

Sexual Assault in Maryland

In Maryland (a state with a general population of 6,180,253 and 4,480,657 adults¹), more than **1 out of every 4 (26.8%)** adult women—about 664,454—has been the victim of rape sometime in her lifetime.² Nearly **half (47.6%)** of Maryland’s adult women—about 1,180,150—and **one third (30.7%)** of Maryland’s adult men—about 722,571—have experienced other forms of sexual violence.³

FBI Uniform Crime Reporting⁴

Below are the most recent county and gender specific statistics provided by the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, which references information provided by the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. In 2013, the UCR began collecting rape data under a revised definition with the Summary Reporting System. Beginning in the 2013 data year, the term “forcible” was removed from the offense title. UCR’s revised definition of rape is: penetration no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.

- In 2022, there were **1,547** reported rapes in the state of Maryland compared to 1,340 reported rapes in 2021.⁵
- In 2020, the Maryland counties with the most reported rape reports were Montgomery County, Baltimore County, Baltimore City, and Prince George’s County.⁶
- Of all rapes reported in Maryland during 2020, **94.7%** were rape by force and **5.3%** were attempted rape.⁷
- A total of **505** people were arrested for rape during 2020. Of these individuals, **97%** were men and **3%** were women.⁸

National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey⁹

The 2016/2017 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) defines rape as any completed or attempted unwanted vaginal, oral, or anal penetration through the use of physical force (such as being pinned or held down, or by the use of violence) or threats to physically harm and includes times when the victim was drunk, high, drugged, or passed out from alcohol or drugs and unable to consent. The survey separated rape into three types: completed forced penetration, attempted forced penetration, and completed alcohol- or drug-facilitated penetration. The data in this section reflects these three types of rape, as defined by the NISVS.

- Maryland women have a high lifetime prevalence of sexual violence other than rape: an estimated number of **1,773,000** women in Maryland have experience sexual violence other than rape.
- An estimated **441,000** Maryland men have experienced sexual violence other than rape in their lifetime.
- Approximately **391,000** Maryland women have experienced contact sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- An estimated **420,000** Maryland women have experienced rape in their lifetime.
 - An estimated **22.3%** of non-Hispanic black women in Maryland have experienced rape in their lifetime, compared to **18%** of white women.
- An estimated **329,000** Maryland men have experienced contact sexual violence in their lifetime.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Maryland Quick Facts from the US Census Bureau, available <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/MD/PST04H5219> (last accessed March 1, 2024).

² National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Intimate Partner, and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2016/2017 Report on SA Data Brief. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs/nisvsReportonSexualViolence.pdf> (last accessed March 1, 2024) (Numbers adjusted to match current population data.)

³ Ibid.

⁴ GOCPPVS, Uniform Crime Report, 2020

⁵ Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2022 Uniform Crime Report, available at <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/crime-trend> (last accessed August 14, 2024).

⁶ Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPPVS). (n.d.). *Crime dashboard*. <https://goccp.maryland.gov/data-dashboards/crime-dashboard/>

⁷ Hogan, L., Rutherford, B. K., Jones III, W. W., & Maryland Department of State Police. (2021, September 28). *Crime in Maryland: 2020 Uniform Crime Report*.

<https://mdsp.maryland.gov/document%20downloads/Crime%20in%20Maryland%202020%20Uniform%20Crime%20Report.pdf>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010-2012 State Report, 2017