

# Sexual Violence Against Women

## Women in the United States

- 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.<sup>1</sup>
- **91%** of the victims of rape and sexual assault are female.<sup>2</sup>
- **1 in 9** girls under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult.<sup>3</sup>
- Women are **6x** more likely to be the victims of sexual assault later in life.<sup>4</sup>
- According to the 2019 study, *Measuring #MeToo: A National Study on Sexual Harassment and Assault*:<sup>5</sup>
  - **4 in 10** women experienced cyber sexual harassment
  - **76%** of women reported experiencing verbal sexual harassment
  - **49%** had been groped, **27%** had been followed, and **30%** had been flashed

## Women in Maryland

- About **20.5%**, or 466,000, of Maryland's women have experienced rape in their lifetime<sup>6</sup>
- Approximately **391,000** Maryland women have experienced contact sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.<sup>7</sup>
- At the Maryland Correctional Institute for Women, **12.7%** of inmates reported being sexually victimized by a fellow inmate or staff member.<sup>8</sup>
- A study of women in Baltimore found **17%** of respondents had been sexually assaulted within three years of being surveyed.<sup>9</sup>
  - The same survey found that **60%** of the women who had been assaulted are African American.

## Women with Intersecting Identities

- According to a report by the NCAVP, transgender women who experienced intimate partner violence were nearly **2.5x** more likely to experience sexual violence and nearly **4x** more likely to experience financial abuse than survivors who did not identify as transgender women.<sup>10</sup>
- About **48.3%** of lesbian women and **61.1%** of bisexual women have experienced rape, physical violence, and stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime, compared to **35%** of heterosexual women.<sup>11</sup>
- Approximately **80%** of women with developmental disabilities have been sexually assaulted – **half** of these women have been assaulted more than **10x**.<sup>12</sup>
- **1 in every 4** Deaf women will experience a forced sexual experience in her lifetime.<sup>13</sup>
- **37.1%** of Hispanic women in the United States reported that they have been the victim of rape, physical violence, and stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.<sup>14</sup>
- In an urban community sample of African American women, **53.7%** of participants reported victimization and **44.8%** reported experiencing sexual coercion in their lifetime.<sup>15</sup>
  - Only **51.7%** of victims who reported needing mental health services were able to obtain services.

<sup>1</sup> National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report

<sup>2</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 Statistics.

<sup>3</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>4</sup> Nursing Home Abuse Center, "Sexual abuse of the Elderly," 2019

<sup>5</sup> UC San Diego Center on Gender Equity and Health Stop Street Harassment April 2019 <https://stopstreetharassment.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Executive-Summary-2019-MeToo-National-Sexual-Harassment-and-Assault-Report.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Maryland Department of Human Services, Crime Victimization Survey, 2015

<sup>7</sup> Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010-2012 State Report, 2017

<sup>8</sup> Allen J. Beck et al, "Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates, 2011-12", Bureau of Justice Statistics, May 2013

<sup>9</sup> Kristin Carbone-Lopez, Lee Ann Slocum, & Candace Kruttschnitt, "Police Wouldn't Give You No Help": Female Offenders on Reporting Sexual Assault to Police." Violence Against Women 22, no. 3 (March 2016): 366-96. doi:10.1177/1077801215602345.

<sup>10</sup> National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Hate and Intimate Partner Violence in 2017"

<sup>11</sup> National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, "Domestic Violence and the LGBTQ Community," 6 June 2018

<sup>12</sup> Disability Justice, "Sexual Abuse," retrieved from <https://disabilityjustice.org/sexual-abuse/>

<sup>13</sup> Smith & Hope, "Culture, Language, and Access.

<sup>14</sup> AVON Foundation for Women, "The No Mas Study: Domestic and Sexual Assault in the Latin@ Community," 2015.

<sup>15</sup> Kathleen C. Basile et al., 2016. "Sexual Violence Victimization and Associations with Health in a Community Sample of African American Women." Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma 25 (3): 231-53. doi:10.1080/10926771.2015.1079283