

Sexual Violence

Facts At A Glance

Spring 2008

Adults

- In a nationally representative survey of 9,684 adults:¹
 - 10.6% of women reported experiencing forced sex at some time in their lives,
 - 2.1% of men reported experiencing forced sex at some time in their lives, and
 - 2.5% of women surveyed and 0.9% of men surveyed said they experienced unwanted sexual activity in the previous 12 months.

College Age

- 20% to 25% of women in college reported experiencing an attempted or a completed rape in college.²

Children and Youth (17 years or younger)

- In a nationally representative survey:¹
 - 60.4% of female and 69.2% of male victims were first raped before age 18.
 - 25.5% of females were first raped before age 12, and 34.9% were first raped between the ages of 12-17.
 - 41.0% of males were first raped before age 12, and 27.9% were first raped between the ages of 12-17.
- A 2005 survey of high school students found that 10.8% of girls and 4.2% of boys from grades 9-12 were forced to have sexual intercourse at some time in their lives.³

Perpetrators

- In a nationally representative survey:¹
 - In the first rape experience of female victims, perpetrators were reported to be intimate partners (30.4%), family members (23.7%), and acquaintances (20%).
 - In the first rape experience of male victims, perpetrators were reported to be acquaintances (32.3%), family members (17.7%), friends (17.6%), and intimate partners (15.9%).

Health Disparities

- Among high school students, 9.3% of black students, 7.8% of Hispanic students, and 6.9% of white students reported that they were forced to have sexual intercourse at some time in their lives.³
- Among 8000 women surveyed in 1995-1996, 17.9% of non-Hispanic whites, 11.9% of Hispanic whites, 18.8% of African Americans, 34.1% of American Indian/Alaska Natives, 6.8% of Asian/Pacific Islanders, and 24.4% of women of mixed race experienced an attempted or a completed rape at some time in their lives.⁴

Non-fatal Injuries and Medical Treatment

- Among sexual violence victims raped since their 18th birthday, 31.5% of women and 16.1% of men reported a physical injury as a result of a rape. 36.2% of injured female victims received medical treatment.⁴
- Based on national emergency department data, sexual assaults represented 10% of all assault-related injury visits to the emergency department by females in 2006.⁵

References

1. Basile KC, Chen J, Lynberg MC, Saltzman LE. Prevalence and characteristics of sexual violence victimization. *Violence and Victims* 2007;22(4): 437-448.
2. Fisher BS, Cullen FT, Turner MG. 2000. The sexual victimization of college women. Washington: Department of Justice (US), National Institute of Justice; Publication No. NCJ 182369.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance – United States. 2005. Surveillance Summaries, 2006. *MMWR* 2006;55:SS-5.
4. Tjaden P, Thoennes N. 2006. Extent, nature, and consequences of rape victimization: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey. Washington: US Department of Justice; Publication No. NCJ210346.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2007. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System [online]. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [cited 2007 July 09]. Available from: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/default.htm.



For more information, please contact:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
1-800-CDC-INFO • www.cdc.gov/injury • cdcinfo@cdc.gov

