

FACT SHEET

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND RAPE

- More than half (54 percent) of female victims and nearly three quarters (71 percent) of male victims were first raped before their 18th birthdays.
National Institute of Justice. Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Rape Victimization: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey, 2006.
- About 2 out of 1000 children in the United States were confirmed by child protective service agencies as having experienced sexual assault in 2003.
Department of Health and Human Services (US), Administration on Children, Youth, and Families. Child Maltreatment. Washington: Government Printing Office, 2005.
- Among high school youth nationwide:
 - About 9% of students reported that they had been forced to have sexual intercourse.
 - Female students are more likely than male students to report sexual assault (11.9% vs. 6.1%).
 - Overall, 12.3% of Black students, 10.4% of Hispanic students, and 7.3% of White students reported that they had been forced to have sexual intercourse.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance—United States, MMWR, 53(SS-02):1–96, 2004.
- A survey of 4,340 adults examining sexual attitudes and experiences reported that 4.1 percent of respondents had a physical sexual experience with a teacher.
Policy and Program Studies Service. U.S. Department of Education. Educator Sexual Misconduct: A Synthesis of Existing Literature, 2004.
- Between 300,000 and 400,000 U.S. children are victims of the sex trade each year, from juvenile pornography and street prostitution to selling sex at school.
Estes, Richard. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S, Canada, & Mexico. Center for the Study of Youth Policy. University of Pennsylvania, 2003.
- Data from a 7-year study indicates that participants who reported child sexual abuse were twice as likely to have been raped or sexually assaulted as an older adolescent or young adult than those with no history of childhood sexual abuse.
Noll, J., Horowitz, L., et al., Revictimization and Self-Harm in Females who Experienced Childhood Sexual Abuse. Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 18:12,1452-1471, 2003.
- A survey of men revealed that:
 - 14% had been forced or coerced into sexual activity before they were 14 years old. The median age of their perpetrator was 27 years of age.
 - Nearly 45% of the sexual abuse involved some physical force, 10% involved extreme physical force. Offenders were often male relatives or other men known to the victim.

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- Over 25% of these victims were anally penetrated by force.

Ratner, P.A., Johnson, J.L., Shoveller, J.A., et al. "Non Consensual Sex Experienced by Men Who Have Sex with Other Men: Prevalence and Association with Mental Health." Patient Education and Counseling, 49:67-74, 2003.

- Approximately 1 in 5 female students reported being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner.

Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Use, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy, and Suicidality. Journal of the American Medical Association, 286:5, 2001.

- Reports of child sexual abuse to law enforcement showed the following:
 - Sexual assaults of children under the age of 12 tend to increase from the hours of 6am to 3pm and taper off through the other hours of the day. For juveniles under the age of 6, victimization rates increase near traditional meal periods of 8am, noon, and 6pm. For victims over the age of 18, victimizations increase after 6pm.
 - Adults were the offenders in 60% of the sexual assaults of youth under age 12.
 - Over a third of all sexual assaults involved a victim who was under the age of 12.
 - Juvenile victims of sexual assault were more likely to be male (18%) than were adult victims (4%). Nearly a quarter (27%) of the victims under age 12 were male.
 - Juveniles are responsible for victimizing 40% of the child assault victims under six years of age.
 - Strangers were the offenders in just 3% of sexual assaults against victims under age 6 and 5% of the sexual assault victimizations of youth ages 6 through 11.
 - Juveniles (under the age of 18) represented the vast majority of the victims in reported cases of forcible fondling (84%), forcible sodomy (79%) and sexual assault with an object (75%). Juveniles represented less than half of the victims in reported forcible rapes (46%).

Snyder, H.N., Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident and Offender Characteristics. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000.

- Men and women who have been raped or forced to have sex in childhood or adolescence are four times more likely to have worked in prostitution compared with people who have not been abused.

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

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

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

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