

# Facts and Stats: Sexual Violence and Persons with Disabilities

## Overview

1. The rate of serious violent crime (rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) for persons with disabilities (12.7 per 1,000) was more than three times the rate for persons without disabilities (4.0 per 1,000).<sup>1</sup>
2. In 2013, 65,500 accounts of rape and sexual assault were reported among persons with disabilities, a decrease compared to the years prior – 2011 had 82,800 reports and 2012 had 80,100 reports of rape and sexual assault.<sup>2</sup>
3. During the 5 year aggregate period from 2011 to 2015, for each age group measured except persons age 65 or older, the rate of violent victimization against persons with disabilities was at least 2.5 times the unadjusted rate for those without disabilities.<sup>3</sup>
4. In 2013, 24 percent of violent crime victims with disabilities believed they were targeted due to their disability, an increase from 2009, which was 13 percent.<sup>4</sup>
5. Sixty-five percent of rapes or sexual assaults against persons with disabilities were committed against those with multiple disability types, the highest percentage among the crime types examined.<sup>5</sup>
6. The rate of rape or sexual assault against persons with a single disability type (1.4 per 1,000) was lower than the rate for those with multiple disability types (2.8 per 1,000).<sup>6</sup>
7. About 37 percent, or 40,040 victims, of the violent crimes against persons with disabilities in 2008 were serious violent crimes such as rape or sexual assault. The number of serious violent crimes such as rape or sexual assault committed against persons without disabilities came in at 181,280 victims.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2017. *Crime Against People with Disabilities, 2009-2015*

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2017. *Crime Against People with Disabilities, 2009-2015*

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2017. *Crime Against People with Disabilities, 2009-2015*

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2017. *Crime Against People with Disabilities, 2009-2015*

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2010. *Crime Against People with Disabilities, 2008*.

## Age & Gender

8. The rate of violent victimization against males with disabilities was 37 per 1,000 in 2013, and the rate of violence against females with disabilities was 35 per 1,000 in the same year.<sup>8</sup>
9. Among those with disabilities, persons ages 12 to 15 (144.1 per 1,000 age 12 or older) had to highest rate of violent victimization among all age groups measured.<sup>9</sup>

## Offenders

10. A lower percentage of violence against persons with disabilities was committed by strangers – 31 percent – than against persons with disabilities – 39 percent – in 2013.<sup>10</sup>
11. The percentage of violence against persons with disabilities committed by intimate partners declined from 2009 at 22 percent to 2011 at 14 percent and remained steady through 2013 at 15 percent.<sup>11</sup>
12. The total number of persons with disabilities served by rape crisis centers:
  - FY08 – 254
  - FY12 – 585
  - FY13 – 803
  - FY16 - 777

---

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2017. *Crime Against People with Disabilities, 2009-2015*

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.