

College Sexual Assault

FACT SHEET

- **1 in 8 college students** are sexually assaulted while in college.¹
- **Transgender and nonbinary students** have greater vulnerability to sexual violence than their cisgender peers.²
- **First- and second-year students** are at greater risk for sexual victimization than third- and fourth-year students.³
- **80 - 90%** of college sexual assaults are committed by someone the survivor knows.⁴
- Approximately **18%** of sexual assaults of college-aged women are drug or alcohol facilitated, and an additional **28%** involve a victim too incapacitated by drugs or alcohol to consent.⁵
 - In incapacitated or drug and alcohol-facilitated rapes, **79%** involved alcohol alone, while **17%** involved alcohol and another drug. The most common drug used other than alcohol was marijuana.⁵
- Most sexual assaults occur in the first semester of the academic year, otherwise known as the **Red Zone**. Almost **70%** of first-year student assaults occur during this time (August-December).⁶
- In the 2021-2022 school year at U.S. Military Academies:⁷
 - **63%** of academy women and **20%** of academy men experienced an incident of sexual harassment.
 - **21.4%** of academy women and **4.4%** of academy men experienced an incident of unwanted sexual contact.
 - Out of 1,136 students who indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact, 155 or 14% made a formal report.
 - 60% of all unwanted sexual contact involved alcohol.
- More than 90% of sexual assault victims on college campuses do not report their assault.⁸
- As of July 16, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights has **1,260** open Title IX sex discrimination investigations at postsecondary institutions. There are currently **18** open investigations at Maryland colleges and universities.⁹

¹ AAU Campus Climate Survey 2019. (October 15, 2019). American Association of Universities. Retrieved October 19, 2022 from <https://www.aau.edu/key-issues/campus-climate-and-safety/aau-campus-climate-survey-2019>

² Martin-Storey, A., Paquette, G., Bergeron, M., Dion, J., Daigneault, I., Hébert, M., & Ricci, S. (2018). Sexual violence on campus: Differences across gender and sexual minority status. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 62*(6), 701-707. Retrieved from <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29573883/>

³ Krebs, C.P., Lindquist, C. H., Warner, T.D., Fisher, B.S., & Martin, S.L., "The Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study", National Institute of Justice, 2007. Retrieved from <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/221153.pdf>

⁴ Sinozich, Sofi & Langton, Lynn, "Rape and Sexual Assault Victimization Among College-Age Females, 1995–2013", U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2014. Retrieved from: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/rsavcaf9513.pdf>

⁵ Kilpatrick, D. et al., "Drug-facilitated, Incapacitated, and Forcible Rape: A National Study," 2007. Retrieved from <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/219181.pdf>

⁶ Krebs, C. P., Lindquist, C. H., Berzofsky, M., Shook-Sa, B., Peterson, K. "Campus Climate Survey Validation Study Final Technical Report," Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2016. Retrieved from <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ccsvsfr.pdf>

⁷ Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies: Academic Program Year 2021 – 2022. (March 2023). Department of Defense. Retrieved from: [https://www.sapr.mil/sites/default/files/public/docs/reports/MSA/DOD Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at MSAs APY21-22.pdf](https://www.sapr.mil/sites/default/files/public/docs/reports/MSA/DOD%20Annual%20Report%20on%20Sexual%20Harassment%20and%20Violence%20at%20MSAs%20APY21-22.pdf). ⁸ Statistics about Sexual Violence. (2015). National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Retrieved November 1, 2022 from https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications_nsvrc_factsheet_media_packet_statistics-about-sexual-violence_0.pdf

⁹ "Pending Cases Currently Under Investigation at Elementary-Secondary and Post-Secondary Schools." U.S. Department of Education. Retrieved July 18, 2024 from <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/investigations/open-investigations/tix.html>