

WHY IT MATTERS

Sexual violence is a devastating problem that impacts the lives of thousands of women, men, and children each year. As rape is a severely underreported crime, the available data greatly underestimate the true magnitude of the problem. Further, victims who are both physically and sexually abused are at higher risk of being injured and killed than victims who suffer from only one form of abuse.¹

DID YOU KNOW?

- √ **Every 2.5 minutes** someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted.²
- √ **One in six** women have experienced an attempted or completed rape in the U.S.¹
- √ The FBI estimates that **one in ten** men will be sexually assaulted during their lifetime.²
- √ According to a report from the U.S. Department of Justice, nearly 25% of women and 7% of men have been raped or sexually **assaulted by a current or former partner**.¹
- √ Between one-third and one-half of all **battered women are raped** by their partners at least once during their relationship.³
- √ 62% of women raped more than once by the same partner reported that the **abuse lasted one year or more**.⁴
- √ 62% of sexual assaults are **not reported to the police**.⁴

MARITAL RAPE

- ◆ Marital rape accounts for 25% of all rapes, affecting well over 75,000 women each year.³
- ◆ Between 10% and 14% of married women will be raped at some time during their marriages.³
- ◆ Married women are particularly likely to be raped multiple times by their husbands before escaping the violence.⁵
- ◆ Women who are raped and battered by their partners experience the violence in various ways. Sexual assault may follow a battering incident or when the abuser wants to reconcile after a "fight" and then coerces his partner into having sex.⁶

CHILDREN

- 29% of all forcible rapes occurred when the victims were under 11 years old.⁷
- 52% of surveyed women and 66% of surveyed men were sexually assaulted by a caretaker as a child.¹
- In a survey conducted by Diana Russell, only 2% of incest cases and 6% of extrafamilial child sexual abuse cases were reported to the police.⁸

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

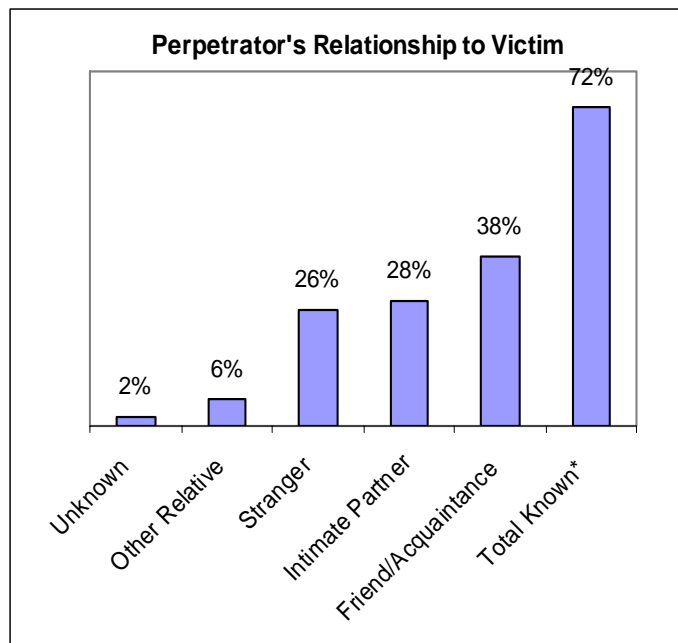
- ◆ Women who are disabled, pregnant, or attempting to leave their abusers are at an increased risk of intimate partner rape.¹
- ◆ Youth are particularly impacted by intimate partner violence. Individuals ages 16 to 24 experience the highest per capita rates of violence.¹
- ◆ 25% of women will be raped during their college career and 90% of victims know the person who sexually assaulted or raped them.⁹

CONSEQUENCES

Victims of sexual assault are:

- ⇒ *Three times more likely to suffer from depression.*¹⁰
- ⇒ *Four times more likely to be suicidal.*¹⁰
- ⇒ *Six times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).*¹⁰
- ⇒ *Twenty-six times more likely to abuse drugs.*¹⁰
- 36% of women raped by an intimate partner sustained an injury other than the rape itself during their most recent assault. Only 29% of these injured women received medical attention.¹¹

PERPETRATORS ¹



72% of victims are sexually assaulted by someone they know.

HOW TO HELP

- Ask your Member of Congress to support funding for direct services and programs created in the Violence Against Women Act, such as the Sexual Assault Services program that creates a funding stream of federal money for direct services for victims of sexual assault.
- Ask your local schools and universities to address the issues of sexual violence in their classrooms and through victim assistance programs.
- Encourage your primary care physician and OB/GYN to screen women for signs of physical and sexual violence and ask if they are in a violent or abusive relationship during regular checkups.
- Volunteer at your local rape crisis center or state sexual assault coalition. Visit the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence at www.naesv.org to learn about organizations in your area.

IF YOU NEED HELP

For more information or to get help, please call the
National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-HOPE
National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE

SOURCES

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- ⁵ Randall, M. and Haskall, L. (1995). Sexual violence in women's lives. *Violence Against Women*, 1(1), 6-31.
- ⁶ Russell, D.E.H. (1990). *Rape in marriage*. New York: MacMillian Press.
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- ⁸ Russell, D.E.H. (1988). The incidence and prevalence of intrafamilial and extrafamilial sexual abuse of female children. In *Handbook on sexual abuse of children*, L.E.A. Walker (Ed.). Springer Publishing Co.
- ⁹ Fisher, B.S., et al. (2000). *The sexual victimization of college women*. Washington, DC: U.S. National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/182369.pdf>. Accessed March 5, 2008.
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- ¹¹ Reuters News Service. (2000). Many women do not report sexual assault by partner. *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, 36.



NAESV utilizes a comprehensive grassroots communication network to shape national policy related to sexual violence and victims' needs, ensure funding for rape crisis programs and sexual assault coalitions, and provide expertise to governments, businesses and non-profit organizations addressing sexual violence in all of its forms.