

Sexual Violence Against Men & Boys

Introduction

Male survivors may be more reluctant to seek advocacy services, may not identify themselves as victims, or may have difficulty acknowledging their assaults were harmful.

Societal expectations concerning the perception of manhood has significant influence on social stigma and the shame around male sexual abuse. The silence around male sexual assault results in a lack of awareness and understanding about the effects of these experiences.¹

Men who experience erection or ejaculation during a sexual assault may feel ashamed and be reluctant to seek advocate support. These physiological responses **do not** imply they consented to the assault.

Statistics

- At least **1 in 6** men have been sexually abused or assaulted.²
- **16%** of males were sexually abused by the age of 18.³
- **1 in 53** boys under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult.⁴
- Approximately 2.8 million men experienced attempted or completed rape victimization in their lifetime.⁵
- About **1 in 10** or an estimated **10.6 million** men have experienced sexual coercion at some point in their lifetime.⁶
- The majority of male victims (about **70.8%**) of attempted or completed rape reported that their first experience occurred prior to age 25.⁷
- **25.3%** reported their first victimization occurred between 11-17, and **26%** reported their first victimization at age 10 or younger.⁸
- Almost half (**45%**) of male youth victims made to penetrate (completed or attempted) were also made to penetrate as adults.⁹

Support Services for Boys & Men

- <https://malesurvivor.org> is committed to preventing, healing, and eliminating all forms of sexual victimization of boys and men through treatment, research, education, advocacy, and activism.
- <https://1in6.org> provides 24/7 free and anonymous chat-based support groups for male survivors of sexual abuse or assault who are seeking community support. Weekly group sessions facilitated by a counselor are also available.
- <https://www.rainn.org> has a 24/7 chat line for anonymous and confidential support. Specialists who are trained to help can also be contacted via hotline calls. Call **1-800-656-4673** or live chat online.
- <https://justdetention.org> is a human rights organization that seeks to end sexual abuse in all forms of detention. Their site has many informative and educational documents on prison rape, including an extensive publications section.

¹ 1 in 6. (2020). <https://1in6.org/get-information/the-1-in-6-statistic/>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Smith, S. G., Zhang, X., Basile, K. C., Merrick, M. T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M., & Chen, J. (2018). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2015 data brief – updated release*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/2015data-brief508.pdf>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Merrick, M. T., Basile, K. C., Zhang, X., Smith, S. G., & Kresnow, M. (2018). Characterizing sexual violence victimization in youth: 2012 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 54(4), 596–599. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2018.01.014>