

Men and Boys Affected by Sexual Assault



Introduction:

When it comes to men and sexual assault, there is a great amount of silence. Statistics about male experiences of sexual violation are likely inaccurate, due to the stigma and discourses that see men as unable to be victimized. However, 1.6 million men in the United States are estimated to have experienced rape during their lifetimes, and it is estimated that 25.1 million have experienced other forms of sexual violence.

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, "National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report," 2011.

- From 1995 to 2010, about 9 percent, or almost one in 10, of all sexual assaults recorded in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) involved male survivors.
U.S. DOJ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Female Victims of Sexual Violence, 1994-2010," 2013.
- The following information is from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control', "National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report," 2011:
 - 1.4 percent of men in the United States are survivors of rape.
 - About 20 percent of all men have experienced some form an unwanted sexual experience.
 - Almost one in 20 men have been forced to penetrate someone.
- Over 25% of male survivors of rape were first raped before age 10. 70% of male rape survivors were raped before age 18.
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, "National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report," 2011; National Institute of Justice, "Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Rape Victimization: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey," 2006.
- Almost half of all gay and bisexual men have experienced some form of sexual violence other than rape.
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, "National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation," 2011.
- Men who are being sexually assaulted may have an erection, and may even ejaculate. However, these physiological responses do not equal consent.
Bullock & Beckson, "Male Victims of Sexual Assault: Phenomenology, Psychology and Physiology," 2011.
- How men tend to react to being sexually assaulted differs from how women tend to react. Men are often reluctant to seek treatment, may not identify as victims or not acknowledge that their assaults were harmful, are particularly likely to feel ashamed, may worry about how sexual abuse relates to their sexuality, and are more likely than women to externalize their reactions to assault with aggression and hyper-sexuality. These unique reactions have important implications for service delivery.
*Struve, "Distinguishing Features Adult Male and Female Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse", 2006.
Struve, "Clinical Issues in Treating the Male Survivor of Sexual Abuse", 2006.*