

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual violence encompasses a variety of criminal acts, ranging from sexual threats to unwanted contact to rape. It is widely recognized that sexual violence is extremely underreported because of the stigma associated with these crimes. This stigma contributes to the difficulty of measuring sexual violence in official statistics. Other difficulties include inconsistent definitions of sexual assault and rape; differing reporting requirements to local, state, and national law enforcement; and low conviction rates. Sexual violence, however, remains pervasive and traumatizing to its victims. The statistics cited below are drawn from several large, national data sets and reports on various forms of sexual violence and rape. While both men and women can be victims of sexual violence, most of these acts are perpetrated by male offenders against female victims. Most of the offenders are known to the victim in some capacity, including as friends, acquaintances, family members, or intimate partners.

In 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a large national study providing much needed national data about rape and sexual assault. Some of the findings include:

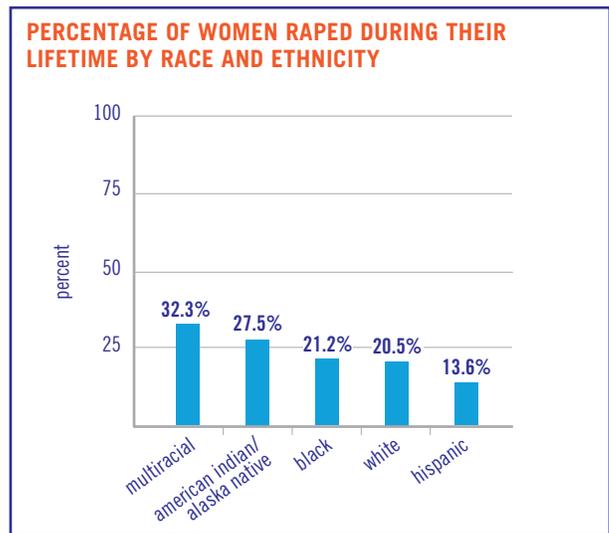
- Nearly 1 in 5 or almost 23 million women in the United States have been raped in their lifetime.¹
- Approximately 1 in 71 or 1.9 million men in the United States have been raped in their lifetime.²
- Of those surveyed, 43.9 percent of all women and 23.4 percent of all men experienced some form of sexual violence during their lifetime, including being made to penetrate, sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, and noncontact unwanted sexual experiences.³

1 Matthew J. Breidling et al., *Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization—National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011*, (Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014), Table 1, accessed September 24, 2014, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6308.pdf>.

2 Michelle Black et al., *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report*, (Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011), 19, accessed October 24, 2014, http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf; Matthew J. Breidling, *Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence*, Table 2.

3 Matthew J. Breidling, *Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence*, Table 2. Noncontact unwanted sexual experiences include voyeurism, unwanted exposure to pornography, verbal or behavioral sexual harassment, and threats of sexual violence.

- Noncontact unwanted sexual experiences were the most common form of sexual violence experienced by both men and women; about 39 million women and 15 million men have had this experience during their lifetimes.⁴
- An estimated 32.3 percent of multiracial women, 27.5 percent of American Indian/Alaska native women, 21.2 percent of black non-Hispanic women, 20.5 percent of white non-Hispanic women, and 13.6 percent Hispanic women experienced at least one rape victimization in their lifetime.⁵



- An estimated 64.1 percent of multiracial women, 55.0 percent of American Indian or Alaska Native women, 46.9 percent of white non-Hispanic women, 38.2 percent of black non-Hispanic women, 35.6 of Hispanic women, and 31.9 percent of Asian or Pacific Islander women experienced at least one act of other sexual violence in their lifetime.⁶
- An estimated 1.6 percent of non-Hispanic white men were raped during their lifetimes. Lifetime estimates of rape for men by other races/ethnicities were not statistically reliable for reporting because of a small case count.⁷

4 Ibid.

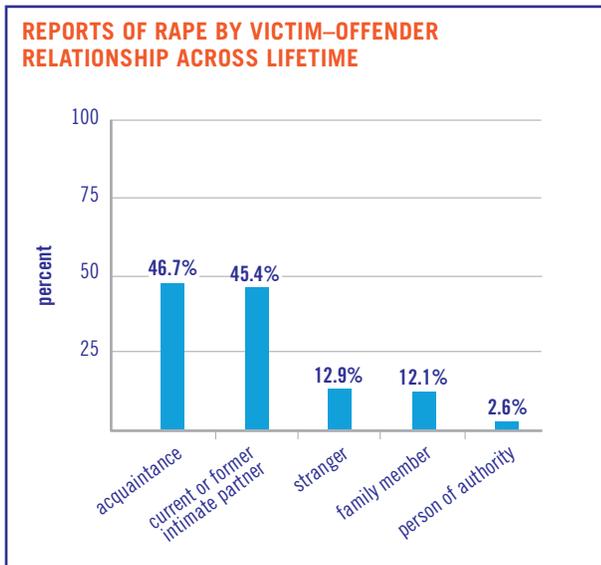
5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

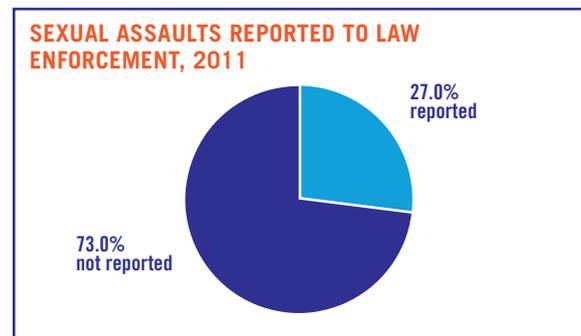
Sexual Violence

- An estimated 39.5 percent of multiracial men, 26.6 Hispanic men, 24.5 percent American Indian or Alaska Native men, 24.4 percent of black non-Hispanic men, 22.2 percent of white non-Hispanic men, and 15.8 percent of Asian or Pacific Islander men were victims of other sexual violence at least once in their lifetime.⁸
- Twenty-eight percent of male victims of rape were first assaulted when they were 10 years old or younger.⁹
- The majority of sexual assault and rape is committed by someone that the victim knows, with 46.7 percent of female rape victims reported having been raped by an acquaintance, 45.4 percent of female rape victims reporting that at least one perpetrator was a current or former intimate partner, 12.9 percent reported having been raped by a stranger, 12.1 percent reported having been raped by a family member, and 2.6 percent having been raped by a person of authority.¹⁰



- Seventy-four percent of female victims of sexual coercion reported perpetration by an intimate partner, and 26.6 percent of victims of unwanted sexual contact reported perpetration by an acquaintance.¹¹

- For many male sexual violence victims, their perpetrator was someone they knew, with 45.6 percent reporting the perpetrator was an acquaintance, 40.7 percent of male victims reported the perpetrator was current or former intimate partner, 27.2 percent reported the perpetrator was a stranger, 6.5 percent reported the perpetrator was a person of authority, and 5.5 percent reported the perpetrator was a family member.¹²
- Ninety-nine percent of female victims of sexual violence other than rape, reported their perpetrators were male. Of male victims, 79 percent reported female perpetrators.¹³
- More than three-quarters of female victims of rape (78.7 percent) were first raped before they were 25 years old and 40.4 percent were raped before the age of 18.¹⁴
- Of the women who reported rape before the age of 18, 35 percent also experienced rape as an adult.¹⁵
- Only 27 percent of rape and sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement between 2010 and 2012.¹⁶



According to FBI data, in 2012:

- Forcible rapes accounted for 6.9 percent of violent crimes reported to law enforcement.¹⁷

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Michelle Black, *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey*, 25.

¹⁰ Matthew J. Bredling, *Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence*, Table 3. Totals may exceed 100 percent because of the possibility of multiple perpetrators.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid. Totals may exceed 100 percent because of the possibility of multiple perpetrators.

¹³ Ibid., 5.

¹⁴ Ibid., 11.

¹⁵ Michelle Black, *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey*, 25.

¹⁶ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Percent of Rape/Sexual Assaults by Reporting to the Police, 2010-2012*, generated using the NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, accessed July 6, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=navat>.

¹⁷ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2012*, calculated

- Law enforcement cleared 40.1 percent of reported forcible rapes.¹⁸
- Forcible rapes accounted for 0.1 percent of all arrests.¹⁹

The CDC maintains a database of all non-fatal injury reports to hospitals. This surveillance data indicates:

- An estimated 80,687 people (25.7 per 100,000 persons) sought medical treatment at a hospital for sexual assault in 2012. Of those, 73,009 (45.8 per 100,000 females) were women, and 7,678 (5.0 per 100,000 males) were men.²⁰ Of those victims, 14,367 were age 15 to 19, and 13,018 were age 20 to 24.²¹

Sexual assault victimization on college campuses is common.²²

- According to the Clery reports in 2012, 13.9 percent of all crimes reported by college campuses were sexual offenses.²³

- Between 2011 and 2012, there was a 17.8 percent increase in the percentage of sexual offenses reported by college campuses in the Clery report, with 11.8 percent of all crimes reported being sexual offenses.²⁴
- From 2002 to 2012, there was an 18.8 percent increase in the sexual offenses reported by college campuses in the Clery report, meaning 11.7 percent of all crimes reported in the 2002 Clery Act were sexual offenses.²⁵

Much more information about youth perpetration and sexual violence is still needed. One study showed:

- Nine percent of youth age 14 to 21 reported being the perpetrator of some type of sexual violence in their lifetime.²⁶
- Four percent of youth age 14 to 21 reported being the perpetrators of attempted or completed rape.²⁷

According to the CDC Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS):

- Of high school age children, 10.4 percent experienced sexual dating violence in 2013.²⁸ Of these victims, 14.4 percent were girls, and 6.2 percent were boys.²⁹
- The same survey of high school age children found that 7.3 percent of students reported being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.³⁰ Of these victims, 10.5 percent were girls, and 4.2 percent were boys.³¹

from data in Table 1, accessed July 6, 2014, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/1tabledatacoverviewpdf/table_1_crime_in_the_united_states_by_volume_and_rate_per_100000_inhabitants_1993-2012.xls.

18 Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States 2012*, "Offenses Cleared," Table 25, accessed July 6, 2014, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/25tabledatacoverviewpdf/table_25_percent_of_offenses_cleared_by_arrest_or_exceptional_means_by_population_group_2012.xls.

19 Ibid., calculated from data in Table 29, accessed July 6, 2014, <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/29tabledatacoverviewpdf>.

20 Ibid.

21 Ibid.

22 The Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) act is an update to the Jeane Clery Act and seeks to increase the transparency, accountability, education, and collaboration between college campuses and the U.S. Department of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services. For more on the SaVE Act, please see: Clery Center for Security on Campus, *The Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) Act*, accessed July 9, 2014, <http://clerycenter.org/campus-sexual-violence-elimination-save-act>.

23 *The Campus Safety and Security Data Analysis Cutting Tool*, (U.S. Department of Education), based on calculations, accessed July 9, 2014, <http://ope.ed.gov/security>. For replication purposes: Group Search choices (Any Institution State or Outlying Area, Any Institution Enrollment, Any Type of Institution, Any Instructional Program, US State or Outlying Area, Any Campus Style or Outlying Area).

24 Ibid.

25 Ibid.

26 Michele L. Ybarra and Kimberly J. Mitchell, "Prevalence Rates of Male and Female Sexual Violence Perpetrators in a National Sample of Adolescents," *JAMA Pediatrics* (2013), accessed September 24, 2014, <http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1748355>.

27 Ibid.

28 Experiencing sexual dating violence is defined as one or more times during the 12 months before the survey, includes kissing, touching or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to by someone they were dating or going out with among students who dated or went out with someone during the 12 months before the survey. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System* online analysis tool, accessed July 9, 2014, <http://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/QuestionsOrLocations.aspx?CategoryId=C1>.

29 Ibid.

30 Ibid.

31 Ibid.

The Department of Defense published a report on sexual assault in the military for Fiscal Year 2013. This report provided some important insight into the rates of sexual assault in the military. Some of the findings include:

- Military service members reported 5,061 sexual assaults, representing a 50 percent increase from Fiscal Year 2012. Of these reports, 3,768 were “unrestricted” reports.³²
- Of the 5,061 sexual assaults reported, 54 percent were service-member-on-service-member crimes.³³
- Of the 5,061 sexual assault reports, 10 percent occurred before the member’s military service.³⁴
- Of the 3,768 unrestricted reports of sexual assault, 649 incidents or 20.3 percent involved service members as victims, and 573 incidents or 15.2 percent involved non-service members as victims.³⁵
- The Armed Services received 1,401 “restricted” reports of sexual assault, but at the request of the victim, 208 of these were converted from “restricted” to “unrestricted” reports, which allow an official investigation.³⁶
- Of the restricted reports, 10 percent occurred before the service member had entered the military.³⁷

Rape and sexual assault occur at a high rate in our prisons and jails, although many assaults go unreported to authorities. Several reports show:

- An estimated 7 percent of state and federal prison and jail inmates reported having one or more incidents of sexual victimization by another inmate or facility staff from 2011 to 2012.³⁸
- Inmates who reported their sexual orientation as gay, lesbian, or bisexual were among those reporting the highest rates of sexual victimization in prisons and jails. Of non-heterosexual inmates, an estimated 12.2 percent of prisoners and 8.5 percent of jail inmates reported being sexually victimized by another inmate; 5.4 percent of prisoners and 4.3 percent of jail inmates reported being victimized by staff.³⁹
- From 2011 to 2012, 51 percent of state and federal prisoner reports of sexual victimization involved inmate-on-inmate victimization. About 52 percent of jail inmate reports of sexual victimization involved inmate-on-inmate victimization.⁴⁰
- From 2005 to 2011, there was a 39 percent increase in the reports of sexual victimization in prisons.⁴¹
- Of the 8,763 cases of sexual victimization reported in 2011, 34.1 percent were inmate-on-inmate nonconsensual sexual acts, 16.9 percent were inmate-on-inmate abusive sexual contacts, 32.0 percent were staff sexual misconduct, and 17.1 percent were staff sexual harassment.⁴²

³² Under the Armed Forces’ Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, “unrestricted” reporting involves a victim reporting the sexual assault to the military command and law enforcement; the crime will be investigated, and the offender may be prosecuted. *Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military, Fiscal Year 2013*, (Arlington, VA: Department of Defense, 2015), 2, accessed July 9, 2014, http://sapr.mil/public/docs/reports/FY13_DoD_SAPRO_Annual_Report_on_Sexual_Assault.pdf.

³³ *Ibid.*, 2.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 2.

³⁵ Sexual assault is defined as rape, aggravated sexual assault and sexual assault, aggravated sexual contact, abusive sexual contact, wrongful sexual contact, indecent assault, nonconsensual sodomy, and attempts to commit these offenses. *Ibid.*, 75.

³⁶ Under the Armed Forces’ Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, “restricted” reporting involves a victim making a confidential report to specified sexual assault response personnel. The assault is not reported to the command or law enforcement; the crime will not be investigated or prosecuted; and the victim may receive specified support and medical services. *Ibid.*, 96.

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ Allen J. Beck et al., *Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates, 2011-12*, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2013), 6, accessed September 24, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svpjri1112.pdf>.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ Sexual victimization under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) involves both willing and unwilling sexual activity and may be categorized as inmate-on-inmate or as staff sexual misconduct. *Ibid.*, *calculated from Table 1*.

⁴¹ Allen J. Beck and Ramona R. Rantala, *Sexual Victimization Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2009-11*, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2014), 1, accessed July 9, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svraca0911.pdf>.

⁴² *Ibid.*, *calculated from Table 3*.

- In 2011, 44.2 percent of intimate-on-inmate sexual victimizations included force or threat of force against the victim, 12.0 percent were the result of persuasion or coercion, 5.3 percent were bribed, blackmailed, or given drugs or alcohol, and 1.9 percent were offered protection.⁴³
- Of those who were victims of inmate-on-inmate sexual victimization in 2011, 77.1 percent were men, and 22.9 percent were women. The perpetrators included 80.6 percent male victims, and 19.4 percent female victims.⁴⁴
- Juveniles incarcerated in youth correctional facilities in 2012 reported 1,720 incidents of sexual victimization. Approximately 17 percent of these reports involved nonconsensual youth-on-youth sexual acts, while almost 81 percent involved incidents of staff sexual misconduct.⁴⁵ ★

⁴³ Ibid., Table 8.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Allen J. Beck et al., *Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities Reported by Youth, 2012*, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2013), *calculated from Table 1*, accessed September 24, 2014, <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svjfry12.pdf>.

