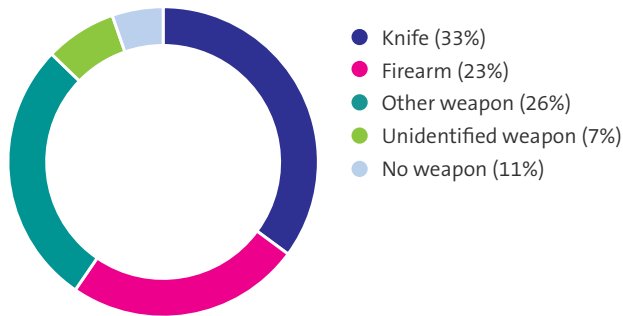
More than **60%** of aggravated assault and simple assault victims report **no injury**.<sup>C</sup>

**60%** of aggravated assault victims who report an injury also report that they received **medical treatment** at the scene of their victimization, their home, a medical office, or other location.<sup>C</sup>

## CURRENT DATA ON ASSAULT

In 2015, 33% of aggravated assault victimizations were committed with a knife, 23% with a firearm, and 11% without a weapon. One-third of aggravated assaults were either committed with another form of weapon or an unidentified weapon.<sup>C</sup>

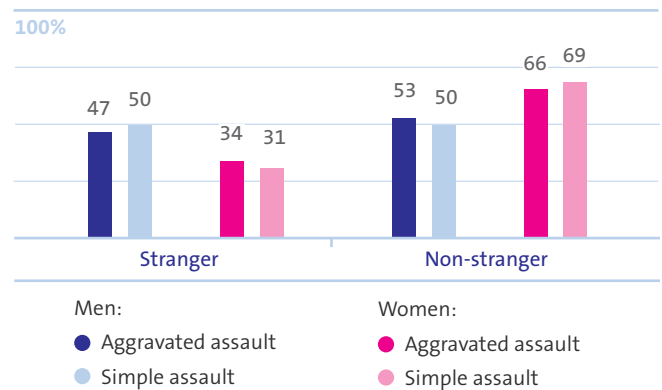
### Weapons Used in Aggravated Assaults<sup>C</sup>



In 2015, most aggravated assaults were committed by someone the victim knew. **Women** who were assaulted knew their assailant more than **60%** of the time, compared to roughly **50%** of the time for **men**.<sup>C</sup>

### Victim Relationship to Perpetrator<sup>C</sup>

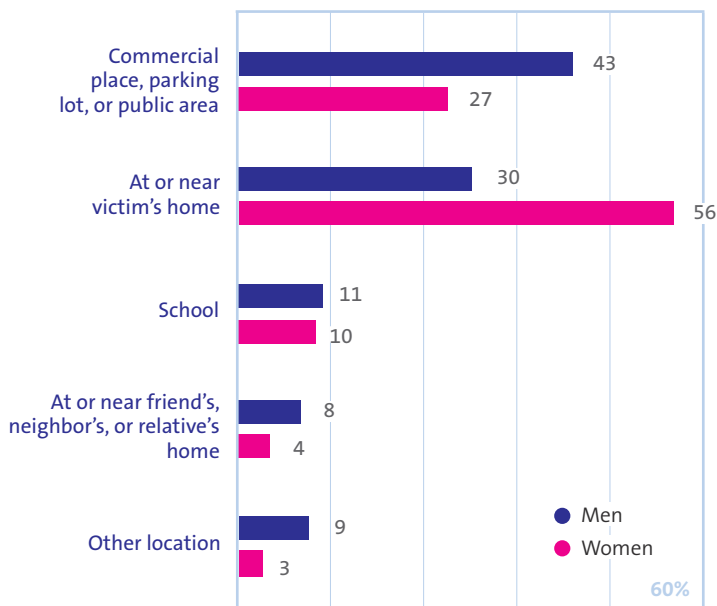
percentage by sex



An estimated 3 in 1,000 people were victims of aggravated assault in 2015. Of these, 56% of women reported that they were either home or close to their home at the time of the assault. More than 40% of men (43%) reported that they were in a parking lot, commercial place, or other public area at the time of assault.<sup>C</sup>

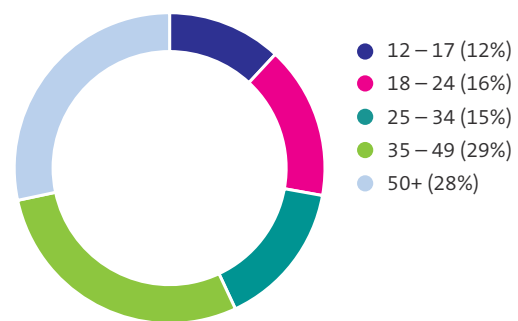
### Aggravated Assault by Location<sup>C</sup>

and victim sex



In 2015, 43% of aggravated assault victims were under the age of 35. Victims age 12 to 17 accounted for about 12% of aggravated assault victimizations, while victims age 18 to 24 and 25 to 34 each accounted for about 15%.<sup>C</sup>

### Age of Aggravated Assault Victims<sup>C</sup>



#### SOURCES

- A Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Violent Crime," <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=31>
- B Nicola Ramacciati et al., "Interventions to Reduce the Risk of Violence toward Emergency Department Staff: Current Approaches" *OAEM* vol. 8 (2016): 17-27
- C Bureau of Justice Statistics, *National Crime Victimization Survey, Concatenated File, 1992-2015*, (U.S. Department of Justice)