

Summary of Rape and Sexual Assault Victimization Among College-Age Females, 1995–2013

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Summary

This summary report was created from the findings of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) report entitled, Rape and Sexual Assault Victimization Among College-Age Females, 1995–2013 that was published in December 2014. The report details and makes comparisons between college student and nonstudent female victims of rape/sexual assault regarding background characteristics, victimization experiences, and perpetrator characteristics. College students were defined as individuals who were female victims age 18 to 24 enrolled who were enrolled part time or full time in a post-secondary institution (i.e., college or university, trade school, or vocational school). For a breakdown of this data see Figure 1.

This summary report represents aggregate estimates of rape and sexual assault utilizing the National Crime Victim Survey (NCVS) data from 1995 to 2013. Rape and sexual assault are defined by the NCVS to include completed and attempted rape, completed and attempted sexual assault, and threats of rape or sexual assault. The NCVS collects data regarding nonfatal crimes that are both reported and not reported to police against persons age 12 and over from a nationally representative sample of US households. The full report can be found at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rsavcaf9513.pdf>.

Major Findings from for the Period of 1995-2013:

Similarities between groups

- For both college students and nonstudents, the offender was known to the victim in about 80% of all rape and sexual assault victimizations that occurred during their lifetime.
- The offender had a weapon in about 1 in 10 rape and sexual assault victimizations against both students and nonstudent victims.

Differences between groups

- Rape and sexual assault victimizations of student victims were unreported to police (80%) of the time. Whereas, nonstudent rape and sexual assault victimizations were unreported to police (67%) of the time.
- For student victims, offenders were more likely to be friends or acquaintances (50%) than intimate partners (24%). For nonstudent victims the likelihood of friends or acquaintances being the offender was (37%) and the rate of intimate partner offenders was (34%).
- The reasons for not reporting a rape/sexual assault victimization to police were varied between student and nonstudent victims. A greater percentage of nonstudent (19%) than student (9%) victims stated that they did not report to police because the police would not

or could not do anything to help. Student victims (12%) were more likely than nonstudent victims (5%) to state that the rape/sexual assault incident was not important enough to report.

Figure 1. Type of rape or sexual assault experienced by female victims while they were aged 18 to 24, by post-secondary enrollment status, 1995–2013

