

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Defining Sexual Assault: Sexual assault is *conduct of a sexual nature* which is *non-consensual*, and is accomplished through threat, coercion, exploitation, deceit, force, physical or mental incapacitation, and/or power of authority.

Conduct of a Sexual Nature: Sexual assault includes a wide range of sexual behaviors and sexual activity. Some examples include rape, forcible sodomy, incest, child sexual abuse, unwanted sexual contact or touching, sexual exploitation, forced prostitution and sex trafficking, and sexual harassment.

Non-consensual: Sexual assault occurs when someone experiences sexual activity that she or he *did not consent to or did not want*. Consent cannot be given if a person is underage, drunk, high, unconscious, or physically or mentally incapacitated. A person can change her or his mind about sexual activity at any time and withdraw consent.



The Realities of Sexual Assault

NATIONAL STATISTICS

(National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey)



About **1 in 3 women** and nearly **1 in 4 men** will experience unwanted sexual contact during their lifetimes.



In the 2019 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), respondents reported **459,306 incidents of forcible sexual assault**

The majority of respondents (61.2%) indicated that they never reported the sexual assault to the police

51% of these incidents occurred in locations with a population less than 100,000

In the United States, almost **52.2 million women (43.6%) and 27.6 million men (24.8%)** have been the victims of some form of sexual violence at some point in their life.

-National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey

81.3% of female rape/attempted rape victims and **70.8%** of male rape/attempted rape victims had first incident occur *before age 25*.

-National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey

Intimate partners, other relatives, or known acquaintances of the victim were most likely (69.9%) to be the offenders of the reported sexual assaults

Of all the age groups represented, young adults ages 18 to 24 years old comprised half (43.3%) of all reported victims of sexual assault

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual assault, please contact the

Virginia Family Violence & Sexual Assault Hotline at

1-800-838-8238 (24-hours/day, toll-free)

TEXT: 804-793-9999 CHAT: 804-793-9999

You may also contact the toll-free

Victim Assist Virginia Helpline at 1-888-887-3418



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The Realities of Sexual Assault VIRGINIA STATISTICS



According to the Virginia State Police's "2019 Crime in Virginia Report", respondents reported **5,510 forcible sex offenses involving 5,854 victims.**



Forcible sex offenses reported include forcible rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and forcible fondling. Of the reported victims of forcible sex offenses, the vast majority (86%) were female.

79%

of forcible sex offenses were committed by perpetrators known to the victim.

36%

of the reported forcible sex offenses involved offenses committed against family members or intimate partners

Over half (56.1%) of reported victims, both male and female, were under the age of eighteen.

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Sources:
Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2015 Data Brief. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2019. Bureau of Justice Statistics NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool, 2019.
Virginia State Police, Crime in Virginia; 2019.