



**CRIME & SAFETY**

# CRIME & SAFETY

Ask a man what he has done today to protect himself from rape and he will mostly likely smile uncomfortably or look dumbfounded. Clearly, the thought has not crossed his mind. However, ask the same question of a woman and she will often detail the myriad actions she weaves into the fabric of her day to keep herself safe. For instance, women will deliberately park under a light in a parking lot, arrange to walk with friends, and perhaps carry pepper spray or a whistle. It takes energy and effort to be safe as a woman in this society, and even careful planning and actions cannot forestall rape, domestic violence, stalking, and murder. The threat of violence is part of being female in our world. However, as women are often victims of violence, they are also increasingly likely to be perpetrators of crime and violence. Crime and safety are women's issues to be acknowledged and addressed.

## CRIME – GIRLS

When looking at the juvenile arrest crime data it quickly becomes apparent that arrests of boys for each crime category greatly outnumber arrests of girls, except in two offenses: runaways and prostitution/commercialized vice. Total arrests of juveniles in Harris County for the year 2002 included 19,179 males and 7,909 females, that is, juvenile males are arrested in Harris County in 70% of the cases compared to approximately 30% for juvenile females. The three most common offenses in the arrest of female juveniles are runaway, larceny, and disorderly conduct. Although the act of running away is criminalized, it may be a self-protective measure by girls seeking to escape abuse at home.

Since juvenile males represent the majority of offenders, it may be tempting to ignore the smaller numbers of juvenile females who commit crimes. However, since the incarceration of both adult and juvenile female offenders across the nation is growing at a faster rate than the rate for male incarcerations<sup>2</sup>, the situation requires that special attention be paid to this population in areas of both prevention and treatment. Not only is the rate of incarceration increasing for girls, but the rate of incarceration for violent offenses is also on the rise. Between 1992 and 1996 alone, the number of female juveniles arrested across the nation for violent crimes increased by 25%.<sup>3</sup>

The number of female juvenile offenders in Harris

County is reflective of the problem nationally. Current national figures show that female juvenile offenders represent 28% of total juvenile arrests.<sup>4</sup> When the focus is shifted to female offenders, some interesting gender-specific patterns arise. For example, 92% of the juvenile female offenders interviewed in one study

Juvenile Arrests, Harris County, for Selected Crimes, 20021	Number of Males	Number of Females
Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter	10	2
Forcible Rape	12	0
Robbery	364	28
Aggravated Assault	268	81
Other Assaults	2,137	692
Vandalism	568	91
Weapons, carrying/possessing	209	13
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	8	20
Curfew and Loitering Violations	1505	712
Runaways	1,124	1,756
Burglary (breaking and entering)	810	44
Arson	45	3
Sex Offences (except for forcible rape and prostitution)	118	10
Larceny	2,445	1,670
Disorderly Conduct	2,699	1,158

reported they had been subjected to some form of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse.<sup>3</sup> Victimization is often the first step along a female journey to delinquency. Use of drugs, including alcohol, at an early age (typically age 14) is another indicator of a girl on the pathway to delinquency. The study also revealed a pattern of unstable home life, poverty, and intergenerational patterns of arrest and incarceration.<sup>3</sup>

Experts disagree about the notion that girls are growing more violent. Some researchers believe the depictions of violent girls is out of proportion to actual crimes committed by girls and that the media is more likely to focus on behavior by girls that seems to be atypical for their gender. However,

Juvenile Arrests by Gender, Harris County, 2002 <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percent
Males	19,179	70.8%
Females	7,909	29.2%
Totals	27,088	100%

# CRIME & SAFETY

other experts note that it is not that girls have changed, but policies around them have changed. For instance, zero tolerance policies at school, charging family disputes that turn violent as crimes, and a

judicial system that is less likely to treat a juvenile offender differently just because she is female,<sup>5</sup> all may account for the increased arrests of girls.

1 DPS Crime Data. Age, Sex, Race, and ethnicity of persons arrested 17 years of age and under in Harris County, from beginning January 2002 through ending of December 2002, under age 18.

2 In the Spotlight: Women and Girls in the Criminal Justice System, National Criminal Justice Reference Service. <http://www.ncjrs.org/wgcjs/summary.html>

3 Acoca, L. (October 1999). Investing in Girls: A 21st Century Strategy. *Juvenile Justice Journal*, 6(1), pp. 3-13. Journal of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

4 Juvenile Arrests, 2000. *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, November 2002. Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention. US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

5 Profile: Increases in arrests and detentions of young women in recent years masking more complex picture. National Public Radio, All Things Considered, August 5, 2003.

## CRIME - WOMEN

Arrests for Adults for Selected Crimes in Harris County, 2002 <sup>1</sup>	Males	Females
Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter	150	12
Forcible Rape	184	2
Robbery	1,132	98
Aggravated Assault	1,916	422
Other Assaults	10,459	1,835
Burglary (breaking and entering)	1,246	96
Fraud	545	377
Weapons (carrying and possessing)	1,492	68
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	379	934
Sex Offences (except forcible rape and prostitution)	463	54

forcible rape and prostitution); one of every 13 arrests in each category of murder, burglaries and robberies; and one in every 22 weapons possession arrests.

However, the story of female crime is just partly told if arrests are only compared between men and women. More instructive is comparing the crime data for women between our first and current report. Although the number of total arrests for men decreased by 16.3% between 1995 and 2002, the percentage of arrests

for women increased by 2.2%. Comparing selected crimes included in the first report to today's report, women's arrests decreased for murder and non-negligent homicide and prostitution, while they increased for robberies and drug abuse violations.

When looking at the data for crime in Harris County, what quickly becomes obvious is that crime is much more likely to be committed by men than women. For instance, in Harris County in 2002, 116,070 men were arrested for crimes compared to 26,576 women; that is, over 80% of all arrests made in the county involved men. The only category in which the arrests of women outnumber that of men is prostitution or commercialized vice where women represent seven out of every ten arrests. However, this is the exception rather than the rule. Specifically, women are arrested in one of every six arrests for aggravated assault; two of every five arrests for fraud; one in every ten arrests for sex offenses (excluding

Female Adult Arrests in Harris County, Comparison of Selected Crimes over Time	1995 <sup>2</sup>	2002	Percent Change
Murder and Non-negligent Homicide	14	12	- 14.3%
Robberies	73	98	+ 34.2%
Drug Abuse Violations	1,868	2,960	+ 58.5%
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	6,102	934	- 84.7%

Total Arrests in Harris County, 2002 <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent
Male	116,070	81.4%
Female	26,576	18.6%
Totals	142,646	100%

### Data Sources:

1 DPS Crime Data, Age, Sex, Race, and Ethnicity of Persons Arrested 18 years of Age and Over, 2002, Harris County.

2 Adult Arrests in Harris County, Department of Public Safety, Crime Data, Harris County, Arrests, 18 and over 1995.

# CRIME & SAFETY

## RAPE/SEXUAL ASSAULT

Harris County Agency	Number of Reported Rapes in 2001	Number of Arrests	Rate per 100,00	Offenses Cleared <sup>2</sup>	Percent Cleared
Harris County Sheriff's Ofc.	301	35	28.2	114	38%
Houston PD	945	143	47.3	324	34%
Baytown PD	34	1	50.0	9	26%
Bellaire PD	1	1	6.3	0 <sup>3</sup>	0 <sup>3</sup>
Deer Park PD	2	2	6.9	2	100%
Galena Park PD	8	2	73.9	4	50%
Humble PD	10	0	67.1	3	30%
Jersey Village PD	1	0	14.2	1	100%
La Porte PD	10	0	30.7	11	110%
Pasadena PD	52	7	35.9	39	75%
Seabrook PD	8	1	82.8	4	50%
Southside Place PD	1	0	63.3	0	0
Tomball	4	0	43.0	2	50%
Memorial Village	1	0	8.6	0	0
Webster PD	2	0	21.5	0	0
Katy PD	2	0	16.6	0	0
Nassau Bay PD	1	0	23.4	0	0
UT Houston PD	2	0	0	0	0
University of Houston	1	1	0	0	100%
Texas Southern Univ.	2	3	0	2	100%
Rice University PD	1	0	0	0	0
Klein ISD	1	1	0	1	100%
Lakeview PD	2	1	28.9	2	100%
Spring ISD PD	1	0	0	1	100%
<b>Total Numbers</b>	<b>1,393</b>	<b>198</b>		<b>519</b>	

Rape, as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting program, is the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Statistics reported in this crime category include assaults to commit forcible rape. However, statutory rape (rape against a female under the age of consent) and sexual assaults on males are not reported in the Texas Annual Crime Report. Across the state the number of rapes increased 4.3 percent between 2000 and 2001. As detailed in the first edition of this report, in 1995 there were 1,315 rapes reported by women in Harris County. The number of reported rapes in 2001 in Harris County indicates a 5.9% increase in the rate of rape over

Reported Rapes by Month for Harris County, 2001 <sup>5</sup>	Number
January	99
February	116
March	115
April	111
May	140
June	126
July	122
August	112
September	123
October	117
November	101
December	111
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,393</b>

### Data Sources

- 1 Texas Department of Public Safety, Crime in Texas: 2001 Annual Report. Texas Crime by Jurisdiction. (pp. 145-149). Note: Police Departments are not included if no rapes were reported for that jurisdiction for that year.
- 2 For the offense to be "exceptionally cleared" the following questions have to be answered "yes": 1. Has the investigation definitely established the identity of the offender? 2. Is there enough information to support an arrest, charge, or turning over to the court for prosecution? 3. Is the exact location of the offender known so that the subject could be taken into custody now? 4. Is there some reason outside law enforcement control that precludes arresting, charging, and prosecuting the offender?
- 3 It appears that with one rape and one arrest that the Bellaire Police Department

the seven years between reports. Only 14.2%, of the reported rapes ended in arrest, although the cleared rate was 37.3%. Therefore, in only one of seven reported rapes was an arrest made. The number of successful prosecutions as a result of those arrests is unknown.

Although 1,393 rapes were reported to authorities in 2001, a recent study in the state of Texas revealed that only 18 percent of victims (20% of females and 12% of males) reported their sexual assaults to law enforcement.<sup>6</sup> Using this figure, an estimated number of actual rapes of women and girls in Harris County for the year 2001 would likely be closer to 7,000. Additionally, there are 4,681 reported registered sex offenders who have a Harris County address.<sup>7</sup>

University of Texas researchers conducted the first statewide survey on sexual assault and found that the problem is much greater than revealed by Uniform Crime Reports.<sup>6</sup> Since rape is the most underreported crime, and the UCR only looks at reported assaults, the number of assaults has always been undercounted. In the UT study, researchers found that about 1.9 million, or 12.6 percent, of Texas adults had been sexually assaulted at some time in their lives. Other findings include:

Ethnicity of Males Arrested for Rape, Juveniles and Adults, 2001 <sup>4</sup>	Numbers	Percent
Anglo	46	23.2%
African American	76	38.4%
Latino	76	38.4%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>100%</b>

- The proportion of sexual assault was much higher for females (20%) than males (5%);
- Women in all racial and ethnic groups were affected with Anglos (14%) having the highest proportion and Latinas (10%) the lowest.
- Most female victims were assaulted by a man they knew, often a relative or another man with whom they were acquainted.
- Victims are more likely to have a lifetime drug or alcohol problem after the assault when compared to women who were not victimized. Researchers hypothesized that this may indicate the victim's attempt to deal with the trauma of a sexual assault experience.
- Only 18% of victims report their assault to law enforcement, 20% of females and 12% of males.

should have a 100% offenses and percent cleared. However, the data as listed is what appears in the 2001 Annual Crime Report, so it was included as is for this report.

- 4 2001 Harris County Total Rape Arrests for Juvenile and Adults, prepared by Statistician Lori Kirk, Uniform Crime Reporting, DPS.
- 5 Offenses and Clearances by Month for Calendar Year 2001, Harris County, prepared by Statistician Lori Kirk, Uniform Crime Reporting, DPS.
- 6 Busch, N.B., Bell, H., DiNitto, D.M., & Neff, J.A. (2003). A Health Survey of Texans: A Focus on Sexual Assault. Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, The University of Texas at Austin.
- 7 Personal communication with Vincent Castilleja, Sex Offender Registration Coordinator, Texas Department of Public Safety.

# CRIME & SAFETY

## FAMILY VIOLENCE

Jurisdictions	Number of Reported Incidents
Harris County Sheriff	6,690
Houston Police Dept.	21,621
Baytown PD	529
Bellaire PD	36
Deer Park PD	99
Galena Park PD	91
Humble PD	49
Jacinto City PD	72
Jersey Village PD	14
La Porte	227
Pasadena PD	1,294
Seabrook PD	74
South Houston PD	174
Southside Place PD	1
Spring Valley PD	14
Tomball PD	52
Village PD	12
Webster PD	174
West University Place PD	21
Katy PD	99
Nassau Bay Pd	12
University of Houston PD	3
Texas Southern Univ PD	7
Hedwig Village PD	8
HoustonMetro Transit PD	1
Klein ISD PD	1
Lakeview PD	22
Pasadena ISD PD	1
Univ. St. Thomas PD	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,399</b>

In Harris County, for the year 2001, 33,843 incidents of family violence were reported with a total of 32,889 offenders involved. Of the relationship between the offender and victim, the majority of cases (47.9%) involved a spouse or former spouse. The most frequent incidents included aggravated assault, simple assault, and intimidation, accounting for 97.6% of all incidents. In 70% of the cases, the weapon used was "personal," that is, use of body parts including hands, feet, and fists. The family violence law considers the use of threats or intimidation to be serious enough to report and 13.9% of the reports were listed as involving no weapon.

To report injuries in family violence cases, DPS used the police officers who respond to the scene to determine

Number of Girls/Women Killed In Family Violence Incidents in Harris County, 2001 <sup>2</sup>	Numbers	Percent
Wife	11	39.3%
Common-Law Wife	4	14.3%
Mother	1	3.6%
Daughter	4	14.3%
Sister	2	7.1%
Girlfriend	6	21.4%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>100%</b>

the extent of injuries. Therefore, later medical attention may indicate that injuries were more or less severe than noted by the responding officer. In Harris County, in 2001, 28 women and girls were killed as a result of family

Victims Relationship to Offender, Harris County, 2001	Numbers
Spouse	9,689
Common-Law Spouse	5,020
Parent	2,003
Sibling	2,004
Child	1,663
Grandparent	126
Grandchild	95
In-Law	1,081
Step-parent	342
Step-sibling	65
Step-child	636
Other family member	2,482
Roommate	7,271
Foster Parent	6
Foster Child	3
Ex-Spouse	1,735
Unknown	98

violence. The most common category of homicide victim was that of wife (39.3%), followed by girlfriend (21.4%). In

Weapons Used in Family Violence Incidents, Harris County, 2001	Numbers
None	4,889
Firearm	57
Handgun	517
Rifle	36
Shotgun	57
Other firearm	4
Knife/Cutting Instrument	1,408
Blunt Object	696
Motor Vehicle	265
Personal	24,931
Poison	6
Fire	9
Drugs	3
Other	2,391
Unknown	11

2002, 25 women and girls were killed: 8 wives, 5 common-law wives, 11 girlfriends, and 1 ex-wife.

Hotline calls to state-funded family violence shelters increased by 71.9% in six years. This increase is surprisingly high and of great concern. The number of women and their children denied shelter also greatly increased.<sup>4</sup> The Harris County District Attorney's Office Family Criminal Law Division (FCLD) was created in 1984 to bring special attention and expertise to the area of family violence. The walk-in

# CRIME & SAFETY

Completed CPS Abuse/Neglect Investigations, Harris County, 2002 <sup>6</sup>	Number
Alleged Victims of Child/Abuse Neglect	24,093
Alleged Victims in Unconfirmed Investigations	17,434
Alleged Victims in Ruled Out Investigations	11,583
Alleged Victims Provided Services	3,500
Alleged Victims Not Provided Services	20,593
Children Removed From Home	1,491

Offences committed in Family Violence Incidents, Harris County, 2001	Number
Aggravated Assault	5,771
Simple Assault	23,043
Intimidation	4,807
Murder	55
Negligent Manslaughter	1
Kidnap/Abduction	15
Robbery	47
Forcible Rape	296
Forcible Sodomy	122
Sexual Assault with Object	17
Forcible Fondling	243
Incest	8
Statutory Rape	6

appointments (largely people seeking protective orders or to discuss pending family violence criminal cases) increased from 4,409 in 1998 to 6,306 in 2002.<sup>5</sup> There were 990 protective orders obtained in 2002 compared to 536 in 1998. The rate for successful disposition of both felony and misdemeanor domestic violence cases was 63% in 1995 and 72% in 2002.<sup>6</sup>

Police Injury Assessment in Family Violence Incidents, Harris County, 2001 <sup>2</sup>	Numbers	Percent
No injuries	20,275	60.9%
Minor	12,740	38.3%
Major	264	0.8%

Violence in the home is also directed at children. In 2002, there were 20,120 reports of child abuse and neglect in Harris County assigned for investigation by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS).<sup>7</sup> There are approximately 13,200 children a month being served by CPS in Harris County and 49% are girls. In 2002, 1,915 children were taken into protective custody by the state, which meant a total of 3,962 children were in custody at the end of the fiscal year. Also in 2002, 827 children in custody were awaiting adoption in Harris and the twelve surrounding counties: 46% are female. Finally, there were 49 child abuse/neglect related fatalities in Harris County in 2002,<sup>8</sup> including five children in foster care at the time of their deaths.

Family Violence in Harris County, 9/01-8/02	1996	2002
Family Violence Incidents <sup>1</sup>	29,198	31,399
Hotline Calls <sup>3</sup>	14,436	24,807
Shelter Occupancy, Adults <sup>3</sup>	883	849
Shelter Occupancy, Children <sup>3</sup>	1,144	1,369
Denied Shelter <sup>3</sup> (due to lack of space)	768	5,114 <sup>4</sup>

Types of Child Abuse/Neglect of Alleged Victims in Completed Investigations, Harris County, 2002 <sup>5</sup>	Number	Percent
Neglectful Supervision	10,554	33.4%
Physical Abuse	10,008	31.7%
Sexual Abuse	4,877	15.5%
Physical Neglect	3,205	10.1%
Medical Neglect	1,611	5.1%
Emotional/Verbal Abuse	853	2.7%
Refusal to Assume Parental Responsibility	327	1.0%
Abandonment	151	0.5%

Injuries Noted by Police, Harris County, 2001 <sup>2</sup>	Number	Percent
Broken Bones	118	15.0%
Possible Internal	171	21.7%
Severe Laceration	387	49.2%
Loss of Teeth	48	6.1%
Unconscious	63	8.0%

#### Data Sources:

- 1 Texas Department of Public Safety, Crime in Texas: 2001 Annual Report, Austin, TX. Family Violence by Jurisdiction, pp. 53-54.
- 2 Data prepared by Lori Kirk, Statistician, Uniform Crime Reporting, 9/4/2003.
- 3 Number of hotline calls, number of adults and children (unduplicated) sheltered, and number denied shelter (due to lack of space) in Harris County, Texas. September 1, 2001 through August 31, 2002. Texas Department of Human Services, Family Services Department/AMA.
- 4 The number of women denied shelter seems to have increased dramatically. This number and the 1995 denied shelter number was re-checked with the Office of Family Services- Family Violence and Refugee Services. They note that the Integrated Tracking System was introduced in the latter part of 1999 as a new method of data collection, so the number may be a statistical

- 5 artifact. Across the state they show the percentage of denied shelter to be decreasing, from a high of 28.8% in 1995 to 18.53% in 2002. Personal Communication, 9/30/03, Toni Guillot, Program Administrator, Office of Family Services-Family Violence and Refugee Services.
- 5 Family Criminal Law Division 2002 Annual Report, Charles A. Rosenthal, Jr., District Attorney, Harris County, TX.
- 6 The FCLD defines "successful disposition" as meaning that the defendant plead guilty, no contest, or was found guilty by a jury. The case was not dismissed.
- 7 Children Protective Services in Harris County Report. 2002 Statistics - 2003 Program Information. Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (PRS) and Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults (HCPS).
- 8 2002 Data Book. The Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. Forecasting and Program Statistics Division. Austin, TX.

# CRIME & SAFETY

## INCARCERATED GIRLS AND WOMEN

For the year 2002, 20 girls (5.0%) and 377 boys (95.0%) were committed under the jurisdiction of the Texas Youth Commission (TYC). For a larger picture of female youth commitments, from 1998 until August 2003, 223 girls were committed under the authority of the TYC, representing 8.7% of all youth commitments. The six most common offenses for

Ethnicity of Girls Committed by TYC, All Commitments from 1998 through August 2003, in Harris County <sup>1</sup>	Number	Percent
Anglo	52	23.3%
African American	106	47.5%
Hispanic	59	26.5%
Other	6	2.7%

Since women remain the primary caretakers of children, when women go to jail families are often disrupted. Primary concerns for incarcerated women are finding caretakers for their children while incarcerated and finding a job when released. Although there are some nonprofit programs that help formerly incarcerated women gain job skills and a GED, a significant barrier in a job search is an employer's reluctance to hire someone with a felony record.

Some women will never be released from prison. As of July 2003 there are eight women on death row in Texas. Of those eight women, half of them are from

Harris County. Of those four from Harris County, one woman

Age at Commitment, Juvenile Females, Harris County, 1998–August 2003 <sup>1</sup>	Number
10	0
11	1
12	1
13	15
14	27
15	78
16	78
17	23
18	0

girls, in order of their most frequent occurrence, are theft, aggravated assault, assault, unauthorized use of a vehicle, aggravated robbery, and unlawful possession of a controlled substance.

In August 2002, the Texas adult prison population included 6,911 women, 5% of all those incarcerated in Texas prisons.<sup>2</sup> Among these women, the average age is 36, average years of education is 10.6, and these women are most likely to be incarcerated for a violent or drug-related offense. Of those women incarcerated around the state, only 2% had been previously incarcerated, compared to 40% of men. The average length of women's sentence was 14.1 years compared to the average length of a man's sentence at 21.8 years.

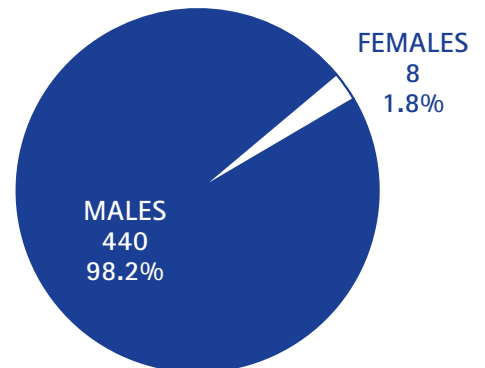
The State Jail Division was created in 1993 to provide community-oriented, cost-effective incarceration and rehabilitation for offenders who commit low level, non-violent property crimes and drug offenses. Women across Texas comprise 22% of the state jail population, that is, 3,230 women. Their average age is 33.5 years and their average education level is 10.8 years. Women comprise 21% of substance abuse offenders across the state.

Prison population, Harris County, 2002 <sup>4</sup>	Male	Female	Total
Numbers	25,158	1,431	26,589
Percent within Harris County	94.6%	5.4%	100%
Percent of Statewide Prison Population	20.0%	1.1%	21.2%

is White and three are African American. From 1982 to 2002 there were

### DEATH ROW OFFENDERS<sup>3</sup> STATE OF TEXAS, JULY 2003

289 people executed by the state of Texas; two were women. One white female offender was executed in 1998 and one white female



# CRIME & SAFETY

offender was executed in 2000.

More than ten thousand women are on probation in Harris County, approximately 25% for misdemeanor offenses and 75% for felony offenses.<sup>4</sup> Out of the total number of people on probation in Harris County, 27.5% are women.

Prison population, Harris County, 2002 <sup>4</sup>	Male	Female	Total
Numbers	25,158	1,431	26,589
Percent within Harris County	94.6%	5.4%	100%
Percent of Statewide Prison Population	20.0%	1.1%	21.2%

Gender and Racial Characteristics of Death Row Offenders, July 2003, State of Texas <sup>3</sup>	Female	Male
White	4	140
Black	4	179
Hispanic	0	116
Other	0	5

Data Sources:

1 Commitments to the Texas Youth Commission from Harris County. Texas Youth Commission. Austin, TX.

2 Statistical Summary: Fiscal Year 2002. Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Austin, TX.

3 Texas Department of Criminal Justice, July 2003, <http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/stat/>

4 Institutional Division Population by County of Conviction. Statistical Report Fiscal Year 2002, Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Austin, TX.

## MISSING AND MURDERED

The numbers of missing girls and women are difficult to determine, and thus, are approximate numbers. The statistics reported above for girls and women are those

reported as missing and entered into the FBI-National Crime Information Center (NCIC) in Harris County

and seven surrounding counties that include: Waller, Fort Bend, Grimes, Montgomery, Chambers, Galveston, and Brazoria. The large number of missing juvenile females includes both girls who have run away and those who were taken involuntarily.

Distinguishing between the two is not always possible.

There were 366 homicides in Harris County in 2002. Of those homicide victims, 297 (81.1%) were males and 69 (19.9%) were females. Therefore, nearly one in every five people killed in Harris County in 2002 were girls and women. Clearly, men are at greatest risk for becoming victims of violence, especially African American men and Latinos.

Of those 69 women murdered, 33.3% were white, 36.2% African American, 21.7% Latina, 4.4% Asian/ Pacific Islander women, with 4.4% of unknown or other race. Although women are killed over the entire range of their life spans, from infants under one year of age to women older than 75 years, the decades between ages 20 to 40 seem especially dangerous

for women. Almost half of the women (46.4%) were killed by an intimate family member. The remainder were killed by acquaintances or strangers (these data

Missing Females in Harris County, 2003 <sup>1</sup>	Harris County Only	Harris and Seven Surrounding Counties
Age 0-17 years of age	424	570
Age 18-99 years of age	92	129
Total	516	699

not stratified by gender.) The primary weapons used in homicides in Harris County in 2002 were handguns (218), followed by knives (43).

Of the 254 known homicide offenders, 19 (7.5%)

Gender by Age, Homicides in Harris County, 2002 <sup>2</sup> * (Females)	Number
Under 1 year	3
1-4	5
5-9	0
10-14	1
15-16	3
17-19	3
20-24	11
25-29	7
30-34	7
35-39	8
40-44	8
45-49	2
50-54	3
55-59	2
60-64	0
65-69	0
70-74	2
75 & over	1



# CRIME & SAFETY

are female; seven are white, six are African American, and six are Latinas. The age of all homicide offenders starts at ages 15 and 16 and continues unabated until the ages of 45 through 49, tapering off after that time period. Of the 235 known male offenders, 38.7% are African American, 38.7% are Latina, 20.9% are white, and 1.7% are Asian or Pacific Islander.

Relationship of Female Victim to Offender in Murder by Family Member, Harris County, 2002 <sup>2</sup>	Number
Wife	8
Common-law wife	5
Daughter	6
Step-daughter	1
Girlfriend	11
Ex-wife	1
Total	32

Homicides in Harris County, 2002 <sup>2</sup>	White	African American	Hispanic/Latina	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Unknown/Other	Totals	Total Percent
Male	53	104	118	3	8	11	297	81.1%
Female	23	25	15	0	3	3	69	18.9%
Totals	76	129	133	3	11	14	366	100%

Data Sources:

- 1 Missing Females in Harris County, Texas Department of Public Safety, Special Crimes Service, Texas Missing Persons Clearinghouse. Austin, TX. Note: The large number of missing girls under the age of 18 years represents many runaways. It is not possible to know how many of the girls left home voluntarily and how many involuntarily. However, it might be helpful to remember that even the girls who left home voluntarily need assistance and care.
  - 2 Murders in Harris County, Data from Supplementary Homicide Reports, Harris County, 2002, Prepared by Lori Kirk, UCR Statistician.
- \* Number of unknown/other race women (3) not included in chart for age because their age is also unknown/unreported.

