

Assault

victim
assistance
program™

What is it?

Assault is defined as a physical attack or threat of attack. The severity of assaults ranges from minor threats to incidents which are nearly fatal, categorized as:

- **Aggravated assault:** attack or attempted attack **with a weapon**, regardless of whether or not an injury occurred
- **Simple assault:** attack or attempted attack **without a weapon**, resulting in no injury, minor injuries (bruises, black eyes, cuts, scratches, or swelling), or injuries requiring less than 2 days of hospitalization.

Source: *Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics*

First Steps

Establish safety:

Go to a safe location and reach out for help.

Care for injuries:

Seek medical attention for treatment of injuries.

Call the police:

This may feel overwhelming and that is okay. You can ask someone else to call, if you feel comfortable doing so.

Document the crime:

While it may be difficult, take pictures of any injuries and write down your account of what happened.

Common Reactions

- Anxiety and fear
- Re-experiencing unwanted thoughts, nightmares, flashbacks
- Increased vigilance, impatience, irritability
- Avoidance
- Anger
- Guilt and shame
- Grief and depression
- Negative self-image and world view
- Disruption of sexual relationships
- Physical and behavioral responses include nausea, dizziness, and a change in appetite and sleep patterns
- Withdrawal from daily activities

Statistics

- In 2019, there were an estimated 821,182 **aggravated assaults** in the U.S.
- Of the **aggravated assault offenses** with additional data provided, 27.6% were committed with firearms.
- In 2019, there were 1,025,711 reported arrests for **simple and other assaults**.

Source: *Crime in the United States, 2019, FBI UCR*

- Based on a 2019 survey, about 65% of the total violent victimizations reported were **simple assaults**.

Source: *Criminal Victimization, 2019, Bureau of Justice Statistics*



How we can help

- Provide you with information and education to allow you to make informed decisions for your personal, physical, emotional, and financial well-being
- Help you create a plan of action
- Provide referrals for additional resources
- Accompany and educate you on the court process
- Support you during hearings and trials
- Provide you with information on how to obtain a protection order
- Educating you about the rights crime victims are afforded
 - Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE)
 - Crime Victim Compensation

Contact Us

24-hour Hotline | 330.376.0040

24-hour Chat | victimassistanceprogram.org

137 S. Main Street, Suite 300 | Akron, Ohio 44308