Sexual Assault in the United States

- It is estimated that **459,310** people were raped (threatened, attempted, or completed) in the United States in 2019.¹
- Using a broader definition of sexual assault, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that there were **1.48 million** rape victims in 2015.²
- Every **73 seconds** an American is sexually assaulted.³
- Nearly **1 out of every 5** American women, 18 years or older, has been the victim of at least one attempted or completed rape in her lifetime. **1 out of 71** American men, 18 years or older, has been a victim of rape in their lifetime.⁴
- **44%** of all rape victims are younger than 18, and thus not included in the statistics for women 18+.⁵
- **91%** of the victims of rape and sexual assault are female, and **9%** are male.⁶
- **1 in 9** girls and **1 in 53** boys under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult.⁷
- Approximately **80%** of all rapes and sexual assaults are committed by someone who is known to the victim. **33%** of perpetrators were a current or former spouse or partner, and **39%** were an acquaintance of the victim.⁸
- Only about **34%** of rapes and sexual assaults were reported to police in 2019, making it one of the most underreported crimes.⁹
- Rape results in more than **$122,000** in costs per victim, and nearly **$3.1 trillion** to the economy over the lifetimes of all 25 million victims in the US population.¹⁰

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¹ Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019 (2020)
² National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2015 Data Brief
³ Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2018 (2019)
⁴ National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2015 Data Brief
⁵ U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Sex Offenses and Offenders: An Analysis of Data on Rape and Sexual Assault,” 1997 via VRLC amicus brief
⁸ Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2010-2016 (2017)
⁹ Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019 (2020)
¹⁰ Center for Disease Control, “Lifetime Economic Burden of Rape among U.S. Adults,” Peterson, Cora et al., 2017

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