

Sexual Violence Against Men

FACT SHEET

Introduction

Men are often socialized to suppress emotions, avoid vulnerability, and believe that men cannot be victims of sexual violence. These societal expectations can affect how male survivors understand and discuss their experiences, leaving some to minimize what occurred or struggle to identify it as sexual violence. Male survivors may also experience confusion about masculinity or sexual identity, particularly when unwanted sexual contact conflicts with myths that men are always willing or interested in sex. Reactions to sexual violence vary, and feelings such as anger may sometimes be connected to underlying fear, grief, shame, confusion, or other complex emotional responses.¹

Sexual Violence Against Men in the U.S.

- The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), provides national estimates of sexual violence experienced by adults in the United States. Findings published in the *2023/2024 Sexual Violence Data Brief* show that:²
 - **More than 1 in 6 men (16.9%)** experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetimes.
 - **3.2%** of men experienced completed or attempted rape.
 - **3.8%** of men experienced being made to sexually penetrate someone else.
 - **6.0%** of men experienced sexual coercion.
 - **13.8%** of men experienced unwanted sexual contact.
 - **1 in 14 men (7.1%)** experienced verbal sexual harassment in a public place.
 - **1 in 9 men (11.3%)** experienced verbal sexual harassment in the workplace.
 - **1 in 6 men (15.4%)** experienced technology-facilitated sexual violence in their lifetimes.
- About **71%** of male victims first experienced completed or attempted rape before age 25.³
- Among male survivors of completed or attempted rape, **87%** reported only male perpetrators.⁴
- Among men who were made to penetrate someone else, **79%** reported only female perpetrators.⁵
- Among male survivors of sexual coercion, **82%** reported only female perpetrators.⁶
- Among male survivors of unwanted sexual contact, **53%** reported only female perpetrators.⁷

¹National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), "Understanding Male Socialization, Stigma, and Reactions to Sexual Violence" (n.d.). National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Retrieved July 16, 2026, from <https://www.nsvrc.org/working-male-survivors-sexual-violence/understanding/>

²Leemis, Ruth W., Hui Zhang Kudon, Sha Zhu, Sharon G. Smith, Jieru Chen, Norah W. Friar, and Kathleen C. Basile, "The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2023/2024 Sexual Violence Data Brief" (December 2025). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 16, 2026, from <https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/media/pdfs/sexualviolence-brief.pdf>

³Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Stalking Among Men" (May 16, 2024). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 16, 2026, from <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/intimate-partner-violence-sexual-violence-and-stalking-among-men.html>

⁴Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Stalking Among Men" (May 16, 2024). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 16, 2026, from <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/intimate-partner-violence-sexual-violence-and-stalking-among-men.html>

⁵Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Stalking Among Men" (May 16, 2024). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 16, 2026, from <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/intimate-partner-violence-sexual-violence-and-stalking-among-men.html>

⁶Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Stalking Among Men" (May 16, 2024). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 16, 2026, from <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/intimate-partner-violence-sexual-violence-and-stalking-among-men.html>

⁷Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Stalking Among Men" (May 16, 2024). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 16, 2026, from <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/intimate-partner-violence-sexual-violence-and-stalking-among-men.html>

Stalking Experienced by Men in the U.S.

- About **1 in 10 men (9.7%)** have experienced stalking in their lifetime.⁸
- Among male stalking victims, **71.6%** reported experiencing mental or emotional harm related to the stalking.⁹
- Among male stalking survivors:¹⁰
 - **46%** reported only female perpetrators.
 - **43%** reported only male perpetrators.
 - **8%** reported both male and female perpetrators.

Sexual Intimate Partner Violence Against Men in the U.S.

- The CDC's NISVS findings published in the *2023/2024 Intimate Partner Violence Data Brief* show that:¹¹
 - More than **1 in 6 men (17.0%)** have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
 - **4.4%** of men have experienced contact sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
 - **4.2%** of men have experienced stalking by an intimate partner.
 - About **1 in 8 men (13.0%)** have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner and at least one related impact.
- Among men who experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, **97%** reported only female perpetrators.¹²
- Among male victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner, about **56%** first experienced IPV before age 25.¹³

For survivor resources, please visit:

mcasa.org/survivors/culturally-responsive-services

⁸ Smith, Sharon G., Mark R. Stevens, Xin Yue, Jieru Chen, Kathleen C. Basile, Matthew J. Breiding, and Sha Zhu, "The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2023/2024 Stalking Data Brief" (September 2025). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 16, 2026, from <https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/media/pdfs/stalking-brief.pdf>

⁹ Smith, Sharon G., Mark R. Stevens, Xin Yue, Jieru Chen, Kathleen C. Basile, Matthew J. Breiding, and Sha Zhu, "The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2023/2024 Stalking Data Brief" (September 2025). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 16, 2026, from <https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/media/pdfs/stalking-brief.pdf>

¹⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Stalking Among Men" (May 16, 2024). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 16, 2026, from <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/intimate-partner-violence-sexual-violence-and-stalking-among-men.html>

¹¹ Zhang Kudon, Hui, Sha Zhu, Brenda Chen, Matthew J. Breiding, Ruth W. Leemis, Xinjian Zhang, Alexander Schwank, and Kathleen C. Basile, "The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2023/2024 Intimate Partner Violence Data Brief" (February 2026). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 16, 2026, from <https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/media/pdfs/intimatepartnerviolence-brief.pdf>

¹² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Stalking Among Men" (May 16, 2024). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 16, 2026, from <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/intimate-partner-violence-sexual-violence-and-stalking-among-men.html>

¹³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Stalking Among Men" (May 16, 2024). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 16, 2026, from <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/intimate-partner-violence-sexual-violence-and-stalking-among-men.html>