

PROBLEM STATEMENT: First, define the problem exactly as it exists in your particular community. Describe the nature and magnitude of the problem using valid, updated statistical data, and cite the source and date of your information. Prior data may be used to show changes in the magnitude or severity of the problem. Remember to document the problem and not the symptoms or solutions of the problem. Second, identify your existing efforts, current resources and programs being utilized to deal with the problem.

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

As many people know, domestic violence is a criminal act involving victims and offenders who are related to one another. Domestic Violence includes intimidation and simple, aggravated, and sexual assault. What most people may not be aware of is that domestic violence has become a national dilemma, with a crime of this type occurring every 9 seconds. Family members try to ignore what's happening and neighbors do not want to get involved. The victim is usually helpless to understand the problem, let alone determine the solution to it. Instead of the difficulties being addressed before they can further develop, law enforcement agencies are usually left to handle each case only after a criminal act has taken place and someone has been injured. At this point, the officers themselves are at risk due to the volatile nature of the situation. Despite the stereotypes, domestic violence knows no racial, gender, age, religious, socioeconomic, or sexual orientation boundaries and statistics show that these crimes impact virtually every one of us in some way.¹

UNITED STATES

In 1996, 960,000 incidents of domestic violence took place in the United States. Over 85% of the victims were women. Of these cases, 1,800 resulted in the death of the victim, 75% of which were female. Four women are murdered every day by their intimate partners. Family violence kills as many women every five years as the total number of Americans who died in the Vietnam War. Intimate violence is primarily a crime against women – in 1998, females were the victims in 72% of intimate murders and the victims of about 85% in non-lethal intimate violence. Approximately 21% of all violence on women is committed by an intimate acquaintance, and 33% of American women experience domestic violence. The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that although divorced and separated women comprise only 7% of the population, they account for 75% of all battered women. Women are not the only ones who suffer from this problem. Over half of the men who physically assault their partner are likely to hit children as well. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that 1.4 million adults are stalked annually in the United States. More than 50% of child abductions result from domestic violence, and boys who grow up in violent homes are almost three times as likely to become batterers than are sons of non-violent parents. In addition, one out of every four gay couples experiences domestic violence in their relationship.²

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, domestic violence is the leading cause of injuries to women age 15 to 44. Domestic violence injuries are more common to this age group than auto accidents, muggings, and cancer combined. The 1991 FBI Uniform Crime Report indicated that a woman was beaten by her husband or boyfriend every 15 seconds in the United States. The American Medical Association estimates that almost 4 million women a year are victims of severe assaults by their partners and former partners, and one in four women is likely to be abused by her partner during her lifetime.³

¹ South Carolina Department of Public Safety grant abstract for Criminal Domestic Violence.

² Ibid.

³ Handbook titled *S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PROGRAM PROTOCOLS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT & PROSECUTORS*. Disseminated by the South Carolina Attorney General's Office. Page 3.

Analysis of police and court reports in North America and Europe have consistently indicated that women constitute 90-95% of the victims of domestic violence, and that perpetrators are overwhelmingly male. Although assaults involving weapons such as guns and knives are increasing, the weapon of choice is a man's fists.⁴

The degree of family violence that is currently detected in America is most likely the product of years of improper socialization. The tolerance of family violence in one generation encourages it in the next. Until society rejects resolving conflict and expressing anger through violence, domestic violence will continue.⁵ Apparently, customary forms of problem solving and family interaction have traditionally centered around violence. Consider this quote from a psychology textbook published in 1987:

“The traditions of family relationships in Western culture must encourage violence in the family. The ancient Greeks practiced infanticide, although only baby girls were left to die. In Roman times, a father could sell, sacrifice, mutilate, or kill his offspring...A comprehensive study of child abuse points out that with the exception of the military and the police, there is no more violent social group in America than the family. ‘A person is more likely to be hit or killed in his or her own home by another family member than anywhere else or by anyone else’. Nearly one out of every four murder victims is killed by a member of his or her own family...”⁶

Some persons accept their troubles without seeking relief. This is possibly due to a personality trait or based on a philosophy of tolerance, resignation, or understanding. This can be used by the abuser for their own benefit and protection. Moreover, persons in abusive situations become physically and socially isolated from contact with others outside the home. This makes detection and intervention very difficult.⁷

STATE of SOUTH CAROLINA

The data for South Carolina is equally distressing with that of the United States as a whole and the numbers indicate that something must be done to decrease the occurrence of these cases and prevent further criminal acts that result from this violence. Almost 10 years ago the South Carolina Department of Social Services reported that in 1991-92, out of 3,972 cases of adult abuse that were reported, 41% of the victims lived with their family or friends. In 1996, 68.5% of all reported sexual assaults took place in the home.⁸ Furthermore, in 1996, the South Carolina Department of Social Services reported that 3,660 domestic violence victims were sheltered. Statewide, shelters handled 14, 892 crisis calls.⁹

In 1999, there were 35,603 domestic violence cases reported in South Carolina and South Carolina was ranked third in the nation in women killed by men.¹⁰ The majority of domestic assault victims in the state are female (approximately 80%) and black (approximately 49%). The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division reports that 65% of the domestic assaults are committed by a spouse. Most domestic assault arrests (69%) were for simple assault while a smaller amount (22%) of the arrests were for aggravated

⁴ Handbook titled *S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PROGRAM PROTOCOLS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT & PROSECUTORS*. Disseminated by the South Carolina Attorney General's Office. Page 3.

⁵ Handbook titled *S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PROGRAM PROTOCOLS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT & PROSECUTORS*. Disseminated by the South Carolina Attorney General's Office. Page 3.

⁶ Child Development, Fifth Edition, by Salkind and Ambron. Published by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston 1987. Page 266.

⁷ *Abuse of the Elderly and Other High Risk Adults*, published by the Criminal Justice Academy, South Carolina Department of Public Safety. Page 6.

⁸ Undated letter from Attorney General Charlie Condon included with handbook titled *S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PROGRAM PROTOCOLS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT & PROSECUTORS*.

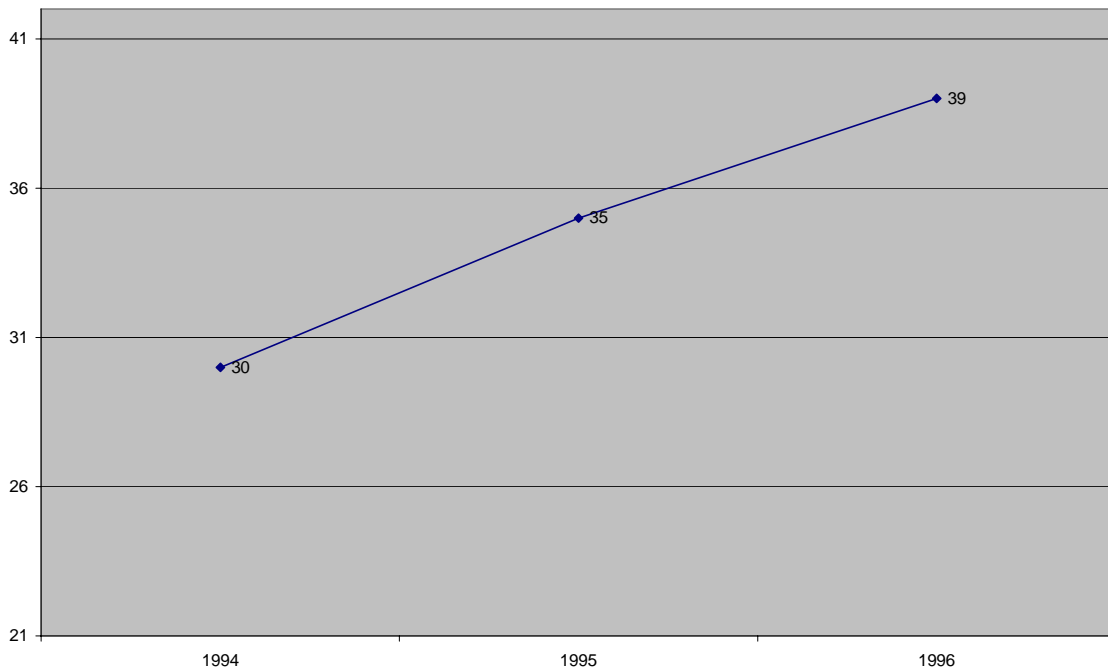
⁹ Handbook titled *S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PROGRAM PROTOCOLS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT & PROSECUTORS*. Page 3.

¹⁰ FBI Supplemental Homicide Report, 1999

assault. Conversely, according to one source, domestic violence is responsible for almost 27% of all aggravated assault cases in South Carolina.¹¹ Another source, The South Carolina Attorney General’s office, reports that almost 60% of all aggravated assaults occur in the home and that between 1994 to 1996 the number of women who died statewide as a result of domestic violence increased 30% from 30 to 39.¹²

The following chart depicts the three-year trend of in-state domestic violence deaths from 1994 – 1996.

NUMBER of WOMEN KILLED BY YEAR AS A RESULT of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Two of the most compelling factors in making this type of abuse “invisible” to the rest of society and law enforcement are (1) the family is [considered] sacrosanct and interference with family life by outsiders is not tolerated, and (2) because abuse occurs within the confines of a private dwelling, it is hidden from outside scrutiny.¹³

CITY of ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

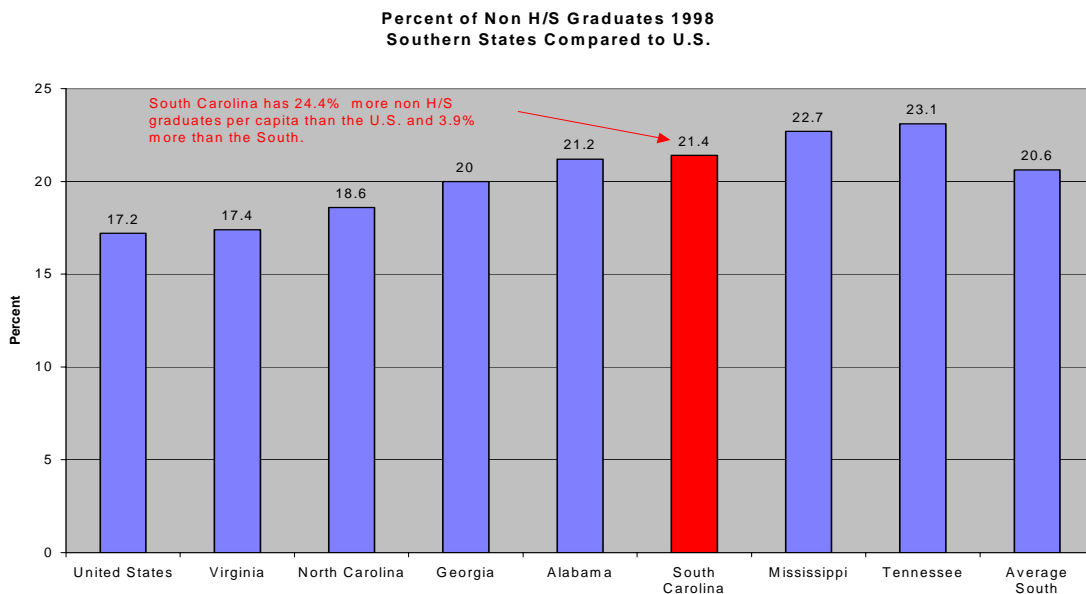
The City of Anderson, South Carolina is located approximately half way between Atlanta, Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina, three miles east of interstate 85 near the base of the Blue Ridge mountains. The city covers 13 square miles. It is the county seat and has a population of approximately 29,522¹⁴ people which temporarily increases to an estimated 110,000 some days during the year. Individuals come into Anderson from the surrounding counties in South Carolina and northeast Georgia to work, transact business, and shop at the many outlets as well as the mall. Many citizens come into the city from the county of Anderson on a daily basis in order to engage in commerce and trade as well as interact with the

¹¹ South Carolina Department of Public Safety grant abstract for Criminal Domestic Violence.
¹² Undated letter from Attorney General Charlie Condon included with handbook titled *S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PROGRAM PROTOCOLS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT & PROSECUTORS*.
¹³ *Abuse of the Elderly and Other High Risk Adults*, published by the Criminal Justice Academy, South Carolina Department of Public Safety. Page 6.
¹⁴ 1999 Anderson County Economic Profile by the Appalachian Council of Governments.

various government agencies available. Anderson has city, county, and state government offices, as well as a federal courthouse.

The city originally developed into a major textile manufacturing area. The people who first settled and worked in the area were predominantly working class blue-collar mill employees who had recently emerged from an agrarian economic lifestyle. Having recently left their farms, they were accustomed to living isolated lives compared to their middle-class contemporaries. Ordinarily, the typical factory workers' level of education was below average and their high school dropout rate was high. Historically, this class of individuals has tended to drop out of school prematurely and take factory jobs. This mind-set has been proliferated through the successive generations and continues to the present.

As previously mentioned, domestic violence occurs across all levels of the social strata. However, historical research has documented a theoretical correlation between depressed levels of education,¹⁵ social isolation,^{16/17} unemployment,^{18/19} low socioeconomic status,^{20/21} and confirmed instances of domestic abuse. In other words, in families that are socially isolated, under educated, and poor, there seems to be disproportionately more domestic abuse. The following chart depicts the percent of people per capita in different areas of the country who have less than a high school diploma (or its equivalent). The chart explicitly compares South Carolina to the rest of the Southern states and the U. S. as a whole.²²



The above data represents persons 25 years old and older. Given the high number (per capita) of individuals (in South Carolina compared to the United States as a whole) who drop out of school before

¹⁵ Abnormal Psychology and Modern Life, Seventh Edition by Coleman, Butsher, and Carson. Published by Scott, Foresman and Company. Note: Quotation states that social class influences level of education, which is related to crime. Page 262.

¹⁶ Child Development, Fifth Edition, by Salkind and Ambron. Published by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston 1987. Page 271.

¹⁷ Human Development, Fourth Edition, by Craig. Published by Prentice-Hall 1986. Page 339.

¹⁸ Child Development, Fifth Edition, by Salkind and Ambron. Published by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston 1987. Page 269.

¹⁹ Human Development, Fourth Edition, by Craig. Published by Prentice-Hall 1986. Page 339.

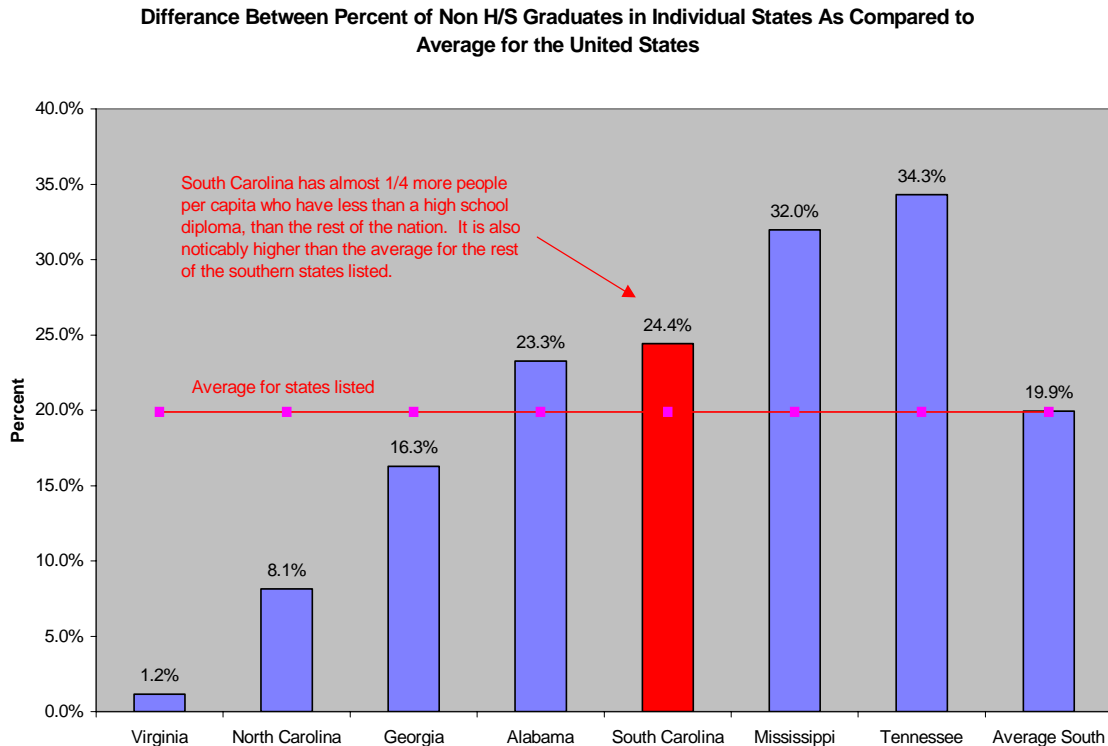
²⁰ Human Development, Fourth Edition, by Craig. Published by Prentice-Hall 1986. Page 338.

²¹ Abnormal Psychology and Modern Life, Seventh Edition by Coleman, Butsher, and Carson. Published by Scott, Foresman and Company. Note: Quotation states that social class directly influences level of education which is related to crime and thereby indirectly impacts criminal behavior. Page 262.

²² Data taken from *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 119th edition. Data is for 1998. Page 171.

receiving their diploma, it naturally follows that the rate of domestic violence will conform to a similar trend. This conclusion is in keeping with one of the accepted theories of domestic violence which states that domestic (or family) violence is correlated with educational level.

The following chart is the result in a further analysis of the previously charted data. It compares the 21.4% of people (25 years old and older) in South Carolina who have not finished high school to the 17.2% of persons nationwide who fit the same criteria. The ensuing conclusion is that there are 24.4% more people per capita in South Carolina who have not finished high school as there are in the entire U.S., on average.



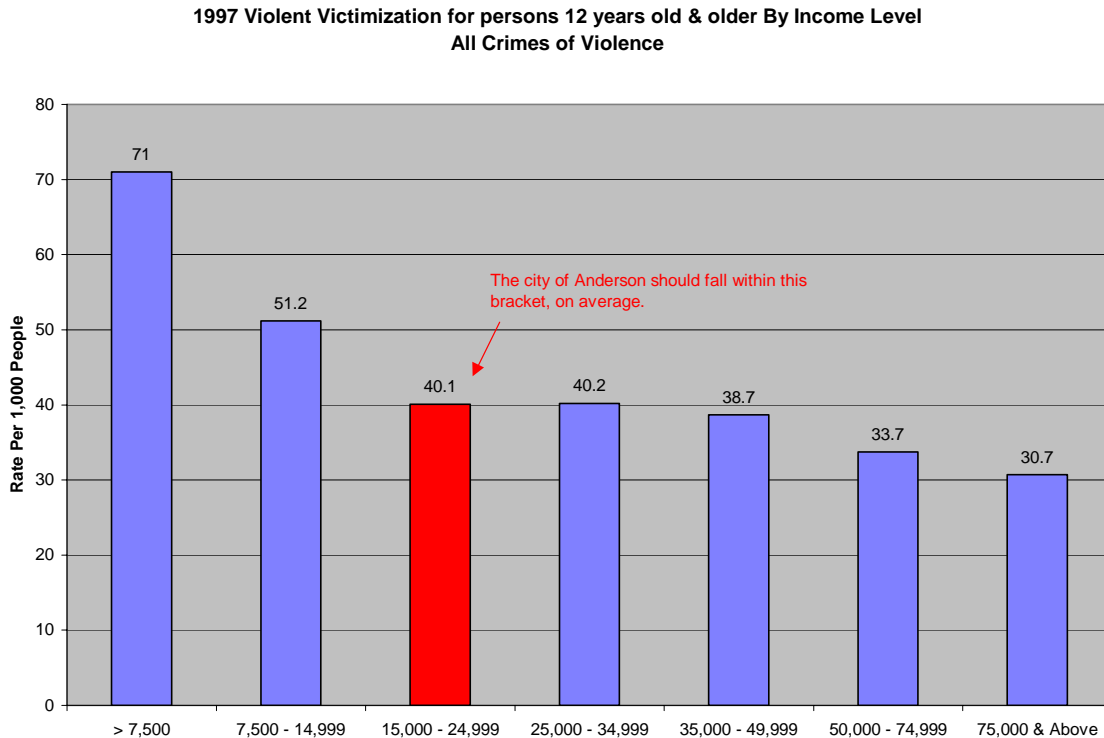
Domestic violence is correlated with an under-educated population. The hypothesis that South Carolina has substantially more domestic abuse than the rest of the nation is reasonable. The violent crime victimization rate in 1997 for South Carolina was 990 per 100,000 persons as compared to 611 per 100,000 persons nationwide. South Carolina was 62% higher than the U.S. as a whole.²³

Approximately 23.1% of Anderson County’s population has less than a high school diploma.²⁴ That is a 5% higher non-high school graduate rate than South Carolina and 34% higher rate than the United States. Applying the theory of a correlation between low education level and violence, it naturally follows that Anderson County’s higher drop out rate leads to an increased domestic violence rate for Anderson County as compared to the rest of the nation.

²³ Data taken from *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 119th edition. Data is for 1997 and does not include “simple assault”. Page 215.

²⁴ Appalachian Council of Governments. Data is for persons 25 and over and for the last year available (1990).

Concerning the theory that income level is correlated with victimization in crimes of violence, data from 1997 is assessable.²⁵ The rate of victimization in a violent crime nationwide was 39.2 per 1,000 persons for all violent crimes. The highest rate per 1,000 persons (71.0) was observed in households with an annual income less than \$7,500. The lowest rate per 1,000 (30.7) was in households where income exceeded \$75,000. Note the following differences in the victimization rate for the various income levels:



The median household income for the city of Anderson was approximately \$19,433 in 1989.²⁶ At that time 19.9% of city residents were below the poverty level. Taking into account reasonable yearly increases in household income between 1989 and 1999, it would be rational to surmise that household income still remained between \$15,000 and 24,000 through 1999. That income level would indicate a 40.1 per 1,000-person violent victimization rate for the city. During that period South Carolina’s per capita income was 23% below the per capita income for the United States. As previously stated, South Carolina had 24.4% more people per capita with less than a high school diploma than the per capita rate for the rest of the country. It seems that the -23% household income level (compared to the rest of the U.S.) is a very high negative correlation with the 24.4% more non-high school graduates (compared to the rest of the U.S.). This indicates that income level is strongly negatively correlated with achievement of a high school education. The same approximate figures should be consistent with household income, meaning that the average household income for the U.S. is 29% higher than that of the city of Anderson.

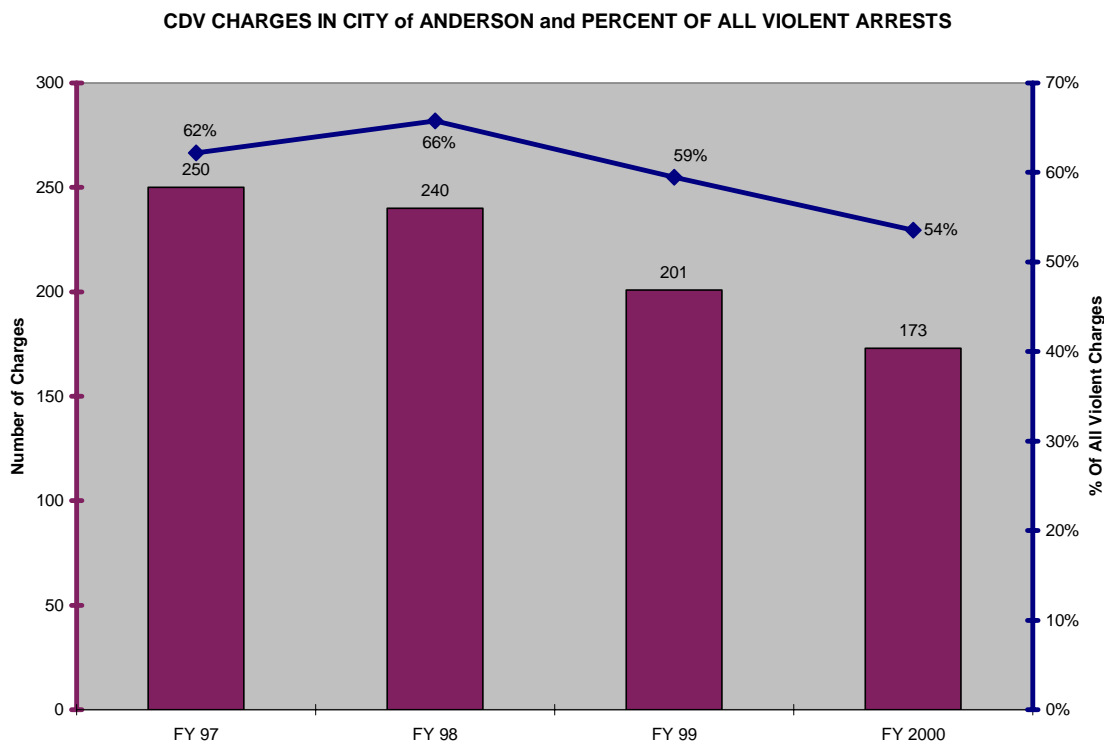
In 1998 there were 4,098 total assaults in Anderson County. Of that number, 1,520 or 37.1% were domestic assaults. Spouse abuse accounted for 58.7% of the domestic assaults. In 1999 those figures increased across the board. During that year there were 5,207 total assaults in Anderson County, 1,977 (or

²⁵ The last year for which data was available was 1997 and it includes data for “simple assault” which would be classified as CDV if it involved family. Data source is for persons 12 years old and older and taken from the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 119th edition. Page 220.

²⁶ Appalachian Council of Governments. Data is for last year available.

38.0%) of which were domestic related. Spouse abuse accounted for 60.0% of domestic assaults in Anderson County in 1999.²⁷

Considering that there are 29,522 persons living in the city of Anderson, which has a theoretical violent crime rate of 40.1 per 1,000, there should hypothetically be approximately 1,184 violent crimes per year in the city. During Fiscal Year 2000 there were 323 reports of violent crime in the city. That means that the city potentially had 3.7 violent crimes committed for each one that was reported to the police (i.e. 861 violent crimes including simple assault went unreported). According to the textbook conclusions documented in an earlier section, the vast majority of these crimes should be domestic related. However, during the last three years, arrests for domestic violence in the city have declined numerically and they also make up a smaller percentage of the total arrests for violent crimes than they did during 1997, 1998, or 1999.



EXISTING EFFORTS and CURRENT RESOURCES

Currently in the city of Anderson, Domestic Violence is investigated along with all other violent crimes and major property crimes by the investigative unit when an officer is unable to make an immediate arrest for extraneous reasons. When the commission of the crime is in question, the offender is unavailable, the victim refuses to cooperate, or there is a lack of immediate evidence, the officer refers the case to the investigative unit for further analysis. The investigative unit investigates major crimes, where an immediate arrest is prohibitive due to either (1) the offender is unavailable or (2) the offender is as yet unknown.

The department actively participates and cooperates in the prosecution of Criminal Domestic Violence with other interested agencies such as the Department of Social Services, the Anderson County Sheriff’s Office,

²⁷ State Law Enforcement Division Uniform Crime Reports Department

and the Family Court. If funded, the CDV Investigative unit will continue to work closely with these entities as well as the Victim's Advocate, School Resource Officers, City Court, and other agencies that have interaction with families at risk for domestic violence.

During FY 2000, in the city of Anderson, South Carolina, there were a total of 5001 criminal incident reports turned in,²⁸ 3,237 total charges filed,²⁹ and 665 cases referred to the investigative unit for investigation.³⁰ There are only six investigators handling caseloads. In FY 2000 the investigative unit filed 575 charges or an average of 96 charges per investigator.³¹ In addition to investigating personal and property crimes, the investigative unit spends a corresponding amount of time in court. It is virtually impossible for the existing number of investigators to increase the amount of investigations performed or the number of charges filed.

According to the South Carolina Attorney General's protocols for law enforcement:

"Prosecution is the formal expression of social norms. If these crimes are to stop, those who commit abuse must be prosecuted; if they are not, they are given tacit permission to continue. Unless there is prosecution following arrest, law enforcement is a fiction. Only the prosecutor and judge may exercise continuing authority over an arrested defendant."³²

CONCLUSION:

The number of domestic violence incidents in the United States and South Carolina is rising. They are becoming increasingly more violent in nature. Statistics indicate an annual increase in the number of people who lose their lives through domestic violence related incidents. Victims are often reluctant to prosecute offenders because of some philosophical belief or because they have been socialized through their upbringing to accept victimization through domestic violence as normal.

According to documented research, although domestic violence occurs across all income levels, it appears to be positively correlated with social isolation, level of education, and unemployment. Level of education and unemployment are correlated with low socioeconomic status. Because of this, in the past it was sometimes believed that low socioeconomic status produced domestic violence. However, the influence of class status on domestic violence is indirect and has yet to be substantiated.

Anderson, South Carolina has a higher per capita rate of non-educated people than the average for the United States, the southern region of the United States, or the state of South Carolina. Anderson also has comparably less household earnings. These two factors contribute disproportionately to and are correlated with increased levels of violence observed in Anderson as compared to the rest of the nation. The family unit is the third most violent social unit in the United States and a great portion of violence in America occurs within the home.

An estimated 894 violent crimes went unreported in fiscal year 2000 in the city of Anderson, South Carolina. Research indicates that the majority of these violent crimes could be family related. Work-study analysis of the City of Anderson Police Department Detective Unit indicates that when functioning at or

²⁸ Fiscal Year 2000 City of Anderson Police Department Annual Report. Page 8.

²⁹ Data from Criminal Docket "Offense/Officer" Summary Database.

³⁰ Data taken from report submitted to the South Carolina Municipal Benchmarking Project for FY 2000.

³¹ Fiscal Year 2000 City of Anderson Police Department Annual Report. Page 13.

³² Excerpt from handbook titled *S.T.O.P. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PROGRAM PROTOCOLS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT & PROSECUTORS* Disseminated by Attorney General Charlie Condon's office. Page 1.

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

near 100% efficiency, individual investigators can build and prosecute approximately 96 cases per year. To fully seek out and prosecute *all* potential criminal domestic violence cases would require at least nine additional detectives. The city of Anderson can not afford to increase its police department with its existing funding. Police Department funding through the general revenue is projected to stay at its current level for at least two more years thus precluding the department from adding additional personnel without outside funding. Funding for two additional detectives would potentially result in an additional 192 Criminal Domestic Violence arrests and prosecutions per year. The projected increase in domestic violence prosecutions would expectedly result in a future decrease in cases of domestic violence.

