

How often does sexual assault occur?

In 2006, there were **272,350 victims** of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault.¹ (These figures do not include victims 12 years old or younger.)

Every 2 minutes, someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted.

Here's the math. According to the U.S. Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey -- the country's largest and most reliable crime study -- there were **272,350 sexual assaults in 2006** (the most recent data available).

There are 525,600 minutes in a non-leap year. That makes 31,536,000 seconds/year. So, 31,536,000 divided by 272,350 comes out to 1 sexual assault every 116 seconds, or about 1 every 2 minutes.

Every 2 minutes, someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted.

Details of the calculation:

525,600 minutes/year = 365 days x 24 hours x 60 minutes

525,600 minutes x 60 seconds = 31,536,000 secs/year

272,350 sexual assault victims in 2006.

$$\frac{31,536,000 \text{ secs/yr}}{272,350 \text{ victims}} = \frac{1 \text{ sexual assault}}{116 \text{ seconds}} = \frac{1 \text{ assault}}{2 \text{ minutes}}$$

Sexual Assault vs. Rape

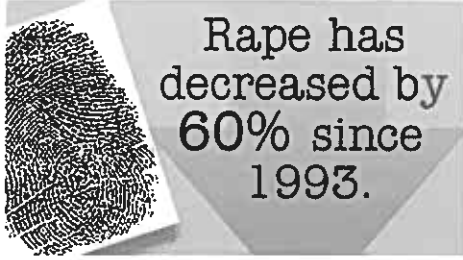
Notice that we said 1 sexual assault, not 1 rape.

Sexual assault is a broader category that the Justice Department uses to classify rape, attempted rape, and other violent felonies that fall short of rape. **Rape** is defined as forced vaginal, oral, or anal penetration.

In 2005, there were approximately 200,780 sexual assaults.² Of these, 64,080 were completed rapes. So if you want a figure that covers only rapes, divide 31,536,000 by 64,080. That comes out to 1 rape

every 492 seconds or **1 rape every 8 minutes.**

The Unvictims



Sexual assault has fallen by **more than 60%** in recent years.² Had the 1993 rate held steady, 6.8 million Americans would have been assaulted in the last 13 years.

But, thanks to the decline, the actual number of victims was about 4.2 million. In other words, if not for the *historic gains* we've made in the last decade, an additional 2,546,420 Americans would have become victims of sexual violence.

References

1. U.S. Department of Justice. *2006 National Crime Victimization Survey*. 2006.
2. U.S. Department of Justice. *2005 National Crime Victimization Survey*. 2005.