

Sexual Violence

Facts at a Glance

2012

Adults

In a nationally representative survey of adults:¹

- Nearly 1 in 5 (18.3%) women and 1 in 71 men (1.4%) reported experiencing rape at some time in their lives.
- Approximately 1 in 20 women and men (5.6% and 5.3%, respectively) experienced sexual violence other than rape, such as being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, or non-contact unwanted sexual experiences, in the 12 months prior to the survey.
- 4.8% of men reported they were made to penetrate someone else at some time in their lives.
- 13% of women and 6% of men reported they experienced sexual coercion at some time in their lives.

College Age

- In a nationally representative survey of adults, 37.4% of female rape victims were first raped between ages 18-24.¹
- In a study of undergraduate women, 19% experienced attempted or completed sexual assault since entering college.²

Children and Youth

In a nationally representative survey:¹

- 42.2% of female rape victims were first raped before age 18.
- 29.9% of female rape victims were first raped between the ages of 11-17.
- 12.3% female rape victims and 27.8% of male rape victims were first raped when they were age 10 or younger.

A 2011 survey of high school students found that 11.8% of girls and 4.5% of boys from grades 9-12 reported that they were forced to have sexual intercourse at some time in their lives.³

Perpetrators

In a nationally representative survey:¹

- Among female rape victims, perpetrators were reported to be intimate partners (51.1%), family members (12.5%), acquaintances (40.8%) and strangers (13.8%).
- Among male rape victims, perpetrators were reported to be acquaintances (52.4%) and strangers (15.1%).
- Among male victims who were made to penetrate someone else, perpetrators were reported to be intimate partners (44.8%), acquaintances (44.7%) and strangers (8.2%).

Health Disparities

- Among high school students, 12.5% of American Indian/Alaska Natives, 10.5% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students, 8.6% of black students, 8.2% of Hispanic students, 7.4% of white students, and 13.5% of multiple-race students reported that they were forced to have sexual intercourse at some time in their lives.³
- Among adult women surveyed in 2010, 26.9% of American Indian/Alaska Natives, 22% of non-Hispanic blacks, 18.8% of non-Hispanic whites, 14.6% of Hispanics, and 35.5% of women of multiple races experienced an attempted or a completed rape at some time in their lives.¹

Sexual Violence Facts at a Glance

Non-fatal Injuries, Medical Treatment, and Health conditions

- Among sexual violence victims raped since their 18th birthday, 31.5% of women and 16.1% of men reported a physical injury as a result of a rape. 36.2% of injured female victims received medical treatment.⁴
- During 2004-2006, an estimated 105,187 females and 6,526 males aged 10-24 years received medical care in U.S. emergency departments as a result of nonfatal injuries sustained from a sexual assault.⁵
- Based on 2005 data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), for both women and men, links were found between history of nonconsensual sex and high cholesterol, stroke and heart disease; female victims of nonconsensual sex were more likely to report heart attack and heart disease compared to non-victims.⁶
- Rape results in about 32,000 pregnancies each year.⁷
- Among female victims of partner violence who filed a protective order, 68% reported they were raped by their intimate partner and 20% reported a rape-related pregnancy.⁸

References

1. Black MC, Basile KC, Breiding MJ, Smith SG, Walters ML, Merrick MT, Chen J, Stevens MR. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2011.
2. Krebs CP, Linquist CH, Warner TD, Fisher BS, Martin SL. College women's experiences with physically forced, alcohol- or other drug-enabled, and drug-facilitated sexual assault before and since entering college. *Journal of American College Health* 2009; 57(6):639-647.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 1991-2011 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data. Available at <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline>. Accessed on 8/24/2012.
4. Tjaden P, Thoennes N. Extent, nature, and consequences of rape victimization: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey. Washington: US Department of Justice; Publication No. NCJ210346; 2006.
5. CDC. Sexual and Reproductive Health of Persons Aged 10-24 years—United States, 2002-2007. *MMWR* 2009; 58(ss06):1-58. Available from: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5806a1.htm
6. Smith SG, Breiding MJ. Chronic disease and health behaviours linked to experiences of non-consensual sex among women and men. *Public Health* 2011; 125:653-659.
7. Holmes MM, Resnick HS, Kilpatrick DG, Best CL. Rape-related pregnancy: estimates and descriptive characteristics from a national sample of women. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 1996; 175:320-324.
8. McFarlane J, Malecha A, Watson K, Gist J, Batten E, Hall I, & Smith S. Intimate partner sexual assault against women: Frequency, health consequences & treatment outcomes. *Obstetrics and Gynecology* 2005; 105(1):99-108.