

## Sexual Assault Statistics

*Variations in statistics result from differences in how different data sources define sexual violence and gather information about it.*

- One in six men will experience a sexual assault in his lifetime.
  - *Intimate Partner Violence*, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2000.
- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted by age 18
  - Finkelhor, David, et al. "Sexual Abuse in a National Survey of Adult Men and Women: Prevalence, Characteristics, and Risk Factors." 1990.
- Around the world, at least *one in every three* women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime.
  - Heise, L., Ellsberg, M. and Gottemoeller, M. *Ending Violence Against Women. Population Reports, Series L, No. 11.*, December 1999
  - Vlachová, Marie and Biason, Lea, Eds. (2004) *Women in an Insecure World: Violence Against Women - Facts, Figures and Analysis*. Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces
- Women of all races are about equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate.
  - Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*, August 1995
  - US. Department of Justice, *Violence-Related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments*, August 1997.
- Nearly one-fifth of women (18 percent) reported experiencing a completed or attempted rape at some time in their lives; one in 33 men (three percent) reported experiencing a completed or attempted rape at some time in their lives.
  - 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*, November 1998
- One out of every three women will be raped in her lifetime.
  - Koss, M.P. & Harvey, M.R., 1991. *The Rape Victim* New York, London, New Delhi: Sage Publications.
  - Ullman, S.E. & Knight, R.A., 1992. Fighting Back: Women's Resistance to Rape. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 7 (1) , 31-42
  - Randall, Melanie and Haskell, Lori, 1995. "Sexual Violence in Women's Lives: Findings from the Women's Safety Project, A Community-Based Survey." *Violence Against Women* 1 (2): 6-31

- Rapes/sexual assaults committed by strangers are more likely to be reported to the police than rapes/sexual assaults committed by “nonstrangers,” including intimate partners, other relatives and friends or acquaintances.
  - Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report, *Reporting Crime to the Police, 1992-2000*, March 2003
  
- The overall probability that a rapist will be sent to prison for his crime: 16.3%. The average sentence: 128 days.
  - National Center for Policy Analysis. "Crime and Punishment in America: 1999. NCPA Report 229, October 1999."
  
- Of surveyed college women, about 90% of rape and sexual assault victims knew their attacker prior to the assault
  - Fisher, Bonnie S., Francis T. Cullen, and Michael G. Turner. "The Sexual Victimization of College Women." Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000.
  
- In 8 out of 10 rape cases, the victim knew the perpetrator
  - Tjaden P, Thoennes N. Full report of the prevalence, incidence, and consequences of violence against women: findings from the national violence against women survey. Washington (DC): National Institute of Justice; 2000. Report NCJ 183781.
  
- 84% of women who are raped know their assailant.
  - Kilpatrick, D.G., C.N. Edmunds and A. Seymour. *Rape in America: A Report to the Nation*. (1992) Arlington, VA: National Victim Center.
  
- Approximately 73% of rape victims know their assailant
  - 2005 National Crime Victimization Survey
  
- Women with a childhood history of sexual abuse are 4.7 times more likely to be subsequently raped
  - Merrill, L.L., et al. "Childhood Abuse and Sexual Revictimization in a Female Navy Recruit Sample." Naval Health Research Center, 1997.
  
- An estimated 91% of rape and sexual assault victims were female, and nearly 99% of the offenders were male.
  - Greenfield, Sex Offenses and Offenders. Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1997.
  
- About 90% of campus rapes are alcohol related
  - National Commission on Substance Abuse at Colleges and Universities, 1994

- Alcohol may act for the assailant as a disinhibitor, as an excuse following the assault, or as a strategy to reduce victim resistance. At least 45% of rapists were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the assault.
  - U.S. Department of Justice, 1994. Violence Against Women. Rockville, Maryland: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice.
  
- In the National Violence Against Women Survey, 64% of women and 16% of men reported being raped, physically assaulted, or stalked by an intimate partner. This includes a current or former spouse, cohabitating partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, or date
  - Tjaden P, Thoennes N. Full report of the prevalence, incidence, and consequences of violence against women: findings from the national violence against women survey. Washington (DC): National Institute of Justice; 2000. Report NCJ 183781
  
- A study conducted in the United States found that women raped before the age of 18 were twice as likely to be raped as adults, compared to those without a history of sexual abuse
  - Tjaden P, Thoennes N. Full report of the prevalence, incidence, and consequences of violence against women: findings from the national violence against women survey. Washington (DC): National Institute of Justice; 2000. Report NCJ 183781
  
- 52% of gay men and lesbians reported at least one incident of coercion by a same sex partner.
  - (National Crime Victimization)
  
- Same-sex abusers use a form of abuse similar to those of heterosexual batterers, but they also have an additional weapon in the threat of "outing" their partner to family, friends, employers, or community.
  - Lundy, Abuse That Dare Not Speak Its Name: Assisting Victims of Gay Domestic Violence in Massachusetts, Winter (1993).
  
- Sexual violence victims exhibit a variety of psychological symptoms that are similar to those of victims of other types of trauma, such as war and natural disaster (*National Research Council 1996*). A number of long-lasting symptoms and illnesses have been associated with sexual victimization including chronic pelvic pain; premenstrual syndrome; gastrointestinal disorders; and a variety of chronic pain disorders, including headache, back pain, and facial pain (*Koss 1992*). Between 4% and 30% of rape victims contract sexually transmitted diseases as a result of the victimization (*Resnick 1997*).