

LEX FEMINAE INDEX

United States of America

2026 Edition

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Data Coverage: 2024

Grade:

F — Systemic Enforcement Failure

Trend Indicator: → Stagnant

The Lex Feminae Index evaluates whether legal systems deliver measurable protection against gender-based violence. The assessment is outcome-based. Legislative intent, policy declarations and strategic commitments are not considered. Only documented enforcement performance is examined.

This report presents the 2026 enforcement assessment of the United States using consolidated national data from the 2024 reporting cycle.

Criminal prosecution in the United States is conducted primarily at state level. Police intake data is published through the FBI National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). No unified national dataset consolidates prosecution, conviction, sentencing, protection order enforcement, or recidivism data for gender-based violence categories.

The evaluation examines whether statutory criminalization of domestic violence and sexual violence translates into operational enforcement in practice. It measures:

- Police-recorded violence
- Judicial intake and prosecution activity
- Conviction outcomes
- Sentencing patterns
- Protection order enforcement
- Public accessibility and consolidation of enforcement data

Prevalence surveys are not used as grading inputs.

The central question is structural:

Does enforcement practice produce measurable protection for women after violence occurs?

METHODOLOGIC FRAMEWORK

A. Data Scope

This assessment relies exclusively on official national and state-level publications from the FBI (NIBRS), state criminal justice agencies, and publicly available 2024 reports.

No NGO datasets or advocacy projections are used.

B. Administrative Counting Limits

Police-recorded incidents reflect reported offences, not unique offenders.

Conviction and sentencing data for GBV categories are not nationally consolidated.

C. Police-Justice Interoperability Limits

The United States does not publish a unified national dataset linking:

- Incident → Arrest → Charge → Prosecution → Conviction → Sentencing

GBV enforcement data is decentralized across 50 states.

No national consolidation exists for justice-phase metrics.

D. Conviction Timing Clarification

No national GBV conviction dataset is available for 2024.

Conviction timing analysis cannot be performed at national level.

LEGAL

I. Legal Recognition & Statutory Framework

Domestic violence and sexual assault are criminalized in all U.S. jurisdictions.

Protection mechanisms include restraining orders and protecting orders at state level.

ASSESSMENT

Statutory criminalization exists nationwide.

The legal framework does not restrict enforcement authority.

However, operational enforcement performance cannot be measured nationally due to data fragmentation.

REPORTING

II. Reporting Accessibility & Victim Registration

2024 FBI NIBRS data indicate:

- Total violent crimes: 1,221,345
- Domestic relationship violent crimes: ~336,000 (27.5%)
- Female victims share in domestic relationship incidents: ~74.5%
- Intimate partner homicides (five-year average): approximately 2,293 annually

ASSESSMENT

Police intake volume is nationally consolidated and publicly accessible.

However, reporting transparency ends at the incident stage.

Justice-phase enforcement metrics are not nationally published.

PROSECUTION

III. Prosecution Filtering

No national totals published for:

- IPV-specific arrests
- Charging decisions
- Prosecutions initiated
- Cases dismissed
- Cases referred

State-level testing (California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois) reveals intake publication but no unified prosecution funnel.

ASSESSMENT

Prosecution activity for GBV categories cannot be quantified nationally.

Intake-to-prosecution conversion is not measurable.

IV. Conviction Ratios

No national GBV-specific conviction totals are published.

No national dataset links:

- Domestic relationship violent incidents → Convictions
- Sexual offence incidents → Convictions

ASSESSMENT

Intake-to-conviction conversion cannot be calculated.

Conviction rarity relative to intake cannot be quantified.

Judicial enforcement cannot be externally verified at national level.

SENTENCING

V. Sentencing & Custodial Exposure

No national GBV-specific sentencing composition is published for 2024.

Unavailable nationally:

- Immediate custodial imprisonment rates
- Suspended sentence rates
- Community supervision rates
- Fine-only outcomes

Federal sexual abuse sentences (1,430) represent a limited jurisdictional subset and do not reflect state-level GBV enforcement.

ASSESSMENT

Custodial exposure relative to GBV intake cannot be calculated.

Sanction severity cannot be externally verified nationally.

PROTECTION

VI. Protection Measures

No nationally consolidated data published for:

- Protection orders issued
- Breaches recorded
- Arrests from breaches
- Convictions from breaches

State-level fragmentation prevents national protection enforcement analysis.

ASSESSMENT

Protection architecture exists in statute.

Protection reliability cannot be quantified nationally.

Breach-to-sanction enforcement is not externally measurable.

DATA

VII. Data Integrity & Transparency

The United States publishes:

- Police-recorded violent crime incidents (NIBRS)

However, it does not publish nationally consolidated GBV-specific data for:

- Arrests
- Charges
- Prosecutions
- Convictions
- Sentencing composition
- Protection order enforcement
- Recidivism

ASSESSMENT

Data transparency is structurally fragmented across jurisdictions.

No unified national enforcement chain exists for GBV categories.

Justice-phase traceability is absent at national level.

CLIMATE RISK MODIFIER

VIII. Climate Risk Context

The United States experienced regional climate events in 2024.

No national dataset integrates displacement or disaster status into GBV enforcement reporting.

The Climate Risk Modifier does not alter grade determination.

STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT

DOES THE LAW PROTECT WOMEN IN PRACTICE?

Police intake is measurable nationally.

Justice-phase enforcement is not measurable nationally.

The United States does not publish nationally consolidated data linking:

Incident → Arrest → Charge → Conviction → Sentencing

Custodial exposure relative to intake cannot be calculated.

Protection order enforcement cannot be quantified.

Recidivism is not nationally consolidated.

Enforcement architecture is decentralized and not traceable through a unified national enforcement chain.

Protection delivery cannot be externally verified using nationally consolidated GBV-specific data.

AUDIT GRADE

Under Lex Feminae Index criteria:

The United States does not meet E — Severe Enforcement Deficiency — because:

- National enforcement traceability is absent beyond police intake
- Intake-to-conviction conversion cannot be measured
- Protection enforcement cannot be quantified
- Custodial exposure cannot be verified

The United States does not meet D — Weak Enforcement — because:

- Even weak enforcement requires measurable justice-phase data
- Conversion ratios cannot be calculated nationally

The United States does not meet C, B, or A due to absence of measurable enforcement throughput.

Under the Lex Feminae Index methodology, absence of nationally consolidated enforcement data linking intake to conviction and sentencing prevents independent verification of protection delivery. In the absence of measurable enforcement continuity, protection performance cannot be credited.

Statutory criminalization exists.

Courts operate at state level.

However, nationally consolidated enforcement accountability for GBV categories is absent.

The United States' 2024 enforcement profile aligns with:

Grade F — Systemic Enforcement Failure

Trend Indicator: → Structurally Fragmented

FINAL GRADE

F — Systemic Enforcement Failure

Trend Indicator: → Stagnant*

- National enforcement traceability is absent beyond intake stage.
- No measurable intake-to-conviction conversion.
- No measurable custodial exposure relative to GBV intake.
- No nationally consolidated protection enforcement dataset.
- Protection delivery cannot be externally verified.

* Stagnation reflects structural persistence of enforcement patterns across recent reporting cycles as documented in official statistical continuity