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Rape and Sexual Assault: Reporting to Police and Medical Attention, 1992-2000

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Persons age 12 or older experienced an average annual 140,990 completed rapes, 109,230 attempted rapes, and 152,680 completed and attempted sexual assaults between 1992 and 2000, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) (table 1). Most rapes and sexual assaults were committed against females: Female victims accounted for 94% of all completed rapes, 91% of all attempted rapes, and 89% of all completed and attempted sexual assaults, 1992-2000.

Because of the small number of sample cases of rape and sexual assault against males, analysis in the remainder of this report relates to female victims only. Data are aggregated across 9 years to produce average annual estimates.

Table 1. Rapes and sexual assaults, by victim gender, 1992-2000

Gender of victim	Average annual, 1992-2000	
	Number	Percent
Completed rape		
Total	140,990	100%
Male	9,040	6
Female	131,950	94
Attempted rape		
Total	109,230	100%
Male	10,270	9
Female	98,970	91
Sexual assault		
Total	152,680	100%
Male	17,130	11
Female	135,550	89

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Highlights

Among injured female victims of rape or sexual assault, half of those indicating that the crime was reported to the police received medical treatment, compared to a fifth of those indicating the crimes were unreported

Attempted and completed rapes and sexual assaults, average annual, 1992-2000
366,460

Injured 193,930		Not injured 172,530	
Reported to police 73,950	Not reported to police 119,340	Reported to police 42,400	Not reported to police 128,800
Treated 39,120 (53%)	Treated 21,500 (18%)		
Not treated 34,830 (47%)	Not treated 97,840 (82%)		

Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding and omission of *Don't know* responses.

- All rapes, 39% of attempted rapes, and 17% of sexual assaults against females resulted in injured victims, 1992-2000.
- 59% of the victims of completed rape whose victimizations were reported to the police were treated for their injuries, compared to 17% of rape victims with unreported victimizations.
- Most injured rape, attempted rape, and sexual assault victims did not receive treatment for their injuries.
- 45% of injured female victims of a reported attempted rape compared to 22% of injured victims of an unreported attempted rape received medical treatment, 1992-2000.
- Most rapes and sexual assaults against females were not reported to the police. Thirty-six percent of rapes, 34% of attempted rapes, and 26% of sexual assaults were reported to police, 1992-2000.
- Of all injured sexual assault victims, 37% of victims in which the violence was reported and 18% of victims in which the violence was unreported received medical treatment, 1992-2000.
- When a rape or sexual assault was reported to the police, the victim was the most likely to report it.

Injuries

All victims of completed rape are considered to have been injured, by NCVS definition. Thirty-eight percent of female rape victims sustained an injury in addition to the rape. Thirty-nine percent of attempted rape victims and 17% of sexual assault victims were injured during their victimization, 1992-2000 (table 2). Nonfatal injuries from any crime range from bruises and chipped teeth (minor) to broken bones and gunshot wounds (serious). (See *Injuries from Violent Crime, 1992-98*, NCJ 168633.)

Among completed rape victims, 33% had additional minor injuries, and 5% suffered additional serious injuries. Two-thirds of attempted rape victims suffered minor injuries. Three percent of injured victims were seriously injured during an attempted rape. Fifty-four percent of injured sexual assault victims reported receiving minor injuries, and 5% were seriously injured.

Reporting to police

Most rapes and sexual assaults were not reported to the police (table 3). Sixty-three percent of completed rapes, 65% of attempted rapes, and 74% of completed and attempted sexual assaults against females were not reported to the police. (See box, page 3, for the most common reasons for not reporting.) When the police were notified about a rape or sexual assault, the victim most often made the report.

Treatment of injuries

Most injured rape and sexual assault victims were not treated for their injuries (table 4). Treatment for injuries range from receiving care at the scene or in the victim's home to being admitted to a hospital. Thirty-two percent of completed rape victims, 32% of injured attempted rape victims, and 27% of injured sexual assault victims were treated.

Forty-eight percent of female rape victims who received treatment for their

injuries were treated at, but not admitted to, a hospital. An additional 24% of treated rape victims were cared for at home or at the scene, and 20% were treated at a doctor's office or clinic.

Injured victims of attempted rape were equally likely to be treated at the scene/home or at a hospital. Of injured female attempted rape victims, 44% were treated, but not admitted to the hospital, and 39% were treated at the scene or at home.

Injured victims of completed and attempted sexual assault received

treatment at the scene or at home (20%), at a doctor's office or clinic (31%), or at the hospital (24%) at statistically similar percentages.

Reporting violence to the police and treatment of injuries sustained

Between 1992 and 2000, an annual average of 131,950 completed rapes were committed against females age 12 or older in the United States. By definition all 131,950 victimizations resulted in an injured victim. Though all victims were injured, 36% (or 47,960) of these victimizations

Table 2. Injuries sustained by female rape and sexual assault victims, 1992-2000

Injury from victimization	Average annual, 1992-2000					
	Completed rape		Attempted rape		Sexual assault	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total victimizations	131,950	100%	98,970	100%	135,550	100%
Not injured	0*	0	60,010	61	112,520	83
Injured	131,950	100	38,960	39	23,020	17
Serious injury	7,180	5	2,540*	3	1,220*	1
Minor injury	42,630	33	25,450	26	12,390	9
Undetermined injury	81,140	61	10,730	11	8,590	6

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding. By NCVS definition, all victims of completed rape were injured.

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Table 3. Rape and sexual assault of females, by reporting to the police, 1992-2000

Reporting of victimizations to police	Average annual, 1992-2000					
	Completed rape		Attempted rape		Sexual assault	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total victimizations	131,950	100%	98,970	100%	135,550	100%
Reported to police	47,960	36	33,560	34	34,830	26
By victim	23,890	18	24,040	24	21,560	16
By other household member	10,080	8	3,510*	4	4,970	4
By someone else	13,990	11	6,010	6	8,310	6
Not reported to police	83,700	63	64,600	65	99,840	74
Don't know if it was reported	0*	0	800*	1	880*	1

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding.

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Table 4. Medical treatment received by female rape and sexual assault victims, 1992-2000

Medical treatment received	Average annual, 1992-2000					
	Completed rape		Attempted rape		Sexual assault	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total injured	131,950	100%	38,960	100%	23,020	100%
Treated	42,230	32	12,490	32	6,250	27
Scene/home	10,050	8	4,860	12	1,280*	6
Doctor's office or clinic	8,640	7	1,400*	4	1,930*	8
Hospital, not admitted	20,410	15	5,510	14	1,530*	7
Hospital, admitted	2,590*	2	720*	2	580*	3
Other location	540*	---	0*	0	930*	4

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding. By NCVS definition, all victims of completed rape were injured.

*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

---Less than 0.5%.

were reported to the police. A greater percentage of reported victimizations, compared to nonreported victimiza-

tions, involved medical treatment of the victims. Fifty-nine percent of victims of a reported completed rape, compared

to 17% of victims of an unreported completed rape, received medical attention (figure 1).

59% of female rape victims whose victimization was reported to police received medical treatment, compared to 17% of victims whose crime went unreported

Completed rape 131,950			
Injured (100%)			
Reported to police 47,960 (36%)		Not reported to police 83,700 (63%)	
Treated 28,130 (59%)	Not treated 19,830 (41%)	Treated 14,100 (17%)	Not treated 69,600 (83%)

Note: All victims of rape are considered to have been injured. Detail may not add to totals because of rounding and omission of *Don't know* responses. Counts are annual averages, 1992-2000.

Figure 1

Of the 99,000 female victims of attempted rape, 39% were injured: 42% of the injured and 29% of the uninjured said the crime was reported

Attempted rape 98,970			
Injured 38,960 (39%)		Not injured 60,010 (61%)	
Reported to police 16,450 (42%)	Not reported to police 22,510 (58%)	Reported to police 17,110 (29%)	Not reported to police 42,100 (70%)
Treated 7,440 (45%)	Not treated 9,010 (55%)	Treated 5,050 (22%)	Not treated 17,460 (78%)

Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding and omission of *Don't know* responses. Counts are annual averages, 1992-2000.

Figure 2

Of the 135,600 female victims of sexual assault, 17% were injured, and 42% of the injured said the crime was reported. A fourth of the injured were treated.

Attempted and completed sexual assault 135,550			
Injured 23,020 (17%)		Not injured 112,520 (83%)	
Reported to police 9,540 (41%)	Not reported to police 13,130 (57%)	Reported to police 25,290 (22%)	Not reported to police 86,700 (77%)
Treated 3,550 (37%)	Not treated 5,990 (63%)	Treated 2,350 (18%)	Not treated 10,790 (82%)

Note: Detail may not add to totals because of rounding and omission of *Don't know* responses. Counts are annual averages, 1992-2000.

Figure 3

U.S. females age 12 or older were victims of an estimated 98,970 attempted rapes, annually. Thirty-nine percent of attempted rape victims were

Reasons for not reporting to law enforcement authorities

When victims of rape, attempted rape, and sexual assault did not report the crime to the police, the most often cited reason was that the victimization was a personal matter:

Rape: personal matter, 23.3%; fear of reprisal, 16.3%; police biased, 5.8%.

Attempted rape: personal matter, 16.8%; fear of reprisal, 11.3%; protect offender, 9.9%.

Completed and attempted sexual assault: personal matter, 25.3%; reported to different official, 12.4%; fear of reprisal, 11.3%.

The victim-offender relationship and informing the police

The closer the relationship between the female victim and the offender, the greater the likelihood that the police would not be told about the rape or sexual assault.

When the offender was a current or former husband or boyfriend, about three-fourths of all victimizations were not reported to police (77% of completed rapes, 77% of attempted rapes, and 75% of sexual assaults not reported).

When the offender was a friend or acquaintance, 61% of completed rapes, 71% of attempted rapes, and 82% of sexual assaults were not reported.

When the offender was a stranger, 54% of completed rapes, 44% of attempted rapes, and 34% of sexual assaults were not reported to the police.

injured. Among injured victims, 42% stated the violence was reported to police. Among injured victims, a higher percentage of reported attempted rapes (45%), compared to unreported attempted rapes (22%), received medical treatment (figure 2).

Seventeen percent (or 23,020) of the 135,550 completed or attempted sexual assaults annually against females age 12 or older resulted in an injury. Most sexual assault victims were not injured (83%). Most uninjured sexual assault victims stated that the violence went unreported to the police (77%).

Of those victims injured during a sexual assault, 41% of the violence was reported to police, and 57% went unreported. Among injured sexual assault victims, a higher percentage of those whose assault was reported (37%), compared to victims of unreported crimes (18%), received treatment (figure 3).

This report uses the definitions of offenses included in *Intimate Partner Violence*, a BJS Special Report, May 2000, NCJ 178247.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is the statistical agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Lawrence A. Greenfeld is director.

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This report and additional data, analyses, and graphs about criminal victimization in the United States are available on the Internet at [Http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/)

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Data presented in this report can be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. The archive can also be accessed through the BJS Web site. When at the archive site, search for dataset ICPSR 3140.

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