

Facts and Stats: Campus Rape

Overview

1. The rate of rape and sexual assault was 1.2 times higher for nonstudents – 7.6 per 1,000 – than for students – 6.1 per 1,000.¹
2. The offender had a weapon in about 1 in 10 rape and sexual assault victimizations against both students and nonstudents.²
3. Fewer than 1 in 5 female student (16%) and nonstudent (18%) victims of rape and sexual assault received assistance from a victim services agency.³
4. For both students and nonstudents ages 18 to 24, the 2013 rates of rape and sexual assault were not significantly different from their respective rates in 1997.⁴
5. College-age male victims accounted for 17% of rape and sexual assault victimizations against students and 4% against nonstudents.⁵
6. About 1 in 5 rape and sexual assault victimizations among students (22%) and nonstudents (20%) were committed by a stranger.⁶
7. Among females living in rural areas, the rate of rape and sexual assault victimization was almost 2 times higher for nonstudents (8.8 per 1,000) than students (4.6 per 1,000).⁷
8. The risk of the most serious types of nonconsensual sexual contact, due to physical force or incapacitation, decline from freshman to senior year – 16.9% for freshmen female students and 11.1% for senior female students. This decline is not as evident for other types of nonconsensual sexual contact.⁸
9. Overall, 13% of students from 32 universities reported experienced nonconsensual penetration or sexual touching by force or incapacitation since enrolling at the institutions of higher education.⁹

¹ U.S. Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2014. *Rape and Sexual Assault Victimization Among College-Age Females, 1995-2013*.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Westat. 2019. *Report on the AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct*.

10. Overall, 47.7% of students indicated that they have been the victims of sexual harassment since enrolled at the institutions of higher education.¹⁰
11. According to a CNN report on an AAU survey of college students, 23 percent of women said they experienced some form of unwanted sexual contact, ranging from kissing to touching to rape, carried out by force or threat of force, or while they were incapacitated because of alcohol and drugs.¹¹ The AAU survey included more than 150,000 students at 27 universities.¹²
12. Nearly 11 percent of female college students said the unwanted contact included penetration or oral sex.¹³
13. For college women seniors, the number reporting nonconsensual sexual contact of any kind carried out by force or while incapacitated was even higher than the 23 percent for all female college students: 26 percent of female seniors said they had experienced it at some point during their four years in college.¹⁴
14. A survey conducted at the University of Colorado Boulder revealed that 28 percent of undergraduate women reported being sexually assaulted while in college.¹⁵ Approximately 13,009 students participated in the sexual misconduct survey, and an overall 15 percent of all students reported being sexually assaulted while in college.¹⁶
15. For both college students and nonstudents, the offender was known to the victim in about 80% of rape and sexual assault victimizations.¹⁷

Reporting

16. Rape and sexual assault victimizations of students (80%) were more likely than nonstudent victimizations (67%) to go unreported to police.¹⁸

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ CNN. 2015. Survey conducted by the Association of American Universities. *23% of women report sexual assault in college, study finds.*

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Daily Camera. 2016. Sexual misconduct survey conducted by University of Colorado Boulder. *Survey: 28% of CU-Boulder's female undergrads sexually assaulted while in college.*

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

17. More than 50% of the victims of even the most incidents – forced penetration – say they do not report the event because they do not consider it “serious enough.”¹⁹
18. Fully one-third (35.9%) of victims of forced penetration did not report the event because they were “...embarrassed, ashamed or that it would be too emotionally difficult.” Almost as many said they “...did not think anything would be done about it.”²⁰
19. More than 50 percent of the women who reported some of the most serious incidents, including forced penetration, did not report it because they did not think it was “serious enough,” according to the survey.²¹

Location

20. For both students and nonstudents, about 70% of rape and sexual assault victimizations occurred either at the victim’s home or the home of another known person.²²
21. A greater percentage of the victimizations against students (29%) than nonstudents (17%) occurred at the home of a known person, such as a friend, relative, or acquaintance. In comparison, nonstudents (50%) experienced a greater proportion of rape and sexual assaults at their homes than students (38%).²³

Gender

22. Rates of sexual assault and misconduct are highest among undergraduate females and those identifying as transgender, genderqueer, non-conforming, questioning, and as something not listed on the survey (TGQN).²⁴
23. 75.2% of undergraduate and 69.4% of graduate/professional students who identify as TGQN reported being sexually harassed. The most common behavior cited by the students was making inappropriate comments about their body, appearance or sexual behavior (37.7%); followed by making sexual remarks, or insulting or offensive jokes or stories (29.5%).²⁵
24. Six percent of undergraduate men reported being sexually assaulted while in college.²⁶

¹⁹ Westat. 2015. *Report on the AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct*.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

25. Ten percent of undergraduate women and 3 percent of undergraduate men reported being stalked.²⁷
26. Among TGQN students, 22.8% of undergraduates and 14.5% of graduate and professional students reported nonconsensual sexual contact.²⁸

Bystander

27. When asked about bystander intervention, 17.8% of the respondents have suspected that a friend may have been sexually assaulted. Among those who reported they suspected a friend had been sexually assaulted, 66.4% took some type of action, with most speaking to the friend or someone else to seek help (57.1%).²⁹
28. Overall, 44.4% of respondents reported they have witnessed a drunk person heading for a sexual encounter. Among those who reported being a witness, 77% indicated that they did nothing, with 23.5% saying they weren't sure what to do and 53.5% saying they did nothing for another reason.³⁰
29. Overall, 19.6% of respondents indicated that they had witnessed someone acting in a sexually violent or harassing manner. Among those who witnessed this, 54.5% indicated that they did nothing, with 24.5% saying they weren't sure what to do and 30% saying they did nothing for another reason.³¹

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Westat. 2019. *Report on the AAU Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct*.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.