



# **Criminal Domestic Violence in South Carolina**



The State of South Carolina  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
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The State of South Carolina  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Information regarding criminal domestic violence incidents, arrests and homicides was provided to this office by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and, in some cases, local and county law enforcement agencies. To the best of our knowledge, it is true and accurate. It should be noted that these numbers *are not* the number of incidents, rather the number of *victims*, that reported having experienced domestic violence. Information for the year 2004 is partial, consisting of only the months January through June.

Rates are computed per 10,000 based on population statistics from the year 2000 United States census.

Information regarding the status of the prosecution of criminal domestic violence cases at the Summary Court (Magistrate and Municipal courts) level has been provided on a voluntary basis by each county's respective Solicitor's office and/or Sheriff's office.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Attorney General:

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# Definitions

For the purposes of looking at domestic assaults, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), through its Uniform Crime Reports department, used the following definitions to produce data on assaults between intimates.

DEFINED: Aggravated Assaults, Simple Assaults or Intimidation which involve a husband, wife, common-law husband, common-law wife, ex-husband, ex-wife, boyfriend or girlfriend.

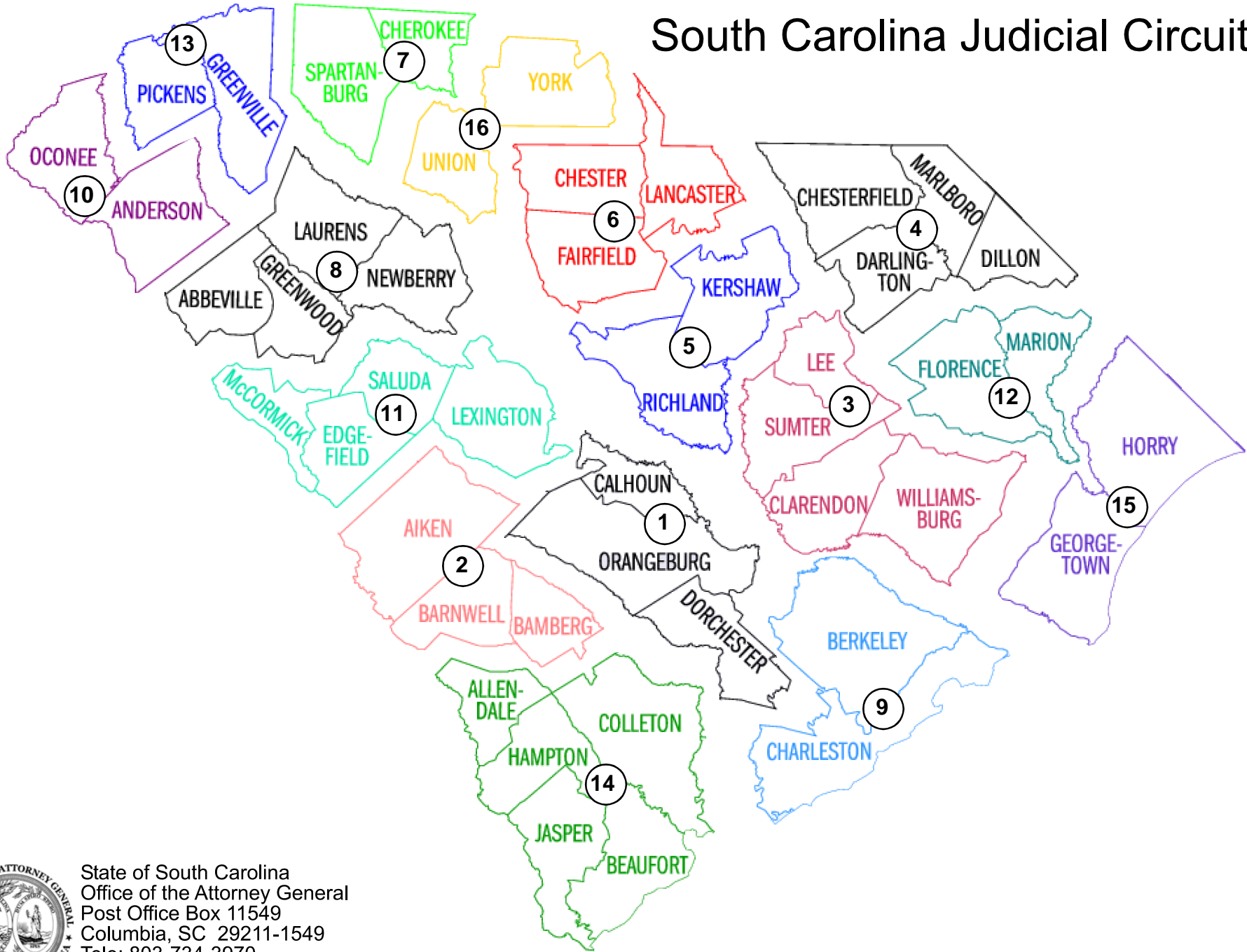
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT BETWEEN INTIMATES: Defined as an unlawful attack by one intimate member upon another with the intent of inflicting serious bodily injury through the use or threatened use of dangerous weapons. Attempts to assault are also counted since it is not necessary that injury result whenever a dangerous weapon is employed.

SIMPLE ASSAULT BETWEEN INTIMATES: Defined as an unlawful attack by one intimate member upon another, not involving the use of a dangerous weapon and not resulting in any serious or aggravated injury.

INTIMIDATION BETWEEN INTIMATES: Defined as one intimate member unlawfully placing the other intimate partner in reasonable fear of bodily harm through the use of threatening words or other conduct, but without displaying a weapon or subjecting the other to actual physical attack. "Stalking" can be intimidation if the victim feels a threat of bodily harm. Such threats can be made in person, by telephone, in writing, etc.

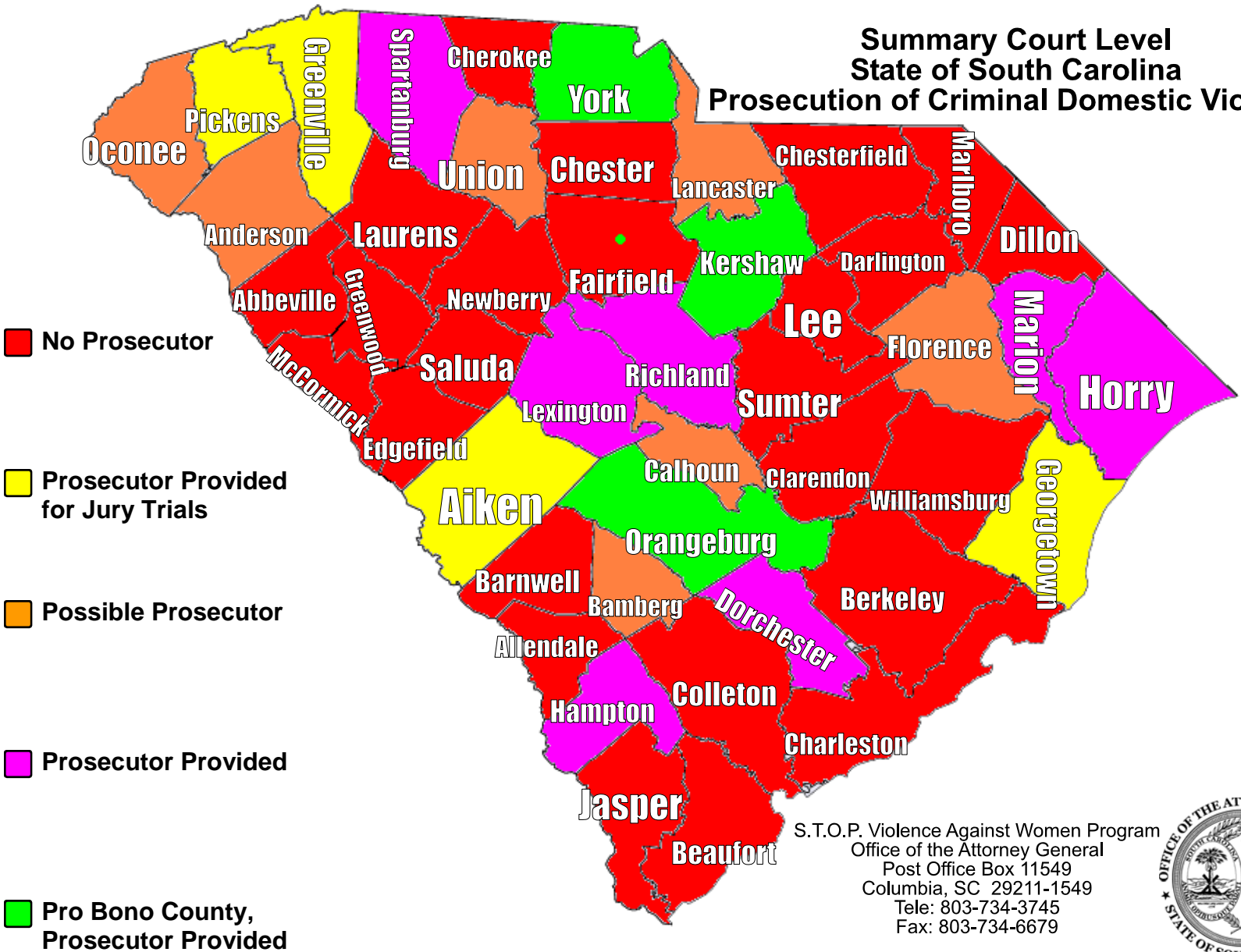
*It should be stressed that the statistics reported through SLED are the numbers of victims of domestic violence, not the number of incidents; e.g. there may be multiple victims when there is a single perpetrator during a single incident.*

# South Carolina Judicial Circuits



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**Summary Court Level  
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Prosecution of Criminal Domestic Violence**



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