

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.

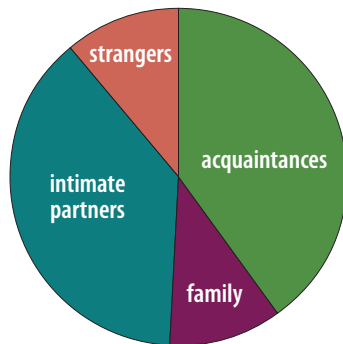


The Realities of Sexual Assault NATIONAL STATISTICS



About **1 in 3 women** and nearly **1 in 6 men** were victims of contact sexual violence at some point in their lives.

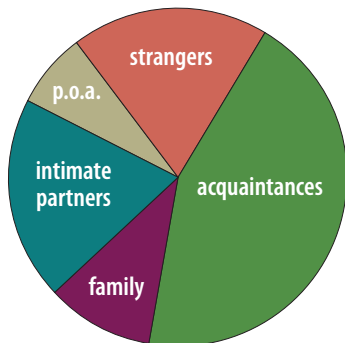
Among female rape victims, perpetrators were reported to be intimate partners (47.1%), family members (12.6%), acquaintances (44.9%), and strangers (12.8%).



41.3% of female rape victims were first raped *before age 18*.

30.1% of female rape victims were first raped *between the ages of 11–17*.

12.3% of female rape victims were first raped when they were *age 10 or younger*.



Among male rape victims, perpetrators were reported to be intimate partners (20.9%), family members (11%), acquaintances (47%), strangers (19.9%), and persons of authority (7.6%).

24.3% of male victims were first forced to penetrate *before age 18*.

4.7% male victims were first forced to penetrate when they were *age 10 or younger*.

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)**

For additional sexual assault-related information and resources, please visit the **Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance website at www.vsdvalliance.org**.

You may also contact the toll-free Victim Assist Virginia Helpline at **1-888-887-3418**.



April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The Realities of Sexual Assault VIRGINIA STATISTICS

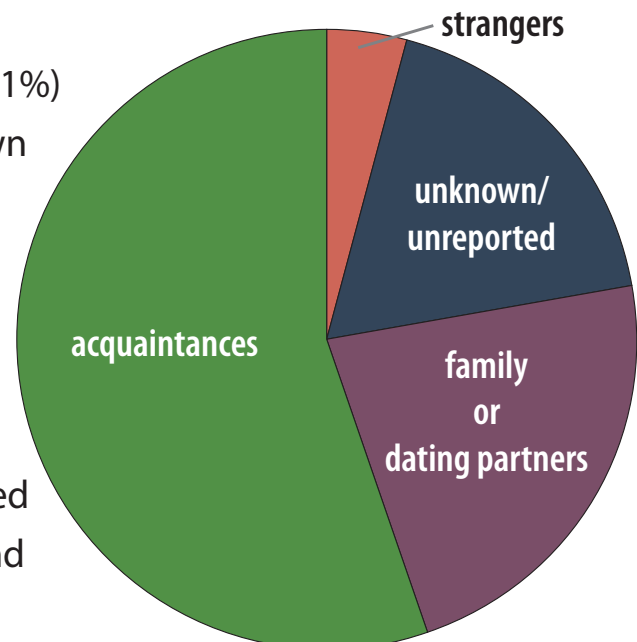


The total number of
VIOLENT CRIMES reported
in 2017 includes
5,736 forcible sex offenses
involving **5,442 victims.**



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 (86.4%) were female.

The majority of forcible sex offenses (71%) were committed by perpetrators known by or acquainted with the victim, including a substantial percentage of offenses committed by family or household members or dating partners (29%). Of the remaining offenses reported, 23% were committed by unknown/unreported assailants, and 5.2% were committed by strangers.



Over half (58.6%)
of reported victims,
both male and female,
were under the
age of eighteen.

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)

For additional sexual assault-related information and resources, please visit

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance at www.vsdvalliance.org

You may also contact the toll-free

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

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): 2010-2012 State Report*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2017.

Virginia State Police, *Crime in Virginia*; 2017.