

NATIONAL RAPE/SEXUAL ASSAULT STATISTICS

According to a study conducted by the National Victim Center, 1.3 women (age 18 and over) in the United States are forcibly raped each minute. That translates to 78 an hour, 1,871 per day, or 683,000 per year.¹

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, nearly 6 out of 10 rape/sexual assault incidents are reported by victims to have occurred in their own home or at the home of a friend, relative, or neighbor.²

51% of the sexual assault cases studied in the Women's Safety Project survey were committed against young women between 16 and 21 years old.³

In 29% of rapes, the offender used a weapon.⁴

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, an estimated 91% of the victims of rape and sexual assault are female and 9 % are male. Nearly 99% of the offenders they described in single-victim incidents are male.⁵

Rape or sexual assault was the violent crime least often reported to law enforcement (28%).⁶

Only 16% of rapes are ever reported to the police. In a survey of victims who did not report rape or attempted rape to the police, the following was found as to why no report was made: 43% thought nothing could be done, 27% felt it was a private matter, 12% were afraid of police response, and 12% felt it was not important enough.⁷

13.3% of college women indicated that they had been forced to have sex in a dating situation.⁸

In a national survey 27.7% of college women reported a sexual experience since the age of fourteen that met the legal definition of rape or attempted rape, and 7.7% of college men reported perpetrating aggressive behavior which met the legal definition of rape.⁹

Among developmentally disabled adults, as many as 83% of the females and 32% of the males are the victims of sexual assault.¹⁰

The National Violence Against Women Survey found that rape is a crime committed primarily against youth. Of the women who reported being raped sometime in their lives, 21.6% were younger than age 12, 32.4% were ages 12 to 17, 29% were ages 18 to 24, and 16.6% were over 25 years old. Thus, 54% of women victims were under age 18 at the time of the first rape and 83% were under the age of 25.¹¹

Between 1/3 and 2/3 of known sexual assault victims are age 15 or younger.¹²

The rate of rapes and sexual assaults against lesbians and gays, rose 13% nationally in 1995-1996, approximately twice the 6% rate for all violent crimes.¹³

16% of male students surveyed by the Ms. Foundation who had committed rape, and 10% of those who attempted a rape, took part in episodes involving multiple perpetrators.¹⁴

Women with disabilities are raped and abused at a rate at least twice that of the general population of women.¹⁵

4 out of 5 students (81%) have experienced some form of sexual harassment during their school years.¹⁶

An estimated 92,700 men are forcibly raped each year in the United States.¹⁷

77% of completed rapes are committed by someone who is known to the victim.¹⁸

¹ Kilpatrick, DJ, Edmunds CN Seymour A, 1992. Rape in America: A Report to the Nation, Arlington, VA: National Victim Center.

² Greenfeld, Lawrence A. 1997. Sex Offenses and Offenders: An Analysis of Data on Rape and Sexual Assault, Washington D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

³ Randall, Melanie and Haskell, Lori. 1995. "Sexual Violence in Women's Safety Project, A Community-Based Survey." Violence Against Women 1 (1): 6-31.

⁴ Violence Against Women, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Justice, 1994.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2000. Criminal Victimization 1999: Changes 1998-99 with Trends 1993-99. National Crime Victimization Survey. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dept of Justice.

⁷ Kilpatrick, et al., 1992.

⁸ Johnson, I., Sigler, R., 2000. "Forced Sexual Intercourse Among Intimates," Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 15(1).

⁹ Koss, M.P., Gidycz, K.A. and Wisniewski, N. The Scope of Rape: Incidence and Prevalence of Sexual Aggression and Victimization in a National Sample of Higher Education Students. Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 1987: 55 (2) 162-170.

¹⁰ Stimson, L. and Best, M.C., "Courage Above All" Sexual Assault Against Women with Disabilities.

Toronto, disabled Women's Network, Canada, 1991.

¹¹ Tjaden, Patricia and Thoennes, Nancy, November 1998. Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey. Washington D.C.: National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Dept. of Justice.

¹² Population Information Program. Population Reports: Ending Violence Against Women, 2000. Population Information Program, Center for Communications Programs. Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and Center for Healthcare Gender Equity.

¹³ Anti Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Violence Report, New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, 1996.

- ¹⁴ Warshaw, Robin. 1994. "I Never Called it Rape" The Ms. Report on Recognizing, Fighting and Surviving Date & Acquaintance Rape, New York: Harper Perennial.
- ¹⁵ Sobsey, D., 1994. "Violence and Abuse in the Lives of People with Disabilities" The End of Silent Acceptance, Baltimore MD: Paul H. Brooks Publishing Co, Inc.
- ¹⁶ Hostile Hallways: The AAUW Survey on Sexual Harassment in America's Schools. AAUW Educational Foundation, 1993.
- ¹⁷ Tjaden and Thoennes, November 1998.
- ¹⁸ Greenfeld, L., Sex Offenses and Offenders, 1997. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dept of Justice.