

# Sexual Violence in Youth

## Findings from the 2012 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey

Sexual violence is widespread in the United States and many victims are under the age of 18 when they first experience it. The findings from the [National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey \(NISVS\)](#) show:

- Sexual violence is common in youth and is usually committed by someone the victim knows.
- Early sexual violence experiences make children and adolescents more likely to become victims again in adulthood.
- Girls and young women are more likely to be victims of rape, while boys and young men are more likely to experience being forced into penetrating someone else.

Violence in youth, without appropriate trauma-informed interventions, can result in immediate and lifelong consequences, including physical, emotional, behavioral, and social challenges, as well as suffering future abuse or continuing the cycle in adulthood by abusing others. Sexual violence can be prevented and efforts are best focused on stopping sexual violence before it starts.

## Key Findings

Sexual Violence Experienced During Youth <sup>1</sup>		
Rape		Made to Penetrate
Girls	Boys	Boys
<b>Approximately 8% or an estimated 10 million experienced rape or attempted rape</b>	<b>0.7% or an estimated 791,000 experienced either rape or attempted rape</b>	<b>Almost 2% or an estimated 2 million were either made to penetrate someone or there was an attempt to make them penetrate someone</b>
About 6% or an estimated 7 million experienced rape	0.4% or an estimated 500,000 experienced rape	0.8% or an estimated 883,000 were made to penetrate someone
About 4% or an estimated 4 million experienced rape involving drugs or alcohol	X	1% or an estimated 1 million experienced being made to penetrate involving drugs or alcohol
2% or an estimated 2.6 million experienced attempted rape	X	X

X Estimates are not reported. Too few males reported these forms of violence in 2012 to produce a reliable estimate.

## Perpetrators of Sexual Violence Among Victims Who Experienced Sexual Violence During Youth\*

Completed or Attempted Rape (Girls)	Completed or Attempted Made to Penetrate (Boys)
43.6% Acquaintance	35.1% Acquaintance
28.8% Current or former intimate partner	X
27.7% Family member	X
4.5% Person in a position of authority	X
10.1% Stranger	X

\* Due to the possibility of multiple perpetrators, the sum of the percentages across all perpetrators may exceed 100%.

X Estimates are not reported. Too few males reported these forms of violence in 2012 to produce a reliable estimate for type of perpetrator.

### Estimated Percentage of U.S. Women's Experience of Rape as an Adult by Whether Raped as a Minor\*

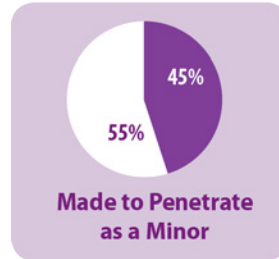


■ Raped as an Adult    □ Not Raped as an Adult

- 35% of women who were raped as minors were also raped as adults compared to 10% of women who were not raped as minors and were raped as adults.

\* Male rape estimates are not reported. Too few males reported rape in 2012 to produce a reliable estimate.

### Estimated Percentage of U.S. Men's Experience of Made to Penetrate (MTP) as an Adult by Whether MTP as a Minor



■ MTP as an Adult    □ Not MTP as an Adult

- 45% of men who were made to penetrate as minors were also made to penetrate as adults compared to 4% of men who were not made to penetrate as minors and were made to penetrate as adults.

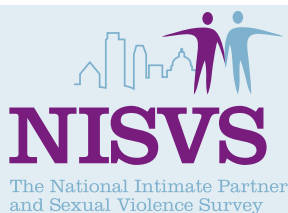
## Sexual Violence Can Be Prevented

It is important for all parts of society, including individuals, families, and communities, to work together to end sexual violence. Prevention efforts will require involvement from numerous sectors including public health, education, criminal justice, and social services. CDC continues to evaluate promising strategies and will be evaluating state health department [Rape Prevention and Education \(RPE\)](#) work.

To help states and communities take advantage of the best available evidence to prevent violence, CDC has developed [STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence](#). Strategies and approaches to prevent sexual violence include:

Strategy	Approach
<b>S</b> <b>Promote Social Norms that Protect Against Violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bystander approaches</li> <li>• Mobilizing men and boys as allies</li> </ul>
<b>T</b> <b>Teach Skills to Prevent Sexual Violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social-emotional learning</li> <li>• Teaching healthy, safe dating and intimate relationship skills to adolescents</li> <li>• Promoting healthy sexuality</li> <li>• Empowerment-based training</li> </ul>
<b>O</b> <b>Provide Opportunities to Empower and Support Girls and Women</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening economic supports for women and families</li> <li>• Strengthening leadership and opportunities for girls</li> </ul>
<b>P</b> <b>Create Protective Environments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving safety and monitoring in schools</li> <li>• Establishing and consistently applying workplace policies</li> <li>• Addressing community-level risks through environmental approaches</li> </ul>
<b>SV</b> <b>Support Victims/Survivors to Lessen Harms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victim-centered services</li> <li>• Treatment for victims of SV</li> <li>• Treatment for at-risk children and families to prevent problem behavior including sex offending</li> </ul>

For definitions on rape and made to penetrate, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/definitions.html>.



#### About NISVS

NISVS is an ongoing, nationally representative telephone survey that collects detailed information on intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking victimization of adult women and men ages 18 and older in the United States. The survey collects data on past-year and lifetime experiences of violence. CDC developed NISVS to better describe and monitor the magnitude of these forms of violence in the United States. This fact sheet is based on data from the 2012 NISVS survey. For more information on NISVS, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/index.html>.

<sup>1</sup> Adult women and men reported on their sexual violence experiences, including those that occurred in youth (before the age of 18) on the NISVS survey. We use the terms "girls" and "boys" in this fact sheet to describe these experiences.