



## Data Declaration

### Relationship of Victims to Offenders by Offense Category, 2015

The FBI collected these data through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

#### General Comment

- This table shows the relationship of victims to their offenders by the offense category containing the offense type to which they are *both* connected. (For a breakdown of the offense types included in the seven offense categories shown, see Crimes Against Persons, Property, and Society in this publication.)
- In NIBRS, relationship data are collected only for the victim types of individual and law enforcement officer that are connected to Crimes Against Persons or Robbery offenses. Relationship data are *not* collected for victims of offenses reported with an unknown offender (i.e., nothing is known about the offender) or other offenses of Crimes Against Property or Crimes Against Society.
- Through NIBRS, law enforcement may report up to ten relationship types per victim for each offense.

#### Methodology

- The UCR Program consolidated the relationships of victims to multiple offenders of the same offense type to one category for this table. For example, if a victim was assaulted by three offenders (i.e., the victim's brother and two acquaintances), the most personal relationship of the victim to his offenders is recognized, and the relationship is categorized as Family Member and Other in the offense category of Assault Offenses.
- To arrive at the totals provided for each column of data, the UCR Program used the following counting rules:
  - Victims—one for each victim connected to each offense type in an incident. (In multiple-offense incidents, one victim was counted for each connected offense type.)
  - Family Member—one when the victim is a family member of the *one and only* offender, or when the victim is a family member of *all* multiple offenders connected to both the victim and the offense.



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- Family Member and Other—one when the victim is a family member to *at least one* of the multiple offenders of the offense.
- Known to Victim and Other—one when the victim knows one or more of the multiple offenders of the offense, but is *not* a family member to any of the offenders. (Do not use this category if any of the relationships are family members.)
- Stranger—one when the victim reports the *one* and *only* offender as a stranger.
- All Other—one, regardless of the number, when the relationship(s) of the victim to the offender(s) is unknown or, in the case of multiple offenders, are combinations of other relationships.
- Relationships of victims to their offenders were designated as follows:
  - Family Members—Spouse, Common-law Spouse, Parent, Sibling, Child, Grandparent, Grandchild, In-law, Stepparent, Stepchild, Stepsibling, and Other Family Member.
  - Known to Victim—Acquaintance, Friend, Neighbor, Baby/Child in the Care of a Babysitter, Boyfriend/Girlfriend, Child of Boyfriend/Girlfriend, Homosexual Relationship, Ex-spouse, Employee, Employer, or Otherwise Known.
  - Stranger.
  - All Other—This category includes unknown relationships, i.e., the victim did not see the offender to determine whether they knew them; mutual combatants, i.e., the victim was also an offender; or a combination of other relationships and unknown relationships.