

Summary of Female Victims of Sexual Violence, 1994-2010 – Statistical Tables

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The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is a household survey administered annually by the Bureau of Justice Statistics to measure the frequency of crime victimization in the United States. For this report, the survey gathers information to estimate the rate of completed, threatened, or attempted rape or sexual assault against females reported and not reported to police. Data is further analyzed by categories such as age and ethnicity of the victim, characteristics of the offender and incident; including victim-offender relationship, whether the offender had a weapon, and the location of the victimization. From 1994 to 2010 (the primary reference period) the number of individuals interviewed ranged from a high of 618,000 in 1994 to a low of 231,800 in 2005. The full report can be found at <http://bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fvsv9410.pdf>

Trend estimates are based on 2-year rolling averages centered on the most recent year or three 6-year periods. For example, estimates reported for 2010 represent the average estimates for 2009 and 2010. This method improves the reliability and stability of estimate comparisons over time. In 2010, females nationwide experienced about 270,000 rape or sexual assault victimizations, compared to about 556,000 in 1995. From 1995 to 2010 the estimated annual rate of female rape or sexual assault victimizations declined 58%, from 5.0 victimizations per 1,000 females age 12 or older to 2.1 per 1,000.

- **Summary of findings from all data** About 90% of rape or sexual assault victimizations involved one offender, a percentage that was stable across all years.
- Between 41% and 48% of victims of sexual violence were victimized inside or very close to their homes.
- The percentage of rape or sexual assault victimizations reported to police increased to a high of 56% in 2003 before declining to 35% in 2010, a level last seen in 1995.

Summary of findings from 2005-2010 data

- Based on averages between 2005-2010, females who were age 34 or younger, from lower income households, and lived in rural areas experienced some of the highest rates of sexual violence compared to other women.
- In 2005-2010, 11% of all sexual assault victimizations involved an offender that was armed with a gun, knife, or other weapon.
- In 2005-2010, 78% of sexual violence involved an offender who was a family member, intimate partner, friend, or acquaintance.

Limitations

- Persons living in military barracks and institutional settings, such as correctional or hospital facilities, and the homeless are excluded from the sample.
- The measurement of rape and sexual assault presents many challenges. Victims may not be willing to reveal or share their experiences with an interviewer.