

NIBRS Tip of the Month

Aggravated Assault versus Simple Assault

FBI Definition of Aggravated Assault:

An unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a weapon or displays it in a threatening manner, or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness.

FBI Definition of Simple Assault:

An unlawful physical attack by one person upon another where neither the offender displays a weapon nor the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury.

The weapons used or the extent of the victim's injury will be the deciding factors when distinguishing between Aggravated Assault and Simple Assault.

Examples of weapons used in an Aggravated Assault includes commonly known weapons (gun, knife, club, etc.) or any other item which could cause severe bodily injury. Examples include:

Baseball Bat	Explosive	Jumper Cables	Poison
Curling Iron	Fire	Maracas	Shovel
Disease	Hot Sauce	Pepper Spray	Vehicle

