



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
Division of Violence Prevention

The Cost of Rape in the United States

Sexual violence, including rape, is a serious and costly public health problem in the United States (US). A new CDC article, [Lifetime Economic Burden of Rape among United States Adults](#), published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine shows the financial toll that rape takes on the country. This study is the first to estimate the total cost to society over the lifetime of all people in the US who report being raped.

More than 23 million women and nearly 2 million men report experiencing rape at some point in their lives according to CDC's [National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey](#). The lifetime cost to society per victim is \$122,461. This estimate includes the costs of short- and long-term medical care for victims, criminal justice system activities, and lost work productivity. Understanding the economic costs of rape can help inform prevention efforts.

Together we can prevent sexual violence before it begins. CDC has resources to help prevent sexual violence and minimize its harms—both immediate and long-term. One of these resources is [STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence](#), which features evidence-based strategies and approaches that communities can use to prevent sexual violence.

STOP SV presents 5 main strategies for communities to take action to reduce sexual violence:

- S—Promote social norms that protect against violence
- T—Teach skills to prevent sexual abuse
- O—Provide opportunities to empower and support girls and women
- P—Create protective environments
- SV—Support victims and survivors to lessen harms

Get STOP SV and other [resources](#) for preventing sexual violence and learn more about other effective injury and violence prevention strategies.