

Sexual Assault in the United States

Introduction

More than 300,000 women and 90,000 men are forcibly raped each year in the United States, but these estimates are thought by experts to be lower than the actual incidence, and they only include forcible rape – which does not include most forms of sexual assault. Using a broader definition of sexual assault, the National Institute of Justice estimated that there were 1.1 million rape and sexual assault victims in 1992. *Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey, 2000*

- The United States has the highest rate of rape of any country that publishes such statistics. Our rate is 13 times higher than in Great Britain and 20 times higher than in Japan.
National Center for Victims of Crime, "Rape in America: A report to the Nation," 1992
- 1.3 women age 18+ in the U.S are forcibly raped each minute; 78 per hour; 1,871 per day, or 683,000 per year.
National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," 2000
- One out of every six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime.
National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," 2000
- 90% of all rape and sexual assault victims are female, and 95-97% of all offenders are male.
U.S. Department of Justice, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006
- Each year, about one in 12 children are sexually abused. And overall, 6.1 percent of all children surveyed had been sexually victimized in the past year and nearly one in 10 over their lifetimes.¹ About one in three girls and one in seven boys will be sexually abused before the age of 17.²
¹ *Child Abuse & Neglect, "Measuring Poly-Victimization Using the JVQ," D.Finkelhor, et al., 2005* ² *Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal, "Prevalence and Symptomatic Sequelae of Self-Reported Childhood Physical and Sexual Abuse in a General Population Sample of Men and Women," J.Briere, et al., 2003*
- A minimum of 66% of all rapes and sexual assaults are committed by someone who is known to the victim. 27.4% of perpetrators were a spouse or someone well-known to the victim, and 26.6% were a casual acquaintance of the victim.
U.S. Department of Justice, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2006
- At least 60% of all sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement, making it one of the most under reported crimes.
U.S. Department of Justice, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005
- Factoring in unreported rapes, about 6% - one out of 20 - of rapists will never spend a day in jail. Fifteen out of 16 will walk free.
Probability Statistics Calculated By the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network Based on the U.S. Department Of Justice, National Crime Victimization Study, 2005
- According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the cost of crime to victims is an estimated \$450 billion per year. Rape is the most costly to its victims, totaling \$127 billion annually.
National Institute of Justice, "Victim Cost and Consequence: A New Look," T.Miller, et al., 1996

Portions of this material were adapted, with permission, from select fact sheets from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, www.nsvrc.org.