

Who are the Victims?

Breakdown by Gender and Age

Women

1 in 6
women in America will be
a victim of sexual assault.



1 out of every 6 American women have been the victims of an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime (14.8% completed rape; 2.8% attempted rape).¹

17.7 million American women have been victims of attempted or completed rape.¹

9 of every 10 rape victims were female in 2003.²

While about **80% of all victims are white**, minorities are somewhat more likely to be attacked.

Lifetime rate of rape /attempted rape for women by race:¹

- All women: 17.6%
- White women: 17.7%
- Black women: 18.8%
- Asian Pacific Islander women: 6.8%
- American Indian/Alaskan women: 34.1%
- Mixed race women: 24.4%

Men

About **3% of American men** — or **1 in 33** — have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime.¹

- In 2003, 1 in every ten rape victims were male.²
- 2.78 million men in the U.S. have been victims of sexual assault or rape.¹

Children

15% of sexual assault and rape victims are **under age 12**.³

- 29% are age 12-17.
- 44% are under age 18.³
- 80% are under age 30.³
- 12-34 are the highest risk years.
- Girls ages 16-19 are 4 times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault.

7% of girls in grades 5-8 and 12% of girls in grades 9-12 said they had been sexually abused.⁴

- 3% of boys grades 5-8 and 5% of boys in grades 9-12 said they had been sexually abused.

In 1995, local child protection service agencies identified **126,000 children** who were victims of either substantiated or indicated sexual abuse.⁵

- Of these, 75% were girls.
- Nearly 30% of child victims were between the age of 4 and 7.

93% of juvenile sexual assault victims know their attacker.⁶

- 34.2% of attackers were family members.
- 58.7% were acquaintances.
- Only 7% of the perpetrators were strangers to the victim.

Effects of Rape

Victims of sexual assault are:⁷

3 times more likely to suffer from depression.

6 times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

13 times more likely to abuse alcohol.

26 times more likely to abuse drugs.

4 times more likely to contemplate suicide.

Pregnancies Resulting from Rape

In 2004-2005, 64,080 women were raped.⁸ According to medical reports, the incidence of pregnancy for one-time unprotected sexual intercourse is 5%. By applying the pregnancy rate to 64,080 women, RAINN estimates that there were **3,204 pregnancies** as a result of rape during that period.

This calculation does not account for the following factors which could lower the actual number of pregnancies:

- Rape, as defined by the NCVS, is forced sexual intercourse. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, oral, or anal penetration by offender(s). This category includes incidents where the penetration is from a foreign object such as a bottle. Certain types of rape under this definition cannot cause pregnancy.
- Some victims of rape may be utilizing birth control methods, such as the pill, which will prevent pregnancy.
- Some rapists may wear condoms in an effort to avoid DNA detection.
- Victims of rape may not be able to become pregnant for medical or age-related reasons.

This calculation does not account for the following factors which could raise the actual number of pregnancies:

- Medical estimates of a 5% pregnancy rate are for one-time, unprotected sexual intercourse. Some victimizations may include multiple incidents of intercourse.
- Because of methodology, NCVS does not measure the victimization of Americans age 12 or younger. Rapes of these young people could result in pregnancies not accounted for in RAINN's estimates.

References

1. National Institute of Justice & Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. *Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence Against Women Survey*. 1998.
2. U.S. Department of Justice. *2003 National Crime Victimization Survey*. 2003.
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4. *1998 Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls*. 1998.
5. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. *1995 Child Maltreatment Survey*. 1995.
6. U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics. *2000 Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement*. 2000.
7. World Health Organization. 2002.
8. U.S. Department of Justice. *2005 National Crime Victimization Survey*. 2005.