

Rape Awareness and Prevention

One out of every six American women has been the victims of an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime (14.8% completed rape; 2.8% attempted rape). A total of 17.7 million women have been victims of these crimes. [Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence against Women Survey, National Institute of Justice and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1998]

About 44% of rape victims are under age 18. Three out of every twenty victims (15%) are under age 12. [Sex Offenses and Offenders. Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice, 1997]

Seven percent of girls in grades five to eight and twelve percent of girls in grades nine through twelve said they had been sexually abused. [Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Girls, 1998.]

Three percent of boys in grade five through eight and five percent of boys in grades nine through twelve said they had been sexually abused. [Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescent Boys, 1998.]

93% of juvenile sexual assault victims knew their attacker; 34% were family members and 58.7% were acquaintances.

Only 7% of perpetrators were strangers to the victim. [Sex Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement. Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice, 2000]

In 1995, local child protective service agencies identified 123 children who were victims of either substantiated or indicated sexual abuse; of these, 75% were girls. Nearly 30% of child victims were between the ages of 4 and 7. [US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Child Maltreatment, 1995.]

In 2001, only 39% of rapes and sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement officials—about one in every three. [1999 NCVS]

Of sexually abused children in grades five through twelve, 48% of the boys and 29% of the girls had told no one about the abuse—not even a friend or sibling. [Commonwealth Fund Survey of the Health of Adolescents Girls, 1998.]

About four out of ten sexual assaults take place at the victims own home. Two in ten take place in the home of a friend, neighbor or relative. One in ten takes place outside, away from home. And about one in 12 takes place in a parking garage. [Sex Offenses and Offenders, Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice, February 1997.]

Ages 12-34 are the highest risk years. Risk peaks in the late teen: girls 16 to 19 are four times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault. [2000 NCVS].

In one study, 98% of males who raped boys reported that they were heterosexuals. [Sexual Abuse of Boys, Journal of the American Medical Association, December 2, 1998]

For more statistics, see www.rainn.org/statisticss archive.