

Magnitude of Sexual Violence in Arizona, 2015

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Sexual violence is a major and, unfortunately, common problem in Arizona and the US. Nearly 1 in 5 US women (18.3%) and 1 in 71 men have been raped^a at some point in their lives while nearly half of US women (44.6%) and over 1 in 5 men (22.2%) have experienced some form of sexual violence, other than rape, at some point in their lives.¹

One valuable resource available for determining the magnitude of sexual violence is the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, which provides both state and national data. However, because of the problem of underreporting (it is estimated that only 1 in 5 women report their rapes to law enforcement²), the UCR Program may not be an accurate reflection of the *true* incidence of rape and sexual violence. However, it is still a useful source for assessing which areas may be more burdened by the impact of sexual violence and detecting trends over time.

While certainly a significant problem nationally, sexual violence is an even greater issue for the state. In 2014, 2,445 cases of rape^b and 200 cases of attempted rape were reported in Arizona^c, translating to one rape committed every three hours and eighteen minutes.³ In relation to these 2,645 reports, 301 people (256 adults and 45 juveniles) were arrested.³

Forcible Rape Trends

According to *Arizona Crime Trends*, a 2015 report published by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission using UCR Program data, over the 10-year period from 2004 to 2013, the rate of forcible rape^d *increased* in Arizona while, during the same timeframe, the rate decreased nationally.⁴ From 2004 to 2013, the Arizona rate went from 33.0 per 100,000 to 35.4 per 100,000

^a Defined by the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence survey as "any completed or attempted unwanted vaginal (for women), oral, or anal penetration through the use of physical force ... or threats to physically harm."

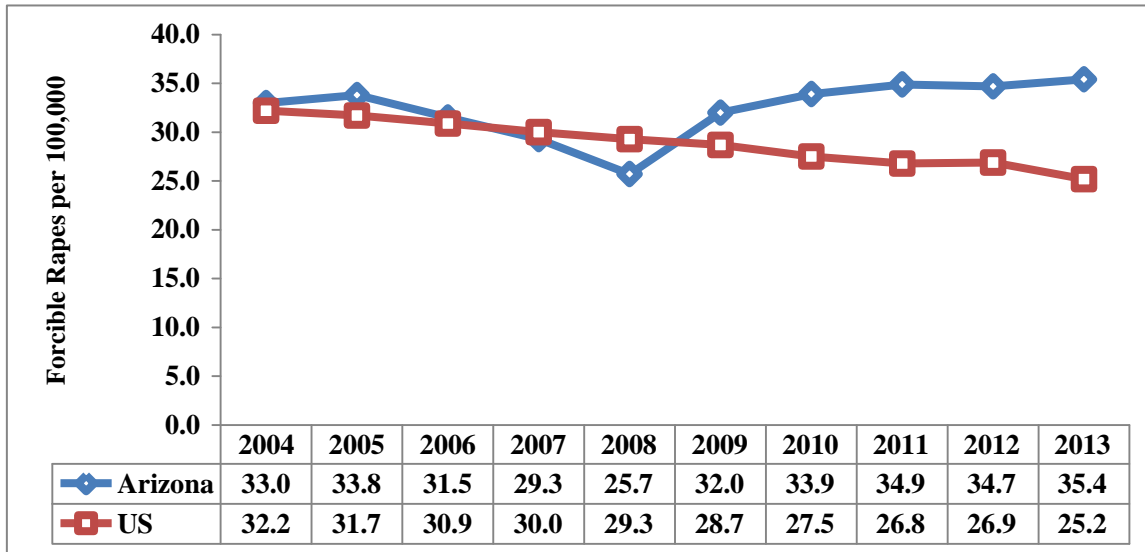
^b Effective January 2013, the FBI UCR Program began using a revised rape definition that was inclusive of male and female victims and offenders, instances of mental or physical incapacitation and various forms of penetration. Rape is defined as "penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part of object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim."

^c Excludes federal and tribal law enforcement agencies

^d Forcible rape is defined as the "carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will." This definition is being phased out in favor of the revised rape definition of 2013.

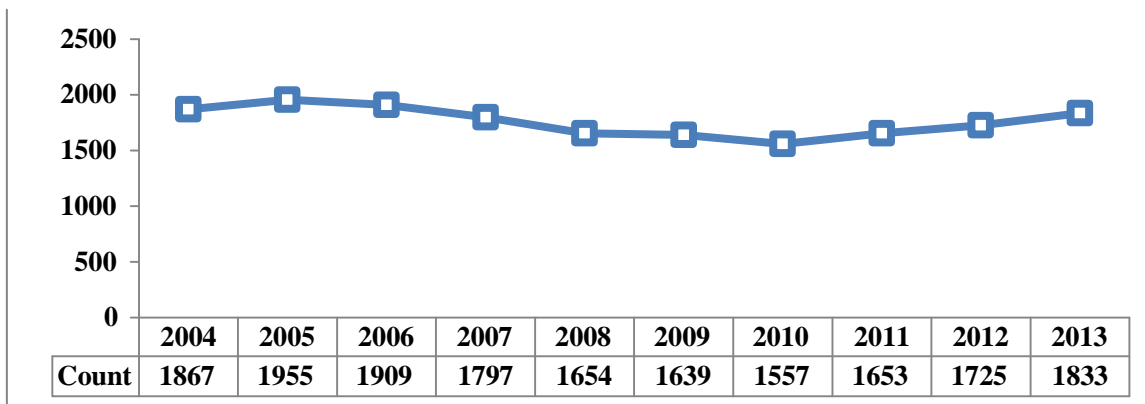
while the US rate dropped from 32.2 to 25.2 (Figure 1).⁴ Figure 2 shows the number of forcible rapes reported in Arizona.

Figure 1. Forcible Rape Rate, 2004-2013, Arizona and US



Source: Arizona Crime Trends: A System Review, 2004-2013

Figure 2. Forcible Rape Count, 2004-2013, Arizona



Source: Arizona Crime Trends: A System Review, 2004-2013

It must be noted that overall state rates do not accurately reflect the rate of forcible rapes at the community level. Even Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) rates do not accurately portray the rates of individual communities, as seen in Table 1. MSAs are centered on a large city and include the individuals who reside in that city, the county in which the city is located, and at least one additional county. Furthermore, MSAs may not even accurately reflect the city's rate, as the additional populations influence the rates of forcible rape. For example, the 2013 Flagstaff MSA

rate of forcible rape is 41.6 per 100,000 while the rate for the actual city of Flagstaff is 36.8. The Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale MSA rate of forcible rape is 29.5, below the state rate of 35.4, but the rate for the actual city of Phoenix is 42.3, above the state rate.

Table 1. Forcible Rape Rates, per 100,000, Arizona and select MSAs, 2013

MSA	City
Flagstaff : 41.6	Flagstaff: 36.8
Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale: 29.5	Phoenix: 42.3 Mesa: 44.5 Scottsdale: 16.4 Tempe: 36.8
Prescott: 24.3	Prescott: 17.2
Tucson: 33.3	Tucson: 41.1
Yuma: 33.7	Yuma: 47.9
Arizona: 35.4	

Source: United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. *Crime in the United States, 2013, 2014.*

These disparities in rates between the state, MSAs, and cities indicate that prevention measures should be community-focused, rather than state-focused, as community demographics and needs vary between individual communities and throughout the state as well.

Sexual Violence among Youth

Another area of growing concern is the prevalence of sexual violence in the state’s younger population. Table 2 shows the rate of forcible rape for the three major Arizona universities from 2011 to 2013. Like the MSA rates, the variability between universities may suggest a need for university-specific prevention efforts. In addition, these rates illustrate that sexual violence is a very real problem for campuses and that more research and focus may be needed to combat this issue.

Table 2. Forcible Rape Rate, per 100,000, Arizona universities, 2011-2013

University	County	Rate (Count)		
		2011	2012	2013
Arizona State University (Main Campus)	Maricopa	4.3 (3)	20.8 (15)	13.6 (10)
University of Arizona	Pima	0 (0)	15.3 (6)	24.9 (10)
Northern Arizona University	Coconino	27.8 (7)	35.5 (9)	15.4 (4)

Source: United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. *Crime in the United States, 2011-2013. 2012-2014.*

Sexual violence is also an issue amongst Arizona's school-aged population and seems to affect the state more than the nation. Over 1 in 10 (10.6%) Arizona high school students report having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to⁵ compared to the US figure of 7.3%.⁶ Arizona female high school students are twice as likely to report having been physically forced to have sex as compared to male students (14.2% versus 7.1%, respectively).⁵

Moving to relationship violence, 1 in 10 (10.1%) Arizona high school students reported having been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend⁵, similar to the national percentage of 10.3%.⁶

Dating and relationship violence is also assessed through the Arizona Youth Survey (AYS), which is conducted biennially with students in grades 8, 10, and 12. In 2014, 11.3% of students across the state reported being hit, slapped, pushed, shoved, kicked, or in any other way physically assaulted by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the past year, compared to 13.6% in 2012 and 17.3% in 2010.⁷ At the county level, the percentage ranges from 12% to 20% across 8th, 10th, and 12th graders, illustrating the variability of dating and relationship violence amongst teens throughout Arizona and indicating that it would be most prudent to focus primary prevention at the community level.⁸

In addition to the negative firsthand effects of dating and relationship violence, teens who experience dating violence may also be more at risk for substance abuse. The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, using data from the 2010 AYS, found that, of students who reported being the victim of teen dating violence, 48.8% had consumed alcohol in the last 30 days compared to 28.5% of students who had not reported experiencing any dating violence. Overall, 64.3% of students who had suffered dating violence reported substance use (including alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, prescription medications, and over-the-counter drugs), compared to only 39.2% of students who did not report any dating violence.⁹

Sexual Violence by Race and Ethnicity

While affecting persons of all races and ethnicities, sexual violence is especially prevalent among American Indians², of particular concern to Arizona as the state is home to 22 federally recognized Tribes¹⁰, with a total population of 379,590, or 5.7% of the state's 2014 population.¹¹ Native American women have a higher risk of being raped at some point in their lives as

compared to other racial/ethnic groups.² In 2013, Arizona tribal agencies reported 441 forcible rapes, compared to 419 in 2012¹²; as the UCR Program does not receive information from federal or tribal law enforcement agencies, these numbers are not included in the state total (1,833 in 2013). Making up less than 6% of Arizona's total population but with a forcible rape count nearly 25% of the state total, it is clear that the burden of sexual violence is greater in Arizona's American Indian population.

Nationally, over 1 in 4 American Indian or Alaska Native women reported experiencing rape, compared to 1 in 5 (20.5%) non-Hispanic white women, 1 in 5 (21.2%) non-Hispanic black women and nearly 1 in 7 (13.6%) Hispanic women.¹³ Fifty-five percent of American Indian or Alaska Native women reported experiencing other sexual violence, compared to 46.9% of non-Hispanic white women, 38.2% of non-Hispanic black women, 35.6% of Hispanic women and 31.9% of Asian or Pacific Islander women.

As an issue affecting nearly half of all women and 1 out of 5 men and people of all ages and races and ethnicities, it is clear that sexual violence is a serious issue for the nation and, as the data shows, an even bigger issue for the state of Arizona. There is real need for primary prevention efforts and community mobilization in order to prevent and reduce the occurrence of sexual violence.



The Arizona Department of Health Services Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program, through community level cooperative interventions, provide sexual violence prevention education to students, professionals, and community members. For more information, please visit us on the web at: www.azrapeprevention.org

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