Sexual and Relationship Violence Statistics

From: The National Institute of Justice, 2001
(The Sexual Victimization of College Women, by Fisher et al)

- 1 in 4 – 5 women experiences rape or attempted rape while in college.
- 90% of college rape victims know their attacker
- Less than 5% of college rape victims report their assault to the police

From: Boynton Health Center 2004 College Student Health Survey (enrollment figures from the IRR)

- More than 600 women attending the University of Minnesota –Twin Cities experience actual or attempted rape in a single year. (611 or 2.5% of 18-24 year old students. Female enrollment = 24,448).
- Approximately 100 men attending the University of Minnesota –Twin Cities experience actual or attempted rape in a single year. (110, or .5% of 18-24 year old students. Male enrollment =21,968).
- At the University of Minnesota- Twin Cities, 2.2% of men and 5.2% of women reported experiencing sexual contact against their will in the previous year. That translates to approximately 500 men and 1,300 women at the U of M experiencing unwanted sexual contact each year.

Research done at two large eastern universities found that @ 6.4% of college men reported having engaged in behavior that met the legal definition of rape. One third of the men in this group committed one rape. The other 2/3s of the group reported committing an average of 6 rapes each. Other research on this topic has had similar findings. A 1987 study reported that 8% of men, and a 1998 survey reported that 9% of men, engaged in behavior that met the legal definition of rape.


- Nationwide, 86% of sexual assault victims are female and 14% are male.
- For the ages 0 -5: 69% are female, 31% are male
- For the ages 6-11: 75% are female, 25% are male
- For males, the likelihood of being sexually assaulted is greatest under the age of 12.
- Most males who are assaulted are assaulted by other males (who identify as heterosexual).
- The year in a male’s life when he is most likely to be sexually assaulted is age 4. (Even at this age, females are still twice as likely as males to be assaulted).
- The likelihood of being sexually assaulted is greatest for females between the ages of 14 and 24.
- Regardless of the sex of victim, 96% of sex offenders are male.
- When the victim is under age 6, 88% of offenders are male and 12% are female.

From Dr. James Hopper, PhD, Harvard Medical School
(research review article at http://www.jimhopper.com)

1 in 6-10 males is the victim of sexual abuse or assault.
Approximately 1 in 6 boys is sexually abused before age 16.


- An overwhelming majority of childhood sexual offenders identify as heterosexual, regardless of the sex of the victim.

(More statistics on other side)
• A child’s risk of being molested by his or her relative’s heterosexual partner is 100 times greater than their being molested by someone homosexual.


• Within the United States, 1 out of every 4 American women will experience violence by an intimate partner sometime during her lifetime.


• Women are at their greatest risk of being abused by an intimate partner between the ages of 16 to 24.

• By the most conservative estimate, each year 1 million women suffer nonfatal violence by an intimate. 

• By other estimates, 4 million American women experience a serious assault by an intimate partner during an average 12-month period.

• 90 - 95% of domestic violence victims are women.
  *Bureau of Justice Statistics Selected Findings: Violence Between Intimates (NCJ-149259), November 1994.*

• Approximately 95% of domestic violence perpetrators are male.
  *A Report of the Violence against Women Research Strategic Planning Workshop sponsored by the National Institute of Justice in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1995.*

• Domestic violence occurs within same-sex relationships with the same statistical frequency as in heterosexual relationships. The prevalence of domestic violence among Gay and Lesbian couples is approximately 25 - 33%.

• Women age 16 to 24 are most vulnerable to intimate partner violence
  *U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim 1993-1999*

• In 1999, 32% of female murder victims were killed by an intimate. 4% of male murder victims were killed by an intimate.
  *U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victim 1993-1999*

Information provided by: The Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education
For questions, contact Roberta Gibbons, Associate Director, (612)626-9977, email: gibbo005@umn.edu