

## Sexual Assault in the United States

---

### FACT SHEET

- It is estimated that **459,310** people were raped (threatened, attempted, or completed) in the United States in 2019.<sup>1</sup>
- 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.<sup>2</sup>
- Every **73 seconds** an American is sexually assaulted.<sup>3</sup>
- 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.<sup>4</sup>
- **44%** of all rape victims are younger than 18, and thus not included in the statistics for women 18+.<sup>5</sup>
- **91%** of the victims of rape and sexual assault are female, and **9%** are male.<sup>6</sup>
- **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.<sup>7</sup>
- 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.<sup>8</sup>
- Only about **34%** of rapes and sexual assaults were reported to police in 2019, making it one of the most underreported crimes.<sup>9</sup>
- 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.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019 (2020)

<sup>2</sup> National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2015 Data Brief

<sup>3</sup> Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2018 (2019)

<sup>4</sup> National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2015 Data Brief

<sup>5</sup> 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

<sup>6</sup> Rennison, C. A. (2002). Rape and sexual assault: Reporting to police and medical attention, 1992-2000 [NCJ 194530]. Retrieved from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistic

<sup>7</sup> David Finkelhor, Anne Shattuck, Heather A. Turner, & Sherry L. Hamby, The Lifetime Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault Assessed in Late Adolescence, 55 Journal of Adolescent Health 329, 329-333 (2014)

<sup>8</sup> Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2010-2016 (2017)

<sup>9</sup> Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019 (2020)

<sup>10</sup> Center for Disease Control, "Lifetime Economic Burden of Rape among U.S. Adults," Peterson, Cora et al., 2017