The Rule of Thumb:

A Five Year Overview of Domestic Violence in South Carolina
Methodology

• The report used crime incident report data from SLED.
• The time frame was 2005 through 2009.
• Domestic violence included homicide, sexual violence, robbery, aggravated and simple assault and intimidation where the victim and offender were/had been married, were related or dating.
Domestic Violence as a Factor in Overall Violence

- 24.9% of homicides
- 31.9% of sexual violence
- 1.6% of robberies
- 36.1% of aggravated assaults
- 51.1% of simple assaults
- 30.2% of intimidation
- 40.8% of all the above offenses combined
Domestic Violence Offenses

• Simple assault was the most frequently reported domestic violence offense.
• There were 442 domestic homicides from 2005 through 2009.
• There were 6,476 acts of domestic sexual violence during those five years.
• Vandalism was the non-violent offense most often reported along with domestic violence.
Domestic Violence – Time of Day

• Domestic violence was most often reported during the evening hours.
• More domestic violence was reported on Saturday than any other day.
• As a result, Saturday evenings were the prime time for domestic violence.
Victims of Domestic Violence

• Women and girls made up 73.9% of domestic violence victims.
• The highest victimization rate was among the 18 to 24 year old age group.
• Young adults from 18 to 34 accounted for 48.8% of domestic violence victims.
Victims of Domestic Violence

• 53.3% of domestic violence victims were White, however the victimization rate for Non-Whites was 70% higher than for Whites.

• 2.5% of domestic violence victims were Hispanic. The victimization rate among Hispanics was 37.7% lower than the rate among Hispanics.
Victim/Offender Relationships

• Four types of domestic violence were included in this report: violence involving ex-spouses, family members, spouses and romantic partners.
• Romantic partners accounted for 35.9% of domestic violence victims, family members 32.4%, spouses 29.2% and ex-spouses 2.5%.
Victim/Offender Relationships

• Wives were 79.8% of the victims in spousal violence.
• Ex-wives were 78.8% of the victims in domestic violence among ex-spouses.
• Other family members such as cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews made up 25.1% of family violence victims.
• Girlfriends were 82.2% of the domestic violence victims among romantic partners.
Domestic Violence Rate
Domestic Homicide Rate
Domestic Sexual Violence Rate
Domestic Aggravated Assault Rate
CDV Proxy Rate
Ex-Spouse Violence Rate

![Graph showing the trend of Ex-Spouse Violence Rate from 2005 to 2009, indicating a decrease over time.]
Violence Rate – Romantic Partners
County Rankings - 2009

- Greenville County reported the most domestic violence victims, Chester County had the highest domestic violence rate.
- Greenville County reported seven domestic violence homicides, the most in the state.
- Greenville County reported the most domestic sexual violence victims, Chester County had the highest domestic sexual violence rate.
County Rankings - 2009

- Richland County ranked first in domestic aggravated assault victims, Dillon County had the highest rate.
- Greenville County reported the most domestic simple assault victims, Orangeburg County had the highest victimization rate.
- Horry County reported the most domestic intimidation victims, Marion County had the highest victimization rate.
County Information

For information about domestic violence in a specific county, please see the full report starting on page 95, with the counties following in alphabetical order. Each county has a three page profile consisting of domestic violence trend and victim information during the 2005 to 2009 time period.
QUESTIONS?

• The full report, *The Rule of Thumb: A Five Year Overview of Domestic Violence in South Carolina 2005 – 2009* is available online at:
  http://www.scdps.org/ojp/statistics.asp

• You may also email questions to:
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