

College Sexual Assault

FACT SHEET

- **Nearly 1 in 8 students** are sexually assaulted while in college or university.¹
 - **Undergraduate students** were more likely to report non-consensual sexual touching compared to graduate students.¹
 - **First- and second-year undergraduate students** are at greater risk for sexual victimization than third- and fourth-year undergraduate students.²
 - Hispanic students were more likely to report experiencing sexual assault compared to non-Hispanic students.¹
 - Those who reported having a disability were more likely to report experiencing sexual assault compared to students without disabilities.¹
 - **Transgender and nonbinary students** have greater vulnerability to sexual violence than their cisgender peers.³
- **80 - 90%** of college sexual assaults are committed by someone the survivor knows.⁴
- About half of campus rape and sexual assault incidents involve alcohol or drugs.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 2023-2024 school year at U.S. Military Academies:⁷
 - **51%** of academy women and **17%** of academy men experienced an incident of sexual harassment.
 - **13.3%** of academy women and **3.6%** of academy men experienced an incident of unwanted sexual contact.
 - Out of 783 academy students who indicated experiencing unwanted sexual contact during military service, 103 or 13% made a report to a Department of Defense authority.
 - 46% 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 January 14th, 2025, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights has **204** open Title IX sexual harassment investigations and **169** open Title IX sexual violence investigations at postsecondary institutions. There are currently **5** open sexual harassment investigations and **6** open sexual violence investigations at Maryland colleges and universities.⁹

¹AAU 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/aaucampus-climate-survey-2019>

²Krebs, 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>

³Martin-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/>

⁴Sinozich, 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/rsavca9513.pdf>

⁵Mellins C.A, et al. "Sexual Assault Incidents Among College Undergraduates: Prevalence and Factors Associated With Risk." *PLoS One*. 2017 Nov 8;12(11). Retrieved from <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29117226/>

⁶Krebs, 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>

⁷Annual Report on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Service Academies: Academic Program Year 2023-2024. (March 2025). Department of Defense. Retrieved from: https://www.sapr.mil/Portals/156/APY23-24_MSA_Report.pdf

⁸Statistics 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

⁹Pending Cases Currently Under Investigation at Elementary-Secondary and Post-Secondary Schools. U.S. Department of Education. Retrieved November 12, 2025 from <https://ocras.ed.gov/open-investigations>