

Rape in Oregon

"...One out of every six adult women, or about 230,000 adult women in Oregon, has been the victim of forcible rape sometime in her lifetime."¹

This fact sheet presents information on forcible rape, defined as sexual penetration of the victim's vagina, mouth, or rectum without consent and involving force or the threat of force. Because of limited data, it does not include attempted rapes, drug or alcohol-facilitated rapes, statutory rape (nonforcible sex with a minor) or rapes of men. Therefore, these numbers should be seen as an underestimate of the true magnitude of Oregon's sexual assault problem.

How many adolescent girls and children are raped?

- Nationally, almost 60% of women who have been forcibly raped were first raped in childhood (under age 18). Nearly 30% were raped before age 11.¹
- 7% of Oregon's 8th grade females and 10% of 11th grade females have been physically forced to have sex.²

How many adult women in Oregon have been raped in the past five years?

- 5% of Oregon women age 23-55 (more than 38,000 women) were forcibly raped in the past five years.³

How many women in my community have been raped?¹

- Of the 1.3 million adult women living in Oregon, about 230,000 have been raped at least once in their lifetimes.
- Nearly 46,000 women in Multnomah County have ever been raped.
- Nearly 29,000 women in Washington County have ever been raped.
- Over 22,000 women in Clackamas County have ever been raped.
- Over 22,000 women in Lane County have ever been raped.
- Over 18,000 women in Marion County have ever been raped.
- Over 12,000 women in Jackson County have ever been raped.
- About 7,700 women in Deschutes County have ever been raped.
- Over 6,800 women in Linn County have ever been raped.

¹ Kilpatrick, DG & Ruggiero, KJ. (2003). Rape in Oregon: A Report to the State. Charleston, SC: National Violence Against Women Prevention Research Center, Medical University of South Carolina.

² Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, 2004. Available at:
<http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/youthsurvey/index.shtml>

³ Drach L, Mederios L, Millet L, Kohn M. (2004). Factors associated with recent rape of adult women, Oregon 2002. (abstract)

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Most children, adolescents, and adult women are raped by someone they know. Almost two-thirds of women raped as adults are raped by an intimate partner.⁴

How does forcible rape affect survivors?

Rape is associated with many long-term and short-term health problems, including mental health conditions and substance abuse. For example:

- 30% of rape survivors will experience **major depression** at some point in their lives (an estimated 69,000 Oregon rape survivors), compared to about 10% of women never victimized by violent crime.¹
- 33% of rape survivors experience **serious suicidal thoughts** at some time in their lives (over 48,000 Oregon rape survivors), compared to 6% of women never victimized by violent crime.¹
- 13% of rape survivors will **attempt suicide** at some time in their lives (nearly 30,000 Oregon rape survivors), compared to only 1% of women never victimized by violent crime.¹
- 31% of rape survivors develop **post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD]** (about 71,000 Oregon rape survivors), compared to 5% of women never victimized by violent crime.¹
- 15.5% of rape survivors will **use cocaine** at some time in their lives (over 35,000 Oregon rape survivors), compared to 2.6% of women never victimized by violent crime.¹

For support regarding rape/sexual assault, please contact:

Portland Women's Crisis Line: 1-888-235-5333
National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE

For more information or to receive this document in an alternate format, please contact:

Oregon Department of Human Services
Intimate Partner Violence Data Collection Project
800 NE Oregon St., Suite 772
Website: <http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ipv/>
Phone: (503) 731-4024

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⁴ Tjaden P & Thoennes N. (2000). Full Report on the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women. Washington, D.C.: US Dept of Justice; DOJ Publication #NCJ183781.