

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMIZATION AND PERPETRATION

FACT SHEET

Victimization Statistics

- **An estimated 20% to 25% of college women in the United States experience attempted or complete rape during their college career.** ^{1a}
- **A university study found that of those identifying as lesbian, gay, and bisexual students 42.4% (30.6% female and 11.8% male) and 21.4% of the heterosexual-identifying students (17.8% female and 3.6% male) indicated they had been forced to have sex against their will.** ^{2a}
- **Nearly 60% of completed rapes that occur on a college campus take place in a survivor's residence, 31% in other on-campus living quarters, and 10.3% in a fraternity (house).** ^{3a}
- **Every two and a half minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted.** ^{4a}
- **According to data collected in the NCVS, of the nearly 400,000 rapes and sexual assaults reported between 1993-99, 29% reportedly took place in the presence of a third party. In 11% of the reported sexual assault/rape incidents, one or more victims were assaulted.** ^{5a}
- **According to the U.S. DOJ, nearly 6 out of 10 rape/sexual assault incidents are reported by victims to have occurred in their own home or at the home of a friend, relative, or neighbor.** ^{6a}
- **Teens 16 to 19 were three and one-half times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault.** ^{7a}
- **According to the DOJ, an estimated 91% of the victims of rape and sexual assault are female and 9% are male. Nearly 99% of the offenders they described in single-victim incidents are male.** ^{8a}
- **The National Violence Against Women Survey found that rape is a crime committed primarily against youth. Of the women who reported being raped at some time in their lives, 21.6% were under 12 years old, 32.4% were 12-17, 29% were 18-24, 16.6% were over 25 years old when they were first raped.** ^{9a}
- **In a study surveying more than 6,000 students at 32 colleges and universities in the U.S., 84% knew their attacker, and 57% of the rapes happened on dates.** ^{10a}

- **67% of women who were raped and/or physically assaulted since age 18 were assaulted by a current or former husband, cohabiting partner, or date compared to 18% of the men.** ^{11a}
- **A study of 1,000 female students indicated that 12% of unwanted sexual acts were perpetrated by casual dates and 43% by steady dating partners.** ^{12a}
- **77% of completed rapes are committed by someone who is known to the victim.** ^{13a}
- **41% of college women who are raped were virgins at the time.** ^{14a}
- **Among female rape victims, 61% are under age 18.** ^{15a}
- **For 2007, the FBI study estimates that the number of forcible rapes (reported to police) fell 2.5 percent from 2006, to 90,427 (down from 92,455).** ^{16a}
- **The rate of forcible rapes in 2007 was estimated at 59.1 offenses per 100,000 female inhabitants, a 3.0-percent decrease when compared with the 2006 estimated rate of 60.9.** ^{17a}
- **The 2006 NCVS estimated that there were 272,350 rapes/sexual assaults in the US that year. NCVS includes rapes not reported to police and includes attacks against men, but excludes attacks on victims under age 12.** ^{18a}
- **One in five women (20%) reported experiencing a completed rape at some point in their lives.** ^{19a}
- **For male victims, 71% were raped before age 18 (48% before the age of 12 and 23% between the ages of 12 and 17).** ^{20a}
- **For both males and females, the perpetrator and victim usually know each other. The NVAWS found this to be true in 83% of rape incidents.** ^{21a}
- **For child victims (under 12 years old) the perpetrator was most commonly a non-intimate family member for females (67.8%) and an acquaintance for males (50%).** ^{22a}

Perpetration Statistics

- **99% of people who rape are men.** ^{1b}
- **60% of rapists are Caucasian.** ^{2b}
- **35% of college men indicated some likelihood that they would force a woman to engage in sexual activity if they could be assured of not getting caught.** ^{3b}
- **51% of college males admit perpetrating one or more sexual assault incidents during college.** ^{4b}

- **43% of college-aged men admitted using coercive behavior to have sex, including ignoring a woman's protest, using physical aggression, and forcing intercourse.** ^{5b}
- **In a study of 477 males attending college, 55.7% reported one or more instances of non-assaultive coercion to obtain sex. Coercion in this case is defined as threatening to end a relationship unless the victim consents to sex, falsely professing love, or telling the victim lies to render her more sexually receptive.** ^{6b}
- **In a survey of male college students, 51% reported they might rape a woman if assured they would not get caught.** ^{7b}
- **More than one in five men report "becoming so aroused that they could not stop themselves from having sex, even though the woman did not consent."** ^{8b}
- **Eight percent of men admit committing acts that meet the legal definition of rape or attempted rape. Of these men who committed rape, 84% said that what they did was definitely not rape.** ^{9b}
- **60% of male college students "indicated some likelihood of raping or using force in certain circumstances."** ^{10b}
- **One fourth of college men have engaged in some form of sexually coercive behavior from unwanted touching to rape.** ^{11b}
- **80%-90% of violent crimes against women are committed by someone of the same racial background as the victim.** ^{12b}
- **In a recent study, 17.5% of a sample of sex offenders in a recent study committed another sexual offense.** ^{13b}
- **At least 45% of rapists were under the influence of alcohol or drugs.** ^{14b}
- **Only 2% of rapists are convicted and imprisoned.** ^{15b}
- **The National Violence Against Women Survey found that most violence perpetrated against adults is perpetrated by males: 93% of the women and 86% of the men who were raped and/or physically assaulted since the age of 18 were assaulted by a male.** ^{16b}
- **About 5 out of 10 rape defendants are released prior to trial, and 8 out of 10 convicted rape defendants had entered a guilty plea.** ^{17b}
- **67% of women who were raped and/or physically assaulted since age 18 were assaulted by a current or former husband, cohabiting partner, or date compared to 18% of the men.** ^{18b}

- **A study of 1,000 female students indicated that 12% of unwanted sexual acts were perpetrated by casual dates and 43% by steady dating partners.**^{19b}
- **Federal statistical series obtaining data on arrested or convicted persons – Uniform Crime Reports, National Judicial Reporting Program, and National Corrections Reporting Program – show a remarkable similarity in the characteristics of those categorized as rapists: 99 in 100 are male, 6 in 10 are white, and the average age is the early thirties.**^{20b}
- **77% of completed rapes are committed by someone who is known to the victim.**^{21b}
- **In one study, 98% of men who raped boys reported that they were heterosexual.**^{22b}
- **Several studies that compared the characteristics of men who had committed sexual assault with those who had not noted the following differences: With respect to personality traits, men who had committed sexual assault were more hostile toward women and lower in empathy compared with other men. With respect to attitudes, men who had committed sexual assault were more likely than other men to endorse traditional stereotypes about gender roles--for example, that men are responsible for initiating sex and women are responsible for setting the limits. Perpetrators of sexual assault also were more likely to endorse statements that have been used to justify rape--for example, "women say 'no' when they mean 'yes'" and "women enjoy forced sex." Finally, men who had committed sexual assaults were more likely to hold adversarial beliefs about relationships between men and women (e.g., "all's fair in love and war") and to consider the use of force in interpersonal relationships acceptable. With respect to their personal experiences, sexual assaulters were more likely than other men to have experienced abuse or violence as a child, to have been delinquent in adolescence, to have peers who viewed forced sex as acceptable, and to have had early and frequent dating and sexual experiences.**^{23b}
- **Studies with both perpetrators and victims have confirmed that the man's misperception of the woman's degree of sexual interest is a significant predictor of sexual assault.**^{24b}

Recidivism and Revictimization Statistics

- **In a longitudinal study spanning an average of seven years per participant, data indicated that participants who reported sexual abuse in childhood or early adolescence were twice as likely to have been raped or sexually assaulted as an older adolescent or young adult than participants with no history of childhood or adolescent sexual abuse.**^{1c}
- **42% of the women who were victims of date or acquaintance rape said they had sex again with the men who assaulted them.**^{2c}

- In a 1999 longitudinal study of 3,006 women, researchers found that women who had been victimized before were 7 times more likely to be raped again. ^{3c}
- In a 1994 Ms. Foundation Report on date and acquaintance rape, 41% of the raped women said they expect to be raped again. ^{4c}
- In a recent study, 17.5% of a sample of sex offenders committed another sexual offense. ^{5c}
- An examination of the abuse and criminal careers of 342 men arraigned in the Quincy, Massachusetts, District Court for a crime of domestic violence between 1995 and 1996 through 2004 reveals decade-long criminal and abuse careers largely undeterred by arrest, prosecution, probation supervision, incarceration, and batterer treatment. Although only a minority reabused (32%) or were arrested for any crime (43%) within a year of the study court arraignment, over the next decade, the majority (60%) reabused, and almost three fourths were rearrested for a domestic abuse or non-domestic abuse crime. The research suggests that short-term cessation of domestic violence achieved after a variety of interventions may not indicate longer-term behavior change. ^{6c}

Sexual Assault Reporting Statistics

- 13% of the sexual assault cases disclosed in the National Survey of Adolescents were reported to the police, 6% to child protective services, 5% to school authorities, 1.3% to other authorities. The majority of sexual assaults (86%) went unreported. ^{1d}
- 59% of rape victims who reported their rapes to police (compared to 17% of unreported rapes) received medical attention. ^{2d}
- Only 16% of rapes are ever reported to the police. In a survey of victims who did not report rape or attempted rape to the police, the following was found as to why no report was made: 43% thought nothing could be done, 27% felt it was a private matter, 12% were afraid of police response, and 12% felt it was not important enough. ^{3d}
- A study of 278 acquaintance rape survivors indicated that 97% informed at least one close confidant. ^{4d}
- 42% of rape survivors told no one about the rape. ^{5d}
- In a study done in the 1980s, 5% of rape survivors went to the police. ^{6d}
- For the first six months of last year (2007), the FBI study shows that the number of forcible rapes (reported to police) fell 6.1 percent. The biggest decline was in mid-sized and large cities (population over 100,000). Reported rapes in the northeast and midwest US fell more than in other regions. ^{7d}

- **For all of 2006, the FBI reported that 92,455 forcible rapes were reported to police. 8d**
- **Rapes/sexual assaults committed by strangers are more likely to be reported to the police than rapes/sexual assaults committed by "non-strangers," including intimate partners, other relatives and friends or acquaintances. Between 1992 and 2000, 41 percent of the rapes/sexual assaults committed by strangers were reported to the police. During the same time period, 24 percent of the rapes/sexual assaults committed by an intimate were reported. 9d**

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