

# The Reporting of Sexual Assault in Arizona: CY 2008-2009

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## Publication

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (2011). *The reporting of sexual assault in Arizona: CY 2008-2009*. Retrieved from the Internet on May 9, 200 from [http://acjc.state.az.us/ACJC.Web/Pubs/Home/The\\_Reporting\\_of\\_Sexual\\_Assault\\_in\\_Arizona\\_CY2008-2009.pdf](http://acjc.state.az.us/ACJC.Web/Pubs/Home/The_Reporting_of_Sexual_Assault_in_Arizona_CY2008-2009.pdf).

## Background & Purpose

The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission is required to provide an annual report summarizing information retrieved from disposition reporting forms submitted to the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) on sexual assault. This report includes the total number of police reports, charges, convictions, and sentences for sexual assault and the number of police reports, charges, convictions and sentences for sexual assault involving a spouse.

The data were based on the information included on the arrest and disposition reporting forms submitted to DPS by local law enforcement, prosecutors, and the courts. Data for the report was gathered from the Arizona Computerized Criminal History (ACCH) record system provided by Department of Public Safety in January 2011. The report included data from calendar year (CY) 2009 and updates to data reported in the *The Reporting of Sexual Assault in Arizona: 2008* report.

The following is a brief summary of findings of the data reported by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission on reports of sexual assault in Arizona. The full report is available at [http://acjc.state.az.us/ACJC.Web/Pubs/Home/The\\_Reporting\\_of\\_Sexual\\_Assault\\_in\\_Arizona\\_CY2008-2009.pdf](http://acjc.state.az.us/ACJC.Web/Pubs/Home/The_Reporting_of_Sexual_Assault_in_Arizona_CY2008-2009.pdf).

## Findings

In Arizona, between 2008 and 2009, the total number of forcible rapes reported to law enforcement increased by 26%. In 2008, a total of 270 individuals accounted for 286 arrests for sexual assault. In 2009, a total of 308 individuals accounted for 320 arrests for sexual assault.

**Table 1. Sexual Assault Arrests 2008 & 2009**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Arrest reports involving sexual assault	286	320
Sexual assault arrest counts*	525	703
Sexual assault arrest counts that lead to convictions for sexual assault	116	160

\* **Arrest counts** are defined as charges filed

In Arizona, between 2008 and 2009, the number of sexual assault case dispositions that resulted in the original charge of sexual assault increased 4%. In 2008, of the 119 of the dispositions that resulted in a conviction of sexual assault, 116 originated from sexual assault counts and 3 originated from arrest counts for assault, sexual abuse, and theft of means of transportation. In 2008, 1 count of sexual assault involved a spouse.

In 2009, of the 167 of the dispositions that resulted in a conviction of sexual assault, 160 originated from sexual assault counts and 4 originated from arrest counts for kidnapping, sexual abuse, and sexual conduct with a minor.

**Table 2. Sexual Assault Case Disposition 2008 & 2009**

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Case dispositions submitted to DPS	381	469
Charges dismissed	145	220
Charges not filed/not referred	109	76
Acquittals	4	6
Charges resulting in pleas to other charges	4	3
Charges resulting in conviction	119 (31%)	167 (35%)

\*Sentencing categories are not mutually exclusive.

**Table 3. Percentage of Sexual Assault Convictions by Sentence Types 2008 & 2009**

	<b>2008 (n=116)</b>	<b>2009 (n=160)</b>
Fines	6	26
Probation	106	111
Prison or Jail	61	90
Community service	NA	NA
Restitution	5	3
Suspended sentence	60	76
Other	36	28

### **Limitations**

The ACCH repository may not capture all information needed to fully understand patterns of criminal offending and court outcomes. In January 2011, 134 sexual assault arrest counts from 2008 and 219 sexual assault arrest counts from 2009 were missing dispositions in the ACCH repository. Deposition forms and criminal history records do not capture information regarding the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim.