

Adult Victims of Sexual Assault

Overview

1. According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence 2015 survey, the estimated number of female victims who have experienced contact sexual violence was 52,192,000 and the estimated total for rape was 25,529,000. ¹
2. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence 2015 survey shows the estimated number of male victims who have experienced contact sexual violence was 27,608,000 and for rape was 2,839,000. ²
3. Approximately 1 in 71 men in the U.S. (1.4%) reported having been raped in his lifetime, which translates to almost 1.6 million men in the United States. ³
4. About 1 in 8 women reported experiencing sexual coercion in her lifetime, which translates to more than 15 million women in the United States. ⁴
5. Almost three quarters of female rape victims (71.2%) reported being raped by one perpetrator, 1 in 6 (16.4%) reported two perpetrators, and 1 in 8 (12.4%) reported three or more perpetrators in their lifetime. ⁵
6. Sexual assault is non-consensual sexual contact. Women and men of all ages, as well as children, can be victimized by sexual assault. A rapist may be an acquaintance, a relative or a stranger ⁶
7. Victims of sexual assault might take years to recover from the physical and psychological effects caused by the rape. Victims may suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder. Victims often experience a sense of shame, humiliation and self-blame, which may lead them to keep rape a secret. ⁷

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence*

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence*

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*

⁵ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence, *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 Summary Report*

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8. Males were 30% more likely to be victims of violent crimes in general, but females were 14 times more likely to be victims of rape or sexual assault.⁸
9. An estimated 91% of rape and sexual assault victims were female, and nearly 99% of the offenders in single victim offenses were male.⁹
10. The number of violent incidents increased from 5.2 million in 2017 to 6 million in 2018.¹⁰

In Illinois

11. According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual violence 2010 survey, the estimated number of rape victims in Illinois is 930,000.¹¹
12. It is estimated that approximately 14.1% of adult women in Illinois have been victims of one or more completed forcible rapes during their lifetime. This estimate of the magnitude of Illinois' rape problem is conservative because it does not include women who have never been forcibly raped but who have experienced attempted rapes, alcohol or drug facilitated rapes, incapacitation rapes, or statutory rapes (i.e., rapes in which no force or threat of force was used but the perpetrator had sex with an underage child or young adolescent). Nor does this estimate include any types of rape that have been experienced by female residents of Illinois who are currently under the age of 18. Nor does the estimate include male rape victims of any age.¹²
 - Of the 2.1 million women living in Cook County, about 295,000 have been raped.
 - Of the 341,000 women living in DuPage County, more than 48,000 have been raped.
 - Of the 228,000 women living in Lake County, more than 32,000 have been raped.
 - Of the 178,000 women living in Will County, more than 25,000 have been raped.
 - Of the 142,000 women living in Kane County, about 20,000 have been raped.
 - Of the 106,000 women living in Winnebago County, about 15,000 have been raped.
 - Of the 103,000 women living in Madison County, almost 15,000 have been raped.
 - Of the 92,000 women living in McHenry County, about 13,000 have been raped.¹³

⁸ Rennison, Callie M. 1999. *Criminal Victimization, 1998: Changes 1997-98 with Trends 1993-98*. Bureau of Justice Statistics. U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, D.C.

⁹ Greenfield, Lawrence A. 1997. *Sex Offenses and Offenders: An Analysis of Data on Rape and Sexual Assault*. U.S. Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Washington, D.C.

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of justice Statistics. *Criminal Victimization, 2018*

¹¹ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, *2010 Summary Report*

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

13. More than 37,000 victims of sexual violence received services from an ICASA rape crisis center between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2015 (state FY11-FY15). This is the unique count people served during the full five years, without duplicating those served over multiple years. When the years were examined separately, data showed an average of 10,200 victims were served, annually. Adults comprised about 60% of these victims. ¹⁴
14. Rape crisis centers responded to more than 42,000 requests from anonymous individuals for crisis intervention service during the five-year period. ¹⁵

Sexual Assault Victims Assisted by ICASA Centers¹⁶

2018: 22,319	2017: 19,077	2016: 18,825	2019: 24,440
2014: 17,351	2013: 18,048	2012: 18,092	2015: 19,522
2010: 18,349	2009: 18,433	2008: 18,803	2011: 18,896
2006: 19,173	2005: 18,704	2004: 20,021	2007: 18,168
2002: 19,095	2001: 18,563	2000: 18,554	2003: 20,196

Reporting

15. According to National Crime Victimization Survey data, in 2003, the percentage of rape/sexual assault victims reporting their victimization to the police decreased to 38.5% compared to the 53.7% reporting in 2002. ¹⁷
16. Persons age 12 or older experienced an average annual 140,990 completed rapes, 109,230 attempted rapes, and 152,680 completed and attempted sexual assaults between 1992 and 2000, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). ¹⁸

Rapes Reported to Law Enforcement

National Data from the FBI Uniform Crime Reports: ¹⁹

1998: 93,144	2007: 92,160	2016: 95,730
1999: 89,107	2008: 90,750	2017: 135,755

¹⁴ Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. An examination of Illinois sexual violence victims.

¹⁵ Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. An examination of Illinois sexual violence victims.

¹⁶ Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 2006, Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault FY15 Data Summary, 2015-2019

¹⁷ Catalano, S. 2004. *Crime Victimization, 2003*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics. U.S. Department of Justice.

¹⁸ *Rape and Sexual Assault: Reporting to Police and Medical Attention, 1992-2000*. 2002. Bureau of Justice Statistics. U.S. Department of Justice. Selected Findings.

¹⁹ FBI Uniform Crime Reports. 1998-2004, <https://ucr.fbi.gov> 2015-2018

2000: 90,178	2009: 89,241	2018: 139,380
2001: 90,491	2010: 85,593	
2002: 95,136	2011: 84,175	
2003: 93,433	2012: 84,376	
2004: 94,635	2013: 79,770	
2005: 93,943	2014: 84,041	
2006: 95,136	2015: 90,185	

Rapes Reported to Law Enforcement

Data from the Illinois State Police Uniform Crime Reports:²⁰

1998: 6,156	2007: 5,596
1999: 6,286	2008: 5,625
2000: 5,688	2009: 5,316
2001: 5,619	2010: 4,533
2002: 6,037	2011: 4,397
2003: 5,853	2013: 3,878
2004: 5,813	2014: 4,089
2005: 5,982	2015: 4,602
2006: 5,646	2016: 4,762

Relationship

17. About 1 in 4 women and nearly 1 in 10 men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime and reported some form of intimate partner violence related impact.²¹
18. Over 43 million women and 38 million men experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner in their lifetime.²²
19. Nearly 1 in 5 women and about 1 in 7 men report having physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime.²³
20. About 1 in 5 women and 1 in 12 men have experienced contact sexual violence by an intimate partner.²⁴
21. 10% of women and 2% of men report having been stalked by an intimate partner.²⁵

²⁰ Illinois State Police Uniform Crime Reports. 1998-2005, <https://ucr.fbi.gov> 2015-2016

²¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence*

²² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence*

²³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence*

²⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence*

²⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence*

22. In the years 2011-2015, the majority of victims were victimized by someone they knew (86%).²⁶
23. The most common offender relationship type was friend/acquaintance, which includes neighbors, coworkers, and casual dating partners, comprising 38% of relationship types.²⁷
24. Family members (excluding spouses, parents, and their spouses or partners) made up one-fifth of relationships at 20%.²⁸
25. More than half (51.1%) of female victims of rape reported being raped by an intimate partner.²⁹
26. 90% of sexual assault victims who knew their attacker did not report the attack to the police.³⁰
27. Around 15.1% of male victims reported being raped by a stranger.³¹

Economic Cost

28. The lifetime economic cost associated with medical services for intimate partner violence (IPV) related injuries, lost productivity from paid work, criminal justice, and other costs was \$3.6 trillion.³²
29. The cost of IPV over a victim's lifetime was \$103,767 for women and \$23,414 for men.³³

Age & Gender

30. 29.4 percent of female victims and 16.6 percent of male victims were 18 to 24 years old when they were first raped, and 16.6 percent of female victims and 12.3 percent of male victims were age 25 or older.³⁴

²⁶ Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. An examination of Illinois sexual violence victims. 2016.

²⁷ Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. An examination of Illinois sexual violence victims. 2016.

²⁸ Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. An examination of Illinois sexual violence victims. 2016.

²⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 *Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*

³⁰ Bohmer, C., and A. Parrot. 1993. *Sexual Assault on Campus*. New York: Lexington Books, p. 31.

³¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 *Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*

³² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence*

³³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Preventing Intimate Partner Violence*

³⁴ National Institute of Justice. 2006. *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Rape Victimization: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey*.

31. The number of violent-crime victims age 12 or older rose from 27. Million in 2015 to 3.3 million in 2018, an increase of 604,000 victims.³⁵
32. In an analysis of National Crime Victim Survey data, researchers found that for sexual assault victims over the age of 65, 81% were committed by lone offenders and 32% were committed by strangers. In 21% of all assault victimizations the victim received an injury, and 53% of those injured required medical attention.³⁶
33. Female victims accounted for 94% of all completed rapes, 91% of all attempted rapes, and 89% of all completed and attempted sexual assaults, between 1992 and 2000.³⁷
34. Most female victims of completed rape (79.6%) experienced their first rape before the age of 25; 4.2% experienced their first completed rape before the age of 18 years.³⁸
35. 7.7% of men surveyed by the National Crime Survey reported being sexually assaulted.³⁹

Marital Rape

36. Of women raped and/or physically assaulted after age 18, 76% were attacked by a current or former husband, partner or date.⁴⁰
37. Nearly 25 million women and 7 million men are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Each year, 1.5 million women and 834,000 men are so assaulted.⁴¹

Race

38. The portion of white persons age 12 or older who were victims of violent crime increased from .96% in 2015 to 1.19% in 2018 (up 24%), while the portion of males who were victimized increased from .94% to 1.21% (up 29%).⁴²

³⁵ U.S. Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Criminal Victimization, 2008*

³⁶ Bachmant, R., H. Dillaway, and M. Lachs. Violence Against The Elderly: A Comparative Analysis Of Robbery and Assault Across Age and Gender Groups. 20(2) *Research on Aging* (1998): 183-198.

³⁷ U.S. Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Selected Findings. 2002. *Rape and Sexual Assault: Reporting to Police and Medical Attention, 1992-2000*.

³⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 *Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*

³⁹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice. 1991. *Female Victims of Violent Crime*.

⁴⁰ Tjaden, Patricia, and Nancy Thoennes. 1998. *Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*. U.S. Department of Justice. National Institute of Justice. Washington, D.C.

⁴¹ Ibid.

39. The offender was of the same race or ethnicity as the victim in 70% of violent incidents involving black victims, 62% of those involving white victims, and 24% of those involving Asian victims. ⁴³
40. Approximately 1 in 5 Black (22%) and White (18.8%) non-Hispanic women, and 1 in 7 Hispanic women (14.6%) in the U.S. have experienced rape at some point in their lives. ⁴⁴
41. More than one quarter of women (26.9%) who identified as American Indian or as Alaska Native and 1 in 3 women (33.5%) who identified as multiracial non-Hispanic reported rape victimization in their lifetime. ⁴⁵
42. The vast majority of those served by Illinois rape crisis centers in FY11-FY15, were female (89%), about one quarter (25%) were Black. ⁴⁶
43. According to a sample on African American women done by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, in 2016, over half (53%) of all participants indicated rape victimization, 44% reported sexual coercion within their lifetime, with approximately 42% reporting both. ⁴⁷
 - 96% reported that the perpetrator was the same race.
 - 90% knew their perpetrator (friend/acquaintance, family member, intimate partner)
 - 40% were physically injured (ranging from minor cuts to being knocked unconscious).
 - 8% contracted a sexually transmitted disease.
 - 18% became pregnant.

⁴² U.S. Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Criminal Victimization, 2018*

⁴³ U.S. Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics. *Criminal Victimization, 2018*

⁴⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 *Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*

⁴⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 *Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*

⁴⁶ Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. An examination of Illinois sexual violence victims.

⁴⁷ National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Key findings from "Sexual Violence Victimization and Associations with Health in a Community Sample of African American Women"

Sexual Orientation

44. Bisexual women had significantly higher lifetime prevalence of rape and sexual violence other than rape by any perpetrator when compared to both lesbian and heterosexual women (Lesbian – 13.1%, Bisexual – 46.1%, and Heterosexual – 17.4%).⁴⁸
45. Most bisexual and heterosexual women (98.3% and 99.1%, respectively) who experienced rape in their lifetime reported having only male perpetrators.⁴⁹
46. The majority of lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual women (85.2%, 87.5%, and 94.7%, respectively) who experienced sexual violence other than rape in their lifetime reported having only male perpetrators.⁵⁰
47. The lifetime prevalence of sexual violence other than rape (including being made to penetrate, sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, and non-contact unwanted sexual experiences) by any perpetrator for lesbian women was 46.4%, for bisexual women 74.9%, and heterosexual women at 43.3%. For gay men 40.2%, bisexual men 47.4%, and for heterosexual men 20.8%.⁵¹

False Vs. Unfounded Reports

48. Law enforcement officers may decide not to prosecute a case of sexual assault for many reasons. The vast majority of these cases are not false, or made-up, reports. A factor in the unounding of a case is the degree of force used by the offender and the level of resistance exhibited by the victim. Lack of medical corroboration may also lead a case to be unfounded. It is estimated by several studies that fabricated sexual abuse reports constitute only 1 to 4 percent of all reported cases.
49. Nearly one-quarter of respondents to a youth and young adult survey say they believe women report having been raped when they really agreed to have sex. Women are as likely to say this as men. Women in the older segments (ages 19-21 and 22-24) are less likely to believe this is true. While 33% of 16-18 year old females say women very or fairly often misreport rapes, only 21% of 19-21 year olds and 15% of 22-24 year olds believe this.⁵²

⁴⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*

⁴⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*

⁵⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*

⁵¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*

⁵² Lifetime. 2005. *Anti-Violence Youth & Young Adult Survey*.