

NATIONAL STATISTICS ON SEXUAL ASSAULT¹

REPORTING RAPE

- **Rape is the most underreported crime in America. In the *Rape in America* study, only 16%, or 1 in 6 women, reported their assaults to law enforcement.**
 - *Rape in America*, National Victim Center & Crime Victims Research Center and Treatment Center 5 (1992).
- **Fewer than 5% of college women reported their rapes or attempted rapes to law enforcement.**
 - Bonnie S. Fisher, Francis T. Cullen & Michael G. Turner, *The Sexual Victimization of College Women*, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics 10 (Dec. 2000).
- **In an earlier nationwide study of college students, only 5% of women reported their assaults. Only 5% sought help from a rape crisis center. 42% told no one.**
 - Robin Warshaw, *I Never Called It Rape* 50 (1988).
- **According to the FBI Uniform Crime Reports, 93,433 forcible rapes were reported in 2003.**
 - *Crime in the United States 2003*, Uniform Crime Reports, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice (Oct. 27, 2004).

INCIDENCE² AND PREVALENCE³ OF SEXUAL ASSAULT (MALE VICTIMS)

- **1 in 33 men (3%) will be the victim of a completed or attempted rape during his lifetime.**
 - Patricia Tjaden & Nancy Thoennes, *Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey*, National Institute of Justice & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice 13 (Nov. 2000).
- **In Colorado, 1 in 17 men (6%) will experience a completed or attempted sexual assault⁴ during his lifetime, according to a statewide survey.**
 - *Sexual Assault in Colorado: Results of a Statewide Survey*, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment & Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault 2 (July, 1999).

INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT (FEMALE VICTIMS)

- **683,000 women were raped in America during a one-year period** according to data collected by *The National Women's Study*.
 - *Rape in America*, National Victim Center & Crime Victims Research Center and Treatment Center 2 (1992).

¹ Note: Definitions of rape and/or sexual assault vary throughout these studies. Please refer to the individual study for the definition used.

² Rate of rapes over a defined period of time (usually one year).

³ Percentage of the population.

⁴ Defined as non-consensual penetration.

- **This number does not include rapes of girls under the age of 18 or male victims.**
 - *Rape in America*, National Victim Center & Crime Victims Research Center and Treatment Center 3 (1992).
- **1 in 8 women (13%) will be the victim of forcible rape in her lifetime.** This is based on U.S. Census estimates of the number of women in America at the time the above study was done.
 - *Rape in America*, National Victim Center & Crime Victims Research Center and Treatment Center 2 (1992).
- **1 in 6 women (17.6%) will be the victim of a rape or an attempted rape during her lifetime.**
 - Patricia Tjaden & Nancy Thoennes, *Full Report of the Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey*, National Institute of Justice & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice 13 (Nov. 2000).
- **In Colorado, 1 in 4 women (24%) will experience a completed or attempted sexual assault⁵ during her lifetime, according to a statewide survey.**
 - *Sexual Assault in Colorado: Results of a Statewide Survey*, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment & Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault 2 (July, 1999).

COLLEGE STATISTICS

- **Between 20 and 25% of college age women will be victims of rape or attempted rape during their college career, based a national study of students attending a 2- or 4-year college or university during the fall of 1996.⁶**
 - Bonnie S. Fisher, Francis T. Cullen & Michael G. Turner, *The Sexual Victimization of College Women*, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics 10 (Dec. 2000).
- **In an earlier nationwide study of college students, 1 in 4 college-age women were victims of rape or attempted rape.**
 - Robin Warshaw, *I Never Called It Rape* 11 (1988).

VICTIMS' AGE

- **According to the *National Women's Study*, "rape in America is a tragedy of youth, with the majority of rape cases occurring during childhood and adolescence." Females were forcibly raped at the following ages:**
 - 29.3% were under 11 years old;
 - 32.3% were between the ages of 11-17;
 - 22.2% were between the ages of 18-24;
 - 7.1% were between the ages of 25-29;
 - 6.1% were older than 29; and
 - 3.0% age not specified.
 - *Rape in America*, National Victim Center & Crime Victims Research Center and Treatment Center 3 (1992).

⁵ Defined as non-consensual penetration.

⁶ Estimate extrapolated from actual rapes experienced during one academic year, projected over a 5-year college career.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VICTIM AND PERPETRATOR

- **According to the *National Women's Study*, only 22% of rape victims were raped by strangers. The nonstranger perpetrators were:⁷**
 - Husbands/ex-husbands 9%
 - Fathers/stepfathers 11%
 - Boyfriends/ex-boyfriends 10%
 - Other relatives 16%
 - Other non-relatives 29%
 - *Rape in America*, National Victim Center & Crime Victims Research Center and Treatment Center 4 (1992).

- **In a recent nationwide study of college students, nearly 9 out of 10 female victims of rape or attempted rape knew their perpetrator.**
 - Bonnie S. Fisher, Francis T. Cullen & Michael G. Turner, *The Sexual Victimization of College Women*, National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics 10 (Dec. 2000).

- **In an earlier nationwide study of college students, 84% of the female victims of rape or attempted rape knew their attacker.**
 - Robin Warshaw, *I Never Called It Rape* 11 (1988).

⁷ 3% of the rape victims did not define the relationship.