

Sexual Violence FACTS

Definition

Sexual violence refers to unwanted or coercive sexual behavior from sexual bullying to rape. The terms rape, sexual assault and sexual abuse are often used interchangeably and refer to coercive forced sexual contact. Remember: Sexual Violence is never the victim's fault. Any person, regardless of race, gender or sexuality, can be a victim of sexual violence.

Statistics

- 45% of women experience contact sexual violence in their lifetime. ¹
- 16% of men experience contact sexual violence in their lifetime. ¹
- 1 in 3 women experience sexual harassment at work ¹
- 1 in 4 women experience technology-facilitated sexual violence ¹
- 77% of rapists were known by the survivor. ²
- On average more than 20,000 sexual violence survivors seek assistance each year from Illinois rape crisis centers. ³

Help is Available

Rape crisis centers hotlines are available 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week, 365-days-a-year. All services are free and confidential. Visit **www.icasa.org** to locate the rape crisis center nearest you.

Sources

1. Findings from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2023/24, Centers for Disease Control, 2025.
5. By the Numbers: Sexual Violence Statistics, Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault.
6. InfoNet Data Reports, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, State of Illinois, 2025.

For more statistics on sexual violence in Illinois and the United States, please visit the stats and facts section of www.icasa.org.
