

# Sexual Violence

Sexual violence (SV) is a serious and complex public health problem. Sexual violence includes a range of behaviors that occur both within intimate relationships and by strangers. More than one-third of women and one-quarter of men in the U.S. will experience SV during their lives.<sup>1</sup> Over a third of women in the US responded they frequently or occasionally worry about becoming a victim of SV.<sup>2</sup> Not only is SV harmful to the victim, the impact of this SV has economic costs as well as long-term health and other costs. The lifetime economic burden of rape is \$122, 461 per victim.<sup>3</sup> The lifetime economic cost of rape across all U.S. victims is nearly \$3.1 trillion, which includes lost productivity at work, mental health, medical and criminal justice costs. The Ohio Domestic Violence Network emphasizes the need to prevent perpetration of SV by stopping it before it happens. National research found the perpetrators of SV of both female and male victims were typically intimate partners or acquaintances. By focusing on the risk and protective factors associated with SV we can reduce perpetration and the associated costs of victimization.

## Statistics

Ohio categorizes 8 offenses as sexual assault.<sup>4</sup> In 2018 the rate of sexual assault was 118 per 100,000 population. Honing in on forcible rape, the rate was 50.1 per 100,000 population. Over the six-year review period Ohio saw a decrease between 2012 and 2014. However, sexual assault increased between 2016 and 2018. Forcible rapes have increased over the review 8 year review period. The most notable increase was between 2016 and 2018, where Ohio experienced a 41.3% increase in arrests for forcible rapes.

## Disparities Data

According to the CDC<sup>5</sup> some racial/ethnic and sexual minority groups are disproportionately impacted by SV. Lifetime estimates of rape or attempted rape of women and men are presented in the table below.

US Lifetime Sexual Violence Estimates	Race	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Black	Hispanic	Multi-racial	Non-Hispanic White
	Male	24.5%	24.4%	26.6%	39.5%	22.2%
	Female	27.5%	21.2%	13.6%	32.3%	20.5%

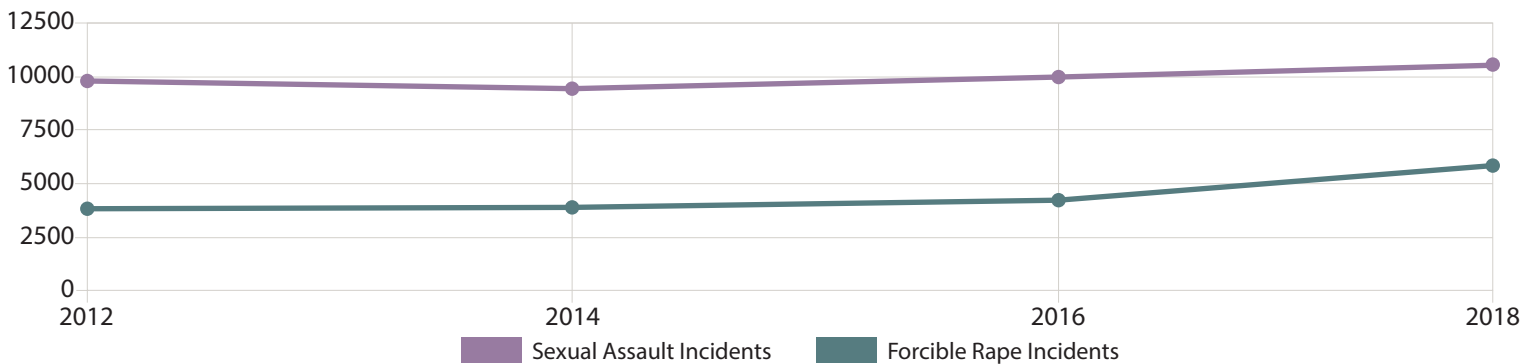
Note: CDC estimate for females is for rape or attempted rape. Estimates for males is any form of SV.

Ohio data also shows disparity based on race and gender. Blacks represent 14.3% of Ohio's population, but represent 34.3% of perpetrators arrested and 23.8% of victims of SV. Children are especially vulnerable to SV. The population of children birth to 17 is 22%, but 47.9% of SV are children and 14.4% are perpetrators of SV. Using the national average for lifetime economic burden of SV for 2018 victimization calculates to \$1,371,563,200.00 or 1.3 billion for Ohio.

## Barriers

- Varying definitions of SV from state to state and nationally makes statistics comparison very difficult. Sexual violence is under-reported so incidence of SV is probably much higher.
- Couple underreporting with social norms that focus on victim blaming reduces the likelihood that a victim will report an incident of SV.
- Highly publicized cases of SV along with social media campaigns such as #MeToo raise awareness and draw attention to what SV is and may increase reporting. This phenomenon has consequences for data consistency and drawing clear conclusions from data trends.
- Data is collected on victimization and therefore the perpetration data collected at the state from local law enforcement agencies does not provide accurate perpetration data. The national data is based on a household survey that is not consistently administered so annualized trends are not available.
- The majority of sexual assaults including rape are perpetrated by an intimate partner or someone known to the victim such as a family member or acquaintance.
- Ohio's budget for SV prevention in comparison to neighboring states is woefully inadequate and has been for decades. Eight Ohio counties do not have a rape crisis center within 30 miles and there are only 32 rape crisis centers to cover all 88 counties. This reduces the platforms from which prevention efforts can launch.

## Ohio Sexual Assault and Forcible Rape Rate Trends 2012-2018<sup>6</sup>



Note: Sexual Assault includes: rape, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, gross sexual imposition, sexual imposition, importuning, voyeurism, and public indecency.

## Remedies

- More efforts are needed to shift social norms and policies through prevention such as those recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Focusing on risk and protective factors for perpetration across issues will improve prevention effort coordination and holds promise for improving outcomes for SV and other forms of violence.
- The #MeToo Movement has increased visibility of SV and sparked public conversations about how to more appropriately respond to and prevent SV.
- Ohio added a line item to the budget in 2014 to support rape crisis centers.
- Acknowledging the lifetime economic burden of SV and investing in prevention may offset those costs as well as lead to fewer adverse outcomes.
- In Ohio, the Department of Health and The Ohio Domestic Violence Network are strong collaborative prevention partners working together on root causes to prevent intimate partner and SV.



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References can be found online at [www.odvn.org/Ohio-Measures-Up](http://www.odvn.org/Ohio-Measures-Up).

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