

# Fact Sheet: Sexual Violence Victimization

Executive Director: Mary M. Breaux, Ph.D.

Crime Victims' Institute

College of Criminal Justice | Sam Houston State University



## Sexual Violence Victimization: The Facts

Taylor D. Robinson, M.S.  
Alyssa Linares, B.S.

### What is Sexual Violence?

Sexual violence is any sexual activity that occurs without consent.<sup>1</sup>

### Have you Heard?

- ◇ Annually, there is an average of 463,000 victims (age 12 or older) of rape and/or sexual assault in the U.S.<sup>2</sup>
- ◇ More than 33% of women and 25% of men experience sexual violence during their lifetime<sup>3</sup>
- ◇ Approximately 20% of women and 3% of men have experienced rape<sup>3</sup>
- ◇ 1 in 3 female and 1 in 4 male rape survivors first experienced sexual violence between the ages of 11 and 17, with 12.5% of females and 25% of males reporting that it occurred before the age of 10<sup>3</sup>
- ◇ 1 in 5 transgender, genderqueer, or nonconforming college students have been sexually assaulted<sup>7</sup>
- ◇ The estimated lifetime costs of rape is \$122,461 per victim (e.g., medical costs, loss of productivity, and criminal justice costs)<sup>4</sup>

### Risk Factors<sup>5</sup>

Common risk factors for sexual violence include individual factors, such as alcohol and substance use, hyper-masculinity, suicidal behavior, and prior history of sexual victimization or perpetration. Relationship and community risk factors include family history of conflict, poor parent-child relationships, involvement in abusive intimate relationships, poverty, lack of employment, and tolerance for sexual violence within a community. Additionally, societal risk factors include norms that support sexual violence, high levels of crime, and norms that perpetuate male superiority and female inferiority regarding sexual entitlement and submissiveness.

### What are the Consequences?

The consequences of sexual violence are vast. There are physical consequences (e.g., bruising and injury to the genitals) and psychological consequences (e.g., depression and anxiety). These consequences can be chronic with some survivors experiencing posttraumatic stress disorder and re-occurring reproductive, gastrointestinal, and sexual health issues<sup>2</sup>. The trauma associated with sexual violence can impact employment, such as time off, low performance, and the inability to work. Further, survivors may have difficulty maintaining personal relationships and going back to normalcy<sup>6</sup>.

### How to Help Survivors of Sexual Violence and What To Do If You've Experienced Sexual Violence

- ◇ Raise awareness/ Be proactive
- ◇ Believe and empower survivors
- ◇ Offer support
- ◇ Call a sexual assault agency or law enforcement

**In the state of Texas, anyone over the age of 18 are mandated reporters of child sexual abuse, elder sexual abuse, and sexual abuse of individuals with disabilities to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at 800-252-5400.**



### Resources

#### 9-11

#### Texas

- ◇ Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC)—[www.hawc.org](http://www.hawc.org) —713-528-2121
- ◇ Children's Safe Harbor—[www.childrensafeharbor.org](http://www.childrensafeharbor.org) —936-756-4644
- ◇ Sexual Assault Resource Center —[www.sarcbv.org](http://www.sarcbv.org)—979-731-1000
- ◇ Legal Aid for Survivors of Sexual Assault Hotline—[www.teajf.org/grants/LASSA.aspx](http://www.teajf.org/grants/LASSA.aspx)—844-303-7233

#### National

- ◇ Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)—[www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)—800-656-4673
- ◇ National Sexual Violence Resource Center—[www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)—877-739-3895

### References

- 1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Preventing sexual violence*. [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/jsv/JSV-factsheet\\_2022.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/jsv/JSV-factsheet_2022.pdf)
- 2 Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics. *National crime victimization survey 2019*. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv19.pdf>
- 3 Smith, S.G., Zhang, X., Basile, K.C., Merrick, M.T., Kresnow, J., & Chen, J. (2018). *The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey (NISVS): 2015 data brief*. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/2015data-brief508.pdf>
- 4 Peterson, C., DeGue, S., Florence, C., & Loke, C. (2017). Lifetime economic burden of rape in the United States. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 52(6), 691-701.
- 5 Tharp, A. T., DeGue, S., Valle, L.A., Brookmeyer, K.A., Massetti, G. M., & Matjasko, J. L. (2013). A systematic qualitative review of risk and protective factors for sexual violence perpetration. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 14(2), 133-167.
- 6 Basile, K.C., & Smith, S. G. (2011). Sexual violence victimization of women: Prevalence, characteristics, and role of public health and prevention. *American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine*, 5(5), 407-417.
- 7 Cantor, D., Fister, B., Chibnall, S., & Townsend R. Association of American Universities. (2015). Report on the AAU campus climate survey on sexual assault and sexual misconduct.

# Texas State University System Board of Regents

**Duke Austin**  
Chairman  
Houston

**Garry Crain**  
First Vice Chairman  
The Hills

**Alan L. Tinsley**  
Second Vice Chairman  
Madisonville

**Don Flores**  
Regent  
El Paso

**Nicki Harle**  
Regent  
Baird

**Camile Settegast**  
Student Regent  
Horseshoe Bay

**Sheila Faske**  
Regent  
Rose City

**William F. Scott**  
Regent  
Nederland

**Stephen Lee**  
Regent  
Beaumont

**Charlie Amato**  
Regent  
San Antonio

## Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65 years or older) <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/>  
800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846

