

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN MINNESOTA



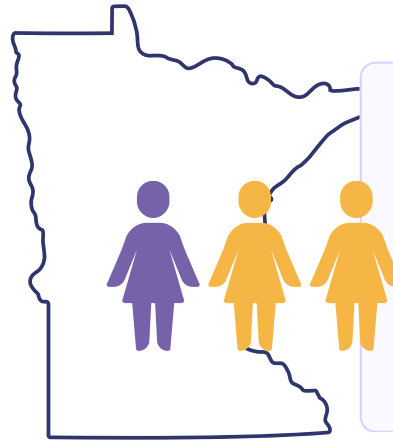
Sexual violence is a broad, non-legal term for a wide range of harmful acts that violate a person's autonomy and safety.¹

The Centers for Disease Control defines sexual violence as "sexual activity when consent is not obtained or freely given".

Examples include but are not limited to rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, sex trafficking, and child sexual abuse.

Sexual violence can happen to **anyone**. This fact sheet mainly focuses on women living in Minnesota, but some statistics include all those impacted.

Not all individuals understand and define their experiences of sexual violence in the same way, or according to official definitions.



1 in 3 women report experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime from an intimate partner.²

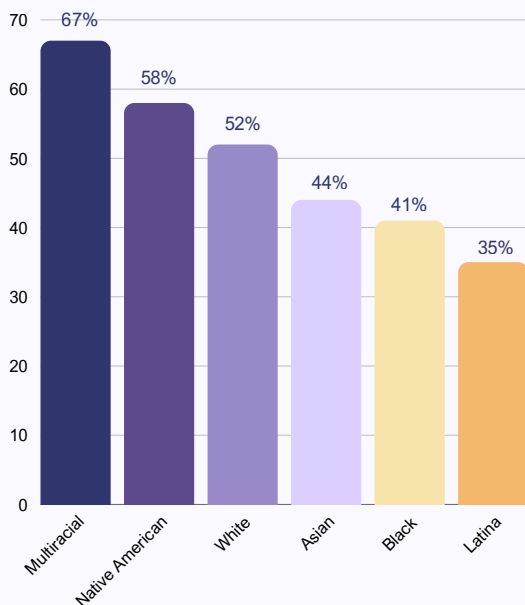
25% of Minnesota women reported rape or attempted rape in 2024.³

The majority of sexual violence is perpetrated by someone the survivor knows.⁴

60% of rapes in the US are committed by someone known by the victim.

28.3% percent of those are well-known or casual acquaintances, **21.4%** are intimate partners, and **13.1%** are relatives.

Percent of women in Minnesota who report experiencing unwanted sexual contact, not including rape, by race.²



Reports of sexual violence vary by race, but are under-reported.

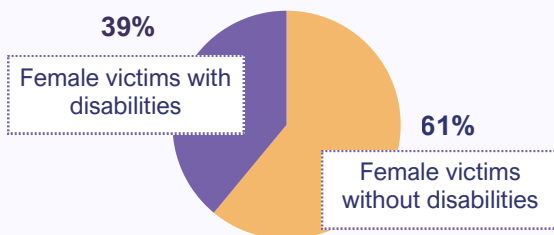
50% of all women in Minnesota report experiencing unwanted sexual contact, not including rape. Rates vary when broken down by race, though all remain above 1/3 of women.²

Sexual violence is under-reported. Nationwide, about **21%** of all sexual assaults were reported to police.² There are a variety of reasons why someone may be reluctant to report, including fear of retaliation, coercion, lack of resources, and more.

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Women with any type of disability report lifetime sexual violence at nearly **double the rate** of women without disabilities.



Nationwide, women with disabilities make up **13.5%** of the female population,⁵ but an estimated **39%** of female rape victims.³

Abuse and sexual violence can have lasting consequences. Women who were sexually abused as children are:

- **2 times more likely** to be subjected to non-sexual intimate partner violence
- **2 to 13 times more likely** to experience further sexual victimization²

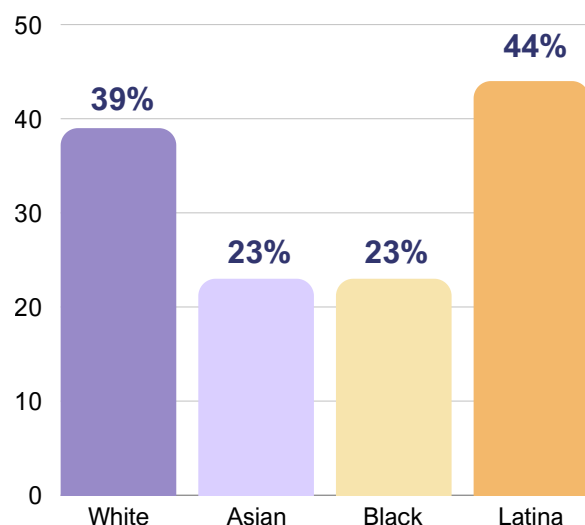
Women in male-dominated fields of work (75% men or more) face an **increased risk of sexual harassment; 25% higher** than those who do not work in male-dominated fields.²

Children and young adults are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence.²

In 2024, **40%** of all reported rape victims in Minnesota were **under 18**. Women aged **18-24** are **3x more likely** to experience sexual violence than women generally.

- **2 in 5** female college students are sexual assault survivors.
- **Nationwide**, forcible sex offenses make up 44% of on-campus crimes.
- **Over one third (37%)** of female college students in Minnesota surveyed in 2024 reported experiencing sexual assault at some point in their lives.²

Percent of women students who identified as sexual assault survivors on the 2024 Boynton Health College Student Health Survey, by race.²



RESOURCES



Minnesota:

Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Advocacy, specialized medical care, and frequently asked questions in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong
[Medical Care Map](#)

Minnesota Safe Harbor

Contact regional assistance, locate housing providers, and other support services for youth exploitation and sex trafficking

Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition

Provides culturally specific training and technical assistance for Tribes and Tribal organizations

Minnesota Sexual Violence Prevention Network

Statewide network with quarterly meetings focused on prevention and education.

Nationwide:

RAINN National Sexual Assault Hotline

Free, confidential, 24/7 support in English and Spanish
Call 800-656-4673
Text "HOPE" to 64673
Chat at [RAINN.org/hotline](https://www.rainn.org/hotline)

Sexual Violence Center

Crisis call line, medical advocacy, support groups, legal advocacy, counseling, and education.
Call 612-871-5111

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

Directory of organizations and coalitions that support victims. Overview of rights and legal services.

Tech Safety Net Project

Toolkit for technology use for survivors of sexual violence and victims of technology facilitated sexual violence. Resources on topics such as stalking and cyber-harassment.

Sources:

- 1 [Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network \(RAINN\)](#)
- 2 [Minnesota Women's Foundation, Status Report on Women & Girls 2026](#)
- 3 [Centers for Disease Control, National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey.](#)
- 4 [Department of Justice, National Crime Victimization Survey 2010-2016](#)
- 5 [United States Census, American Community Survey, 2024 5-year Estimates](#)