

Sexual Violence

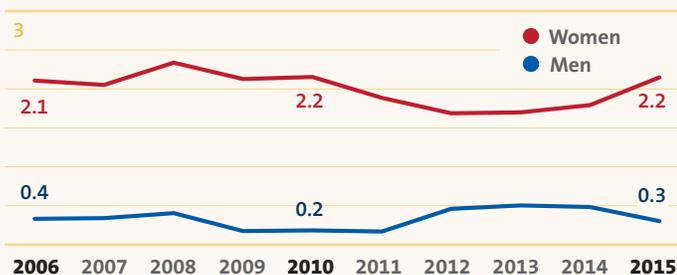
Sexual violence encompasses a variety of criminal and noncriminal acts—from sexual threats to unwanted contact to rape. Sexual violence is pervasive and often traumatizing to its victims. For a number of reasons, however, including the stigma and insensitive treatment often associated with these crimes, sexual violence remains highly underreported. Sexual violence is also a difficult concept to measure, primarily due to inconsistent definitions of sexual assault and rape; differing reporting requirements across local, state, and national law enforcement; and low conviction rates. While people of all genders and gender identities are victims of sexual violence, the majority of these acts are perpetrated by male offenders against female victims. Most victims know the perpetrator in some capacity, either as a friend, acquaintance, family member, or intimate partner.

Trends

Over their lifetime, an estimated **19% of women** and **2% of men** will have been **raped**, while **44% of women** and **23% of men** will experience some other form of **sexual violence**.^A According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in the 10 years from 2006 to 2015, the rates of sexual violence for both women and men experienced no significant change. Rates of sexual violence reported to police also did not change significantly from 2006 to 2015. Consistently across this period, less than 40% of sexual victimizations were reported to police.^B

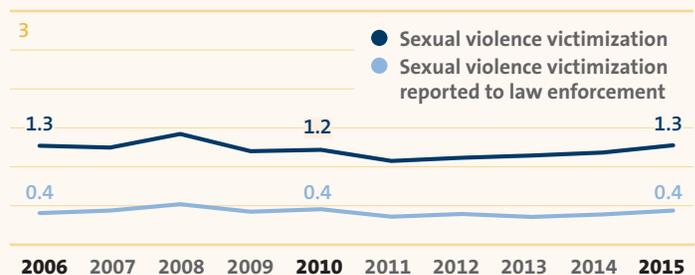
Sexual Violence by Victim Sex^{B*}

rate per 1,000 people



Sexual Violence Victimization and Reporting^{B*}

rate per 1,000 people

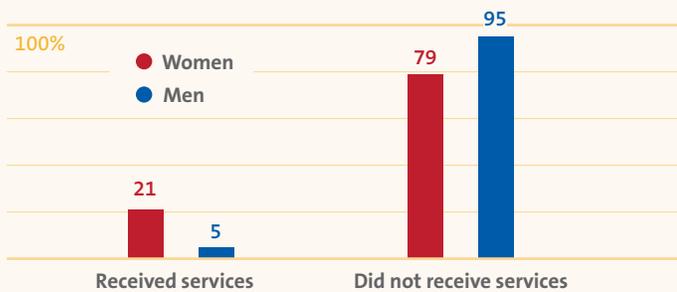


**Estimates based on 3-year rolling averages centered on the most recent year.*

Of sexual violence victims in 2015, **5% of men** and **21% of women** reported receiving **victim services**, including information, emotional support, help finding resources, and other assistance.^B

Sexual Violence Victims and Victim Services^B

by sex



Did You Know?

38% of heterosexual female rape victims were **18 – 24 years old** when they were first raped; **28%** were first **raped between 11 and 17 years old**.^C

64% of multiracial women and **40% of multiracial men** have experienced some form of sexual violence other than rape.^A

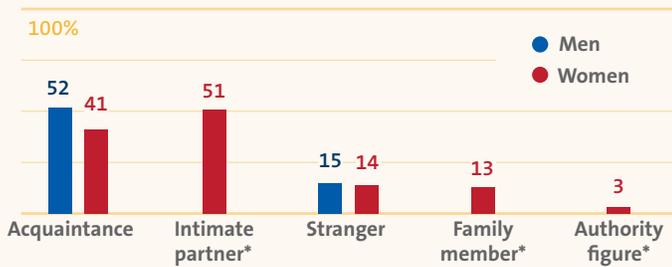
In 2014, an estimated **20,300 military members** indicated experiencing a **sexual assault** in the year prior; 10,600 were men and 9,600 were women.^D

About **4% of inmates** in state and federal prison reported experiencing sexual victimization, the most common form being **staff misconduct**.^E

Current Data on Sexual Violence

According to the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), **more than half** (51.1%) of **female** victims of rape reported being raped by an **intimate partner**, and 40.8% by an acquaintance. For **male** victims, **more than half** (52.4%) reported being raped by an **acquaintance**, and 15.1% by a stranger.^F

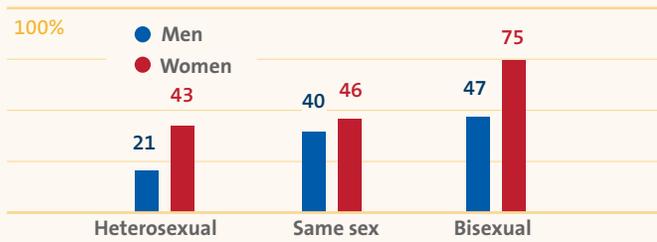
Rape Victims' Relationship to the Perpetrator^F
by victim sex



*Estimates not reported for men due to small sample size.

According to the 2010 NISVS, about **75% of bisexual women** are estimated to be victims of **sexual violence** in their lifetime, compared to 43% of heterosexual women. Comparatively, **40% of same-sex** and **47% of bisexual men** are victims of sexual violence in their lifetime, compared to 21% of heterosexual men.^C

Sexual Violence by Gender and Sexual Orientation^C



Campus Sexual Assault

A survey of more than 23,000 students across 9 higher education institutions found that:^I

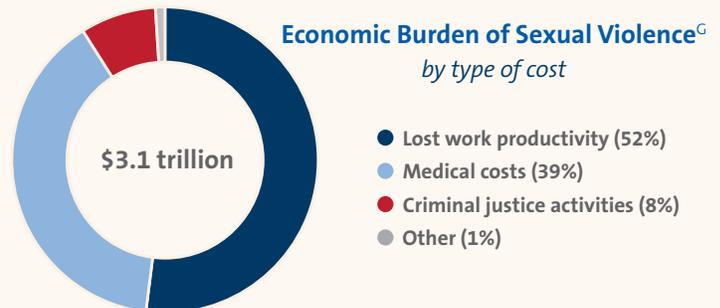
1 in 5 female students experienced attempted or completed **sexual assault** while in college.

Freshman women were at greater risk for sexual assault during the **first months** of the school year (August-October) than at any other time throughout college.

About 65% of surveyed rape victims reported the incident to a friend, family member, or roommate. **Less than 10%** reported it to police or school officials.

The Cost of Sexual Violence

The estimated lifetime cost of rape victimization is \$122,461 per victim, or **\$3.1 trillion for all rape victims**. Lost work productivity and medical costs are the highest costs associated with rape victimization, totaling \$1.6 and \$1.2 trillion, respectively. Criminal justice service activities associated with rape victimization total \$234 billion, while other costs, including victim property loss or damage, total \$36 billion.^G



Sexual violence is **2.5x** more prevalent than the most commonly occurring diseases—including cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS combined—and has a far greater economic impact. Yet these diseases receive between 0.3% and 7.7% of all public funding, while **all forms of violence combined**—including sexual violence—**receive 0.09%** (\$882 million).^H

SOURCES

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