



SEXUAL ASSAULT

INFORMATIONAL FACT SHEET

MAY 18, 2012

What is sexual assault?

- Sexual assault is any involuntary sexual act in which a person is threatened, coerced, or forced to engage in sexual activity against their will, or is unable to consent to such activity.
- Every 2 minutes, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted.

Who are the victims of sexual assault?

- Nearly 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men have been sexually assaulted in their lifetime.
- In the USA, 7 out of 10 people report they know a woman who has been sexually assaulted.
- 6% of Asian women, 14% of Hispanic women, 18% of White women, 22% of African American women, 27% of American Indian/Alaskan women, and 34% of multiracial women have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime.
- Approximately 80% of female victims experienced their first sexual assault before the age of 25; approximately 42% experienced their first sexual assault before age 18.
- About 39% of women who were sexually assaulted as minors were also subsequently revictimized and sexually assaulted as adults.
- 28% of male victims were first sexually assaulted when they were 10 years old or younger.
- 15% of all sexual assault victims are under the age of 12.

Who are the perpetrators of sexual assault?

- 73% of adult victims and 93% of juvenile victims knew their attacker.
- 38% of perpetrators are acquaintances, 28% intimates, 27% strangers, and 7% relatives.
- 25% of offenders were married during their crimes.
- 30% of perpetrators were intoxicated during their assault.
- Only 11% of offenders used a weapon; most used only physical force to gain compliance.
- 16% of perpetrators arrested for rape and 17% arrested for sexual assault were juveniles.

What are the reporting rates for sexual assault?

- 61% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police.
- 90% of sexual assault victims who knew their attacker did not report to police.
- Males experience about 10% of sexual assaults but are the least likely to report to police.
- Victims are more likely to report if their attacker was a stranger, if they were injured during the attack, or if a weapon was used in the assault.
- When unreported sexual assaults are factored into calculations of conviction rates, only 6% of perpetrators ever spend a day in jail.