



House Bill 0083
Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act
UNFAVORABLE

House Bill 0083's fixation on the least often used object will likely be counterproductive and result in fewer victims seeking help. This is due to the daunting amount of information victims will be asked to provide, in a sworn statement, and most of which the victim will not know.

It does not address the overwhelming number of domestic assaults which involve no weapon whatsoever to the detriment of most victims. It totally ignores the types of weapons most often involved in domestic assaults.

Instead, this bill focuses on firearms, the type of weapons least often used and completely dismisses the fact that firearms are not necessary to cause harm. It naïvely presumes that a respondent will comply with the law and not resort to other means to do harm.

MSP UCRs 2020-2024 – Domestic Violence Report

138, 271 total - 26, 120 aggravated assaults/112,069 non-aggravated:

o No Weapon	45%	(11,675)
o Other weapons	27%	(6,918)
o Knife	18%	(4,564)
o Firearm	11%	(2,963)

The language of the bill conflicts with itself:

- o §4-505 (4) temporary protective orders require the surrender of any HQL, CCW licenses and firearms.
- o §4-506 (f) final protective orders require the surrender of any HQL, CCW licenses and firearms which were surrendered under §4-505 (4)

It is unclear how the respondent will, under a final protective order, surrender items already surrendered under the temporary protective order.

It should be noted that the Maryland State Police stopped issuing HQL cards January 1, 2021. The HQL is now a letter, and a printed copy or electronic copy must be presented. There is no means for law enforcement to account for an unknown number of physical and/or electronic copies. Whether a person has an HQL to present to a dealer is of little consequence because the Maryland State Police will not approve the transfer to a person who has a standing protective order.

Whether a person has surrendered a permit to Wear and Carry a Handgun is also irrelevant. The number of criminals illegally carrying firearms and committing violent crimes is a testament to this.

House Bill 0083 requires the victim to provide information on the possible whereabouts of firearms owned or possessed by the respondent.

Logistics issues involved render this bill unenforceable for all practical purposes:

- o Law enforcement has no reliable means to determine the number and type of firearms owned or possessed by the respondent.
- o Law enforcement has no reliable means to determine the location of firearms owned or possessed by the respondent.
- o Law enforcement will be forced to go on a witch hunt, armed with search warrants to seize firearms believed to owned by the respondent.
- o The respondent's firearms may be stored with friends. It is unlikely that a judge will issue a search warrant for a property not owned by the respondent based solely on the victim's sworn statement.
- o In the case of a search warrant served where the occupant is not the respondent, and the occupant also owns firearms, law enforcement will likely seize the lawful property of innocent law-abiding citizens.
- o Law enforcement will find itself defending multiple legal actions resulting from illegal seizures which violate the United State Constitution.

House Bill 0083 is an ill-considered journey through multiple Constitutional conflicts and logistical enforcement issues which will consume law enforcement resources without a commensurate increase in safety for the victim.

John H. Josselyn
2A Maryland
01/29/2026

Attachments (3)

DOMESTICALLY RELATED CRIMES

BACKGROUND

The Domestic Violence Act of 1994 mandated that all law enforcement agencies in Maryland submit copies of incident reports involving domestic violence to the Maryland Department of State Police. The Maryland UCR Program created a revised domestic violence (formerly known as Battered Spouse) data collection form. The new form allowed for the collection of more data based upon a revised definition of a domestic violence incident under the Maryland UCR Program guidelines.

In 2012, HB1146/SB647 "Domestically Related Crimes" was signed into law to help improve the recording and tracking of domestic violence crimes. Maryland does not have a distinct crime of domestic violence, therefore, the new law helps law enforcement, advocates, prosecutors and judges better protect domestic violence victims and set more appropriate conditions for abusers.

To better align with Maryland Law, the Maryland UCR Program expanded the definition of domestic violence to include ten additional relationships in calendar year 2013. Prior to 2013, the only reported relationships between domestic violence victims and offenders were husband, wife and cohabitant. This expansion of the additional relationships explains the increase in the total number of domestically related crimes reported. The title of the reporting program was also changed to the Maryland Domestically Related Crime Reporting Program.

Under the Maryland UCR Program, the definition for a domestically related crime mirrors HB1146/SB647: "any crime committed by a suspect (respondent) against a victim who is a person eligible for relief, as defined in §4-501 of the Family Law Article or who had a sexual relationship with the suspect within 12 months before the commission of the crime. This also includes homosexual relationships."

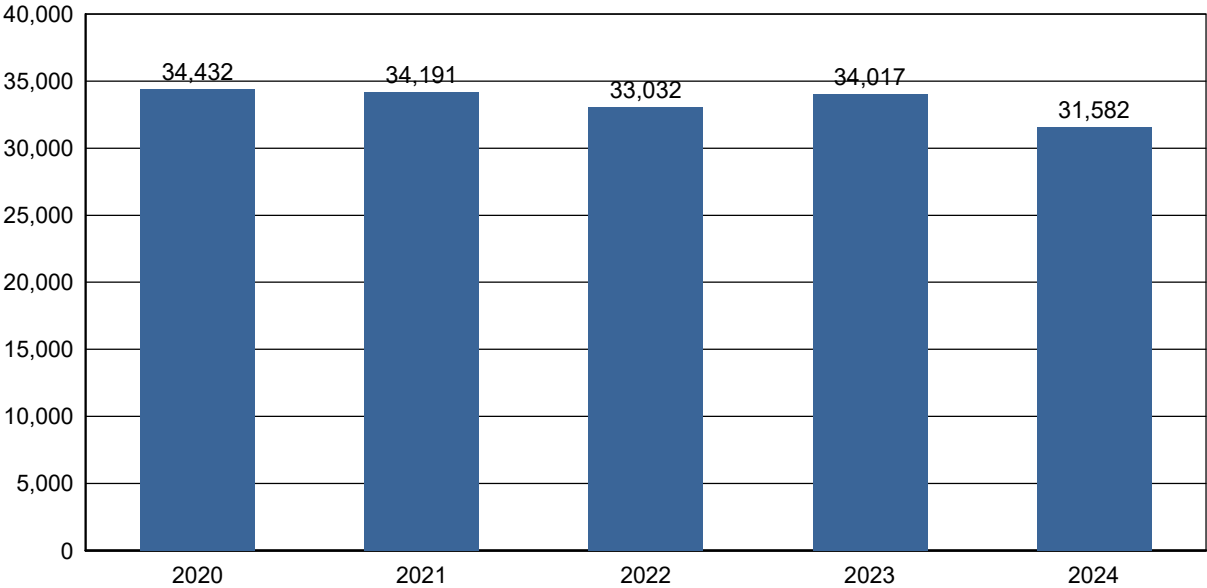
A "person eligible for relief", as defined in §4-501 of the Family Law Article includes:

- The current or former spouse of the respondent;
- A cohabitant of the respondent;
- A person related to the respondent by blood, marriage, or adoption;
- A parent, stepparent, child, or stepchild of the respondent or the person eligible for relief who resides or resided with the respondent or person eligible for relief for at least 90 days within 1 year before the filing of the petition;
- A vulnerable adult;
- An individual who has a child in common with the respondent.
- An individual who has had a sexual relationship with the respondent within 1 year before the filing of the petition; and
- An individual who alleges that the respondent committed, within 6 months before the filing of the petition, any of the following acts against the individual:
 - (i) rape or a sexual offense under § 3-303, § 3-304, § 3-307, or § 3-308 of the Criminal Law Article; or
 - (ii) attempted rape or sexual offense in any degree.

There were a total of 31,582 domestic violence crimes reported statewide in 2024, as compared to 34,017 crimes in 2023. This represents a -7.2 percent change in the number of domestic violence crimes.

DOMESTICALLY RELATED CRIMES

Total Number of Incidents



RELATIONSHIPS

Domestic violence reporting includes the nature of the victim's relationship with his or her abuser. The breakdown is as follows:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Husband	1,553	1,529	1,579	1,669	1,565
Wife	3,725	3,687	3,567	3,623	3,294
Male Cohabitant	2,137	2,318	2,016	1,831	1,201
Female Cohabitant	5,656	6,084	5,215	4,763	3,149
Homosexual Cohabitant	454	487	549	552	414
Sibling	1,900	1,834	1,660	1,726	1,907
Niece, Nephew, Aunt, Uncle, Cousin, In-Law	993	976	921	978	1,046
Grandparent or Grandchild	431	409	414	465	479
Child or Stepchild	2,604	2,694	2,599	2,862	2,986
Parent or Stepparent	3,079	3,101	2,950	3,083	3,244
Vulnerable Adult	147	241	180	170	224
Individuals With Child in Common	3,061	3,060	2,813	3,109	2,897
Male Intimate Partner	1,983	1,745	1,983	2,293	2,377
Female Intimate Partner	6,266	5,635	6,194	6,438	6,358
Homosexual Intimate Partner	443	391	392	455	441
TOTAL	34,432	34,191	33,032	34,017	31,582

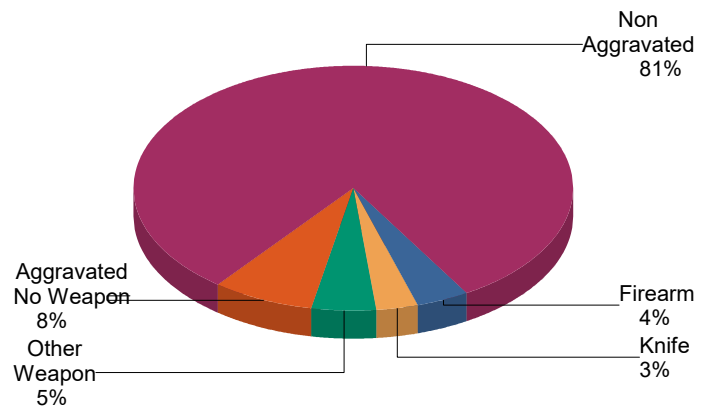
CRIME

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Homicide	43	53	36	36	28
Rape	355	426	381	379	400
Robbery	280	381	321	310	357
Assault	28,070	27,939	27,337	28,329	26,596
Breaking or Entering	315	354	336	333	256
Larceny-Theft	894	619	705	632	483
Motor Vehicle Theft	206	132	101	95	62
Arson	22	33	22	30	30
Forgery	22	18	18	21	21
Fraud	105	99	148	140	123
Embezzlement	0	1	1	2	6
Receiving Stolen Property	0	0	0	2	0
Malicious Destruction of Property	992	850	971	970	730
Illegal Weapons	2	3	1	4	1
Sex Offenses	200	224	233	229	238
Drug Abuse Violations	0	0	0	0	1
Offenses Against Family & Children	1,473	1,580	1,078	973	923
Disorderly Conduct	71	85	119	100	112
All Other Offenses	1,382	1,394	1,224	1,432	1,215
TOTAL	34,432	34,191	33,032	34,017	31,582

ASSAULTS

Assault is the most frequent type of domestically related crime reported. There were a total of 26,596 domestic assaults in 2024. This represents 84.2 percent of all domestically related crimes. There were 5,074 domestic assaults reported as an "aggravated domestically related assault," which means an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. Aggravated assaults represented 19.08 percent of the total reported domestically related assaults in 2024.

Domestically Related Assaults



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
AGGRAVATED					
Firearm	417	455	513	567	1,011
Knife	909	921	889	991	854
Other Weapons	1,552	1,356	1,280	1,521	1,209
No Weapons	2,168	2,361	2,530	2,616	2,000
NON AGGRAVATED					
Simple	23,004	22,832	22,112	22,613	21,508
Stalking	20	14	13	21	14
TOTAL	28,070	27,939	27,337	28,329	26,596

MONTHLY OCCURRENCES

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	2,871	2,783	2,688	3,051	2,739
February	2,634	2,427	2,460	2,697	2,656
March	3,011	2,753	2,903	2,794	2,774
April	2,633	2,774	2,855	2,860	2,960
May	2,926	3,085	2,930	3,037	2,830
June	2,961	2,864	2,427	2,897	2,701
July	3,137	3,038	2,879	2,825	2,532
August	3,016	2,851	2,809	2,812	2,564
September	2,874	2,959	2,819	2,722	2,523
October	2,989	3,092	2,816	2,854	2,354
November	2,654	2,785	2,706	2,717	2,367
December	2,726	2,780	2,740	2,751	2,582
TOTAL	34,432	34,191	33,032	34,017	31,582

DAY OF WEEK

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sunday	5,774	5,816	5,603	6,005	5,396
Monday	4,622	4,802	4,504	4,780	4,471
Tuesday	4,614	4,398	4,346	4,481	4,233
Wednesday	4,651	4,348	4,313	4,458	4,139
Thursday	4,557	4,588	4,351	4,392	4,116
Friday	4,751	4,779	4,478	4,574	4,265
Saturday	5,463	5,460	5,437	5,327	4,962
TOTAL	34,432	34,191	33,032	34,017	31,582

HOUR OF DAY

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
12:00 A.M.	1,818	1,924	1,688	1,930	1,744
1:00 A.M.	1,356	1,373	1,411	1,475	1,282
2:00 A.M.	1,121	1,132	1,100	1,152	1,104
3:00 A.M.	893	826	972	1,008	891
4:00 A.M.	649	630	698	809	741
5:00 A.M.	495	551	555	674	563
6:00 A.M.	545	568	565	641	582
7:00 A.M.	674	800	825	901	739
8:00 A.M.	995	1,039	1,087	1,150	1,046
9:00 A.M.	1,220	1,273	1,222	1,166	1,125
10:00 A.M.	1,459	1,357	1,355	1,298	1,205
11:00 A.M.	1,574	1,504	1,421	1,369	1,229
12:00 Noon	1,637	1,590	1,556	1,490	1,469
1:00 P.M.	1,553	1,502	1,229	1,326	1,265
2:00 P.M.	1,452	1,402	1,304	1,302	1,268
3:00 P.M.	1,657	1,621	1,575	1,428	1,418
4:00 P.M.	1,768	1,728	1,576	1,620	1,536
5:00 P.M.	1,821	1,734	1,739	1,684	1,638
6:00 P.M.	1,927	1,852	1,762	1,872	1,698
7:00 P.M.	1,967	1,953	1,820	1,873	1,775
8:00 P.M.	2,059	2,042	1,958	2,032	1,870
9:00 P.M.	2,020	2,056	1,982	2,011	1,851
10:00 P.M.	1,899	1,870	1,855	1,951	1,885
11:00 P.M.	1,873	1,864	1,777	1,855	1,658
TOTAL	34,432	34,191	33,032	34,017	31,582

Analysis

In 2024, the greatest number of domestically related crimes reported occurred around 10:00 P.M. The highest number of domestically related crimes reported occurred on Sunday.

VICTIMS

AGE

Victims of domestically related crimes between 25 to 39 years of age accounted for 42.7 percent of the total victims.

SEX

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Female	23,942	23,881	22,913	23,350	21,487
Male	10,485	10,294	10,116	10,663	10,084
Unknown	5	16	3	4	11
TOTAL	34,432	34,191	33,032	34,017	31,582

RACE

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
American Indian	60	51	53	61	58
Asian	456	508	461	495	471
Black	18,286	18,387	18,193	18,418	16,488
Pacific Islander	45	44	44	48	37
White	15,194	14,871	13,930	14,536	13,939
Other	391	330	351	459	589
TOTAL	34,432	34,191	33,032	34,017	31,582

HOUSEHOLD STATUS

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Living Together	20,376	20,494	20,414	21,139	19,729
Not Living Together	10,560	10,360	9,503	9,788	9,603
Unknown	3,496	3,337	3,115	3,090	2,250
TOTAL	34,432	34,191	33,032	34,017	31,582

ALCOHOL AND DRUG INVOLVEMENT

In domestically related crimes, reporting the use of alcohol, drugs or both by either the offender or victim are captured.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alcohol	6,126	5,548	5,369	5,330	5,647
Drugs	778	840	674	694	743
Alcohol & Drugs	323	306	304	314	318
None	13,613	14,115	14,153	15,186	16,065
Unknown	13,592	13,382	12,532	12,493	8,809
TOTAL	34,432	34,191	33,032	34,017	31,582

CIRCUMSTANCES

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Alcohol	1,313	1,268	1,360	1,360	1,453
Drugs	584	615	468	522	484
Food or Cooking	345	291	332	328	402
Friends	167	129	72	109	99
Gambling	6	10	12	18	11
Household Chores	600	625	645	720	648
Infidelity	3,038	3,002	3,113	3,281	3,130
Job or Lack of Job	143	123	167	148	150
Mental Imbalance	750	920	951	951	995
Money	1,506	1,234	1,250	1,253	1,251
Offspring	1,548	1,533	1,607	1,833	1,723
Property	2,604	2,302	1,958	1,620	1,782
Relatives	408	430	638	606	595
Sex	681	750	693	700	685
Sports or Hobby	32	12	16	38	36
Television	92	63	52	90	78
Separation	1,011	1,015	988	1,182	1,138
Divorce	186	164	175	223	240
Reconciliation	116	138	110	106	102
Staying Out Late	231	233	231	226	221
Other	13,691	15,238	13,762	13,552	10,854
Unknown	5,380	4,096	4,432	5,151	5,505
TOTAL	34,432	34,191	33,032	34,017	31,582

CLEARANCES

There are two ways of clearing a case. One is by making an arrest and charging the person(s) with the offense. The other 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 domestically related crime report form was forwarded to the UCR Program. These reports are not updated; therefore, other arrests and exceptional clearances may occur, but would not be reflected in the following totals.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Arrest	9,950	9,491	9,144	9,774	10,269
Exception	8,944	9,656	7,362	5,002	7,275
Unknown	15,538	15,044	16,526	19,241	14,038
TOTAL	34,432	34,191	33,032	34,017	31,582

During 2024, 55.6 percent of all domestically related cases were cleared. A breakdown of the clearances in 2024 includes 32.5 percent by arrest, 23.0 percent by exceptional clearance and 44.4 percent unknown.

DOMESTICALLY RELATED CRIMES BY COUNTY

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	5 Year Average (Rounded)
Allegany County	361	344	320	331	397	350
Anne Arundel County	3,431	3,389	3,225	3,640	3,881	3,513
Baltimore County	8,965	7,847	8,048	8,989	8,913	8,552
Baltimore City	3,488	6,435	6,501	6,729	6,523	5,935
Calvert County	334	311	344	415	395	359
Caroline County	46	62	46	63	94	62
Carroll County	548	477	507	558	625	543
Cecil County	624	700	549	522	582	595
Charles County	1,193	1,128	975	955	1,003	1,050
Dorchester County	116	113	129	152	152	132
Frederick County	1,712	1,724	1,564	1,498	1,393	1,578
Garrett County	83	131	93	91	86	96
Harford County	1,212	1,263	1,141	1,109	1,199	1,184
Howard County	1,500	1,664	1,693	1,670	1,800	1,665
Kent County	54	40	28	31	41	38
Montgomery County	3,321	3,659	3,393	3,434	2,952	3,351
Prince George's County	1,987	1,982	1,840	1,272	1,802	1,776
Queen Anne's County	198	256	246	191	194	217
St. Mary's County	1,080	1,315	1,139	1,210	1,129	1,174
Somerset County	148	159	131	107	114	131
Talbot County	60	87	49	55	56	61
Washington County	173	162	194	170	151	170
Wicomico County	708	636	633	646	613	647
Worcester County	230	120	225	340	328	248
Statewide Agencies*	10	13	19	13	9	12
State Total	31,582	34,017	33,032	34,191	34,432	33,450

* Statewide agencies report offenses but do not identify county of occurrence.

**CRIME BREAKDOWN
DOMESTICALLY RELATED CRIMES BY VICTIM SEX**

		Male	Female	Unk
Grand Total		10,084	21,487	11
All Other Offenses		328	886	1
Arson		13	17	0
Assault		8,879	17,709	8
	Aggravated - Firearm	244	767	0
	Aggravated - Knife	441	412	1
	Aggravated - Other Dangerous	572	635	2
	Aggravated - Personal Weapon	282	1,718	0
	Simple	7,339	14,164	5
	Stalking	1	13	0
Breaking or Entering		58	197	1
	Attempt	5	14	0
	Forcible	39	141	1
	Non Forcible	14	42	0
Disorderly Conduct		27	85	0
Drug Possession		0	1	0
	Other Drugs	0	1	0
Embezzlement		2	4	0
Forgery		7	14	0

**CRIME BREAKDOWN
DOMESTICALLY RELATED CRIMES BY VICTIM SEX**

		Male	Female	Unk
Fraud, Bad Checks False Pretense		46	77	0
Homicide		8	20	0
Illegal Weapons		0	1	0
Larceny-Theft		127	356	0
Motor Vehicle Theft		20	42	0
	All Other Vehicles	0	2	0
	Automobiles	20	40	0
Offenses Against Family, Desertion, Non-Support, Neglect		242	681	0
Rape		39	361	0
	Attempted	0	12	0
	Forcible	39	349	0
Robbery		33	323	1
	Firearm	15	110	0
	Knife	4	8	0
	Other Dangerous Weapon	0	4	0
	Personal Weapon	14	201	1
Sex Offense (Except Rape)		28	210	0
Vandalism, Malicious Destruction of Property		227	503	0



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BULLETIN

LD-HQL-20-004

December 28, 2020

Discontinuing Printing of Handgun Qualification Licenses

The Maryland Department of State Police, Licensing Division (MDSPLD) is constantly reviewing policy and procedures in order to enhance the experience of our customers, allied agencies, firearms instructors and dealers, all while being as fiscally responsible to the citizens of Maryland as possible. With this in mind, beginning January 1, 2021, the MDSPLD will discontinue printing the current paper Handgun Qualification License (HQL).

All HQL applicants approved on or after January 1, 2021, will receive, via email, a notification that the application has been reviewed and approved. Attached to the email will be a pdf of the Handgun Qualification License (HQL). A printed copy of the pdf, or an electronic copy of the license, must be presented to a dealer or any other person, prior to selling, renting, or transferring a handgun, in accordance with MD Public Safety §5-117.1 and COMAR 29.03.01.06. The discontinuation of printing of the HQL license will expedite the final process of the HQL and ultimately decrease the time it takes for the applicant to receive their HQL.

Qualified Handgun Instructors (QHI) are also reminded that the individual student/applicant's HQL account must be associated with the individual student/applicant's personal email address.

For further information on the HQL, please visit our website by clicking the following link: [Handgun Qualification License](#). You may also contact us, via email, at: msh.hql@maryland.gov, and Regulated Firearms Dealers may contact us by utilizing the Livehelp feature within their Licensing Portal.

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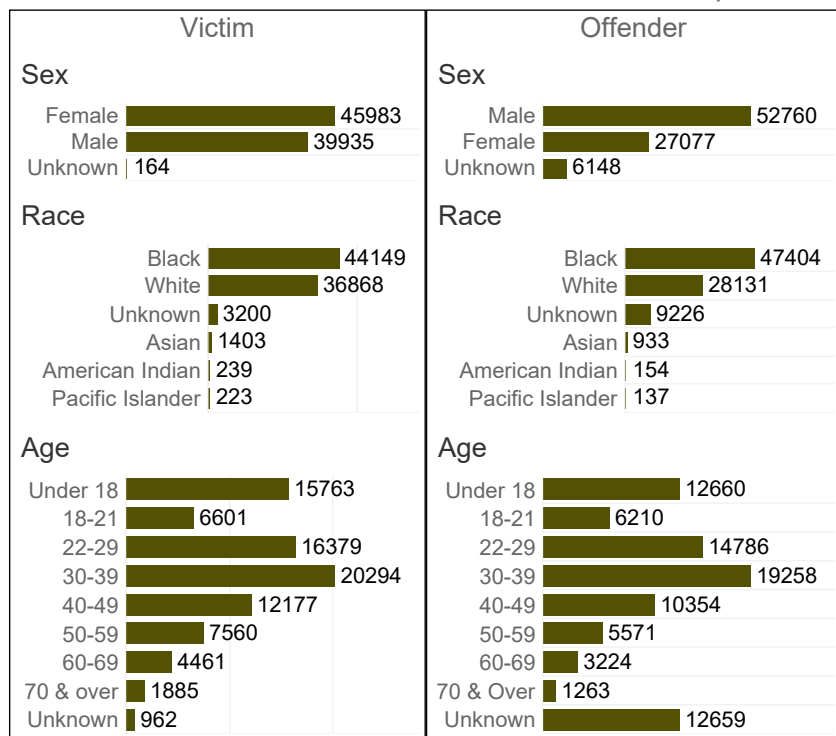
Crimes Against Person - 2024

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Crimes against Person Dashboard with Percentages or Values as an option

Arrests are not related to the number of incidents. Arrests include any arrestee who was arrested whether related to a current case or not, but was charged with a crime against person.



Cases Per Year

	Incidents	Offenses	Cleared	% Cleared	Victims	Offenders
Grand Total	68,802	69,820	21,410	31.2%	86,238	86,249
Homicide	496	496	273	55.0%	520	653
Assault	64,013	64,949	20,365	31.8%	81,107	80,905
Human Trafficking	77	77	36	46.8%	87	114
Kidnaping/Abduction	163	163	72	44.2%	183	236
Sex Offenses	4,053	4,135	774	19.1%	4,341	4,341

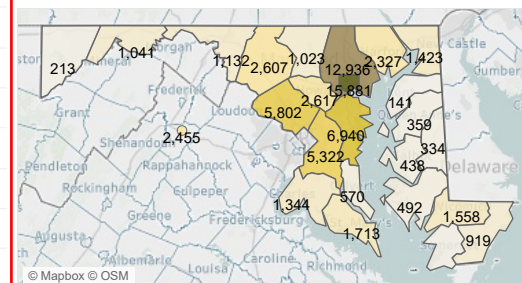
Offenses Involving Weapon

Personal Weapon	47587
None	5212
Unknown	4699
Other	4611
Firearms	3593
Knife/ Cutting Instrume..	3049
Blunt Object	2026
Asphyxiation	1185
Motor Vehicle/ Vessel	515
Explosives or Fire	42
Poison	20
Drugs/ Narcotics/ Slee..	19

Arrests for Crimes Against Person

Homicide	358
Assault	21931
Human Trafficking	24
Kidnaping/Abduction	50
Sex Offenses	795

Offenses by County



Personal weapons are used 13.2 times more often than firearms.
Firearms are used only 1.18 times more often than knives/cutting instruments.