

Magnitude of Sexual Violence in Arizona 2014

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Over the past decade, Arizona has experienced a surge in population, with an estimated 16.9% increase in the total population from 2003 to 2013.¹ The occurrence of sexual violence in the state remains high. According to the *Crime in Arizona 2013* report by the Arizona Department of Public Safety, in 2013, there were 1,833 forcible rapes (“the carnal knowledge of a female forcible and against her will”) reported to law enforcement, of which 1,628 were completed rapes and 205 were attempted rapes.² Of the reported forcible rape cases, only 266 arrests were made, which included 234 adults and 32 juveniles offenders.²

In a 2014 report, *The Reporting of Sexual Assault in Arizona, CY 2003-2012*, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission determined that in 2012, sexual assault was involved in 306 arrest reports, resulting in 584 charges of sexual assault; a report may contain more than one sexual assault charge.³ From these charges, 116 convictions were obtained, 91 of which were for the original charge of sexual assault.³ The other 25 convictions were for “sexual abuse, aggravated assault, kidnapping, sexual conduct with a minor, and child or vulnerable adult abuse.”³

Three-hundred sixty-one sexual assault disposition charges were reported to the Arizona Computerized Criminal History record system in 2012. Over 36% (n=132) were dismissed by the court while over a quarter (27.4%, n=99) were not filed and/or not referred. Convictions made up 34.9% (n=126) of the disposition charges.³

Despite the high reported incidence of rape in Arizona, the actual number of sexual assault cases in Arizona may be much higher than reported. Findings from the U.S. Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs’ *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Rape Victimization: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey* (2006) show that only about one in five (19%) women who were raped reported it to law enforcement, meaning that over 80% of

¹Arizona Vital Statistics. *Population Denominators*. 2014.

²Arizona Department of Public Safety. *Crime in Arizona 2013*. 2014.

³Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. *The Reporting of Sexual Assault in Arizona, CY2003-2012*. 2014.

rapes went unreported.⁴ Relatedly, according to the *Arizona Violent Crime Trends, CY2003-2012* report, the rate of forcible rapes reported to the police, on a national level, steadily decreased 16.2% from 2003 to 2012, from 32.1 incidents per 100,000 residents to 26.9 incidents per 100,000 residents. During the same time frame, the rate of forcible rapes reported to the Arizona police increased by 4.2% from 33.3 incidents per 100,000 residents to 34.7 incidents per 100,000 residents.⁵

According to *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey 2010 Summary Report* (2011), conducted by the CDC, the lifetime prevalence of rape by any perpetrator was 18% for women in Arizona, resulting in an estimated 441,000 victims around the state.⁶ More shockingly, the report showed the lifetime prevalence of sexual violence other than rape to be 43.6% for Arizona women, leading to an estimated 1,064,000 victims, and 25.9% for Arizona men, resulting in an estimated 627,000 victims.⁶

Compared to the United States as a whole, the rate of forcible rape in Arizona is higher than that of the nation. According to the FBI's *Crime in the United States* report, in 2012, there were 26.9 forcible rapes per 100,000 inhabitants nationally while in Arizona there were 34.7 forcible rapes per 100,000 inhabitants.⁷

It must be noted that the overall state rate does not accurately reflect the rate of forcible rapes at the community level due to differences in population and demographics between communities throughout the state. Even the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) rates do not accurately portray the rates of individual communities, as seen in the table below.⁷ Metropolitan Statistical Areas are centered on a large city and include the individuals who reside in that city, the county the city resides in and at least one additional county. These additional populations influence the MSA rates of forcible rape, which can cause the rates to greatly differ from the rates of the city the MSA is centered on. For example, the 2012 Flagstaff MSA rate of forcible rape is 34.6 per 100,000 while the rate of forcible rape for the actual city of Flagstaff is 42.0. For Phoenix-Mesa-

⁴ U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Rape Victimization: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*. 2006.

⁵ Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. *Arizona Violent Crime Trends, CY2003-2012 Data Brief*. 2014.

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention. *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report*. 2011.

⁷ United States FBI Uniform Crime Report. *Crime in the United States 2012, 2013*.

Glendale, the MSA rate of forcible rate is below the state rate at 27.6, but the actual rate for the city of Phoenix is above the state rate at 37.4.⁷

Metropolitan Statistical Area Rates of Forcible Rape (per 100,000)	City Rates of Forcible Rape (per 100,000)	State Rate of Forcible Rate (per 100,000)
Flagstaff : 34.6	Flagstaff: 42.0	34.7
Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale: 27.6	Phoenix: 37.4 Mesa: 38.1 Scottsdale: 18.8 Tempe: 26.5	34.7
Prescott: 21.0	Prescott: 34.6	34.7
Tucson: 34.2	Tucson: 44.0	34.7
Yuma: 20.7	Yuma: 28.3	34.7

This supports the fact that prevention measures should be community focused, rather than state focused, since community demographics vary and their needs are vastly different throughout the state.

Also of growing concern in Arizona is the prevalence of sexual assault in the state’s younger population. In 2012, all three of Arizona’s major universities reported increased numbers and rates of forcible rape compared to 2011. Arizona State University (Maricopa County) reported 15 forcible rapes, for a rate of 20.8 per 100,000, almost 4 times higher than the reported 2011 rate of 4.3 per 100,000. Northern Arizona University (Coconino County) reported 9 forcible rapes, for a rate of 35.5 per 100,000, a 27.7% increase from the 2011 rate of 27.8 per 100,000. The University of Arizona (Pima County) reported 6 forcible rates, for a rate 15.3 per 100,000; in 2011, the University of Arizona reported zero (0) forcible rapes.⁷

Moving to a younger population, Arizona’s 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) found that 10.6% of surveyed high school students (n=1,579) reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to⁸, compared to 7.3% nationally (n=13,207), as reported by the national YRBS.⁹ A little over 10% of surveyed students (n=1,600) reported having been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend in the 12 months prior to the survey.⁸ Similarly, 10.3% (n=9,930) of students surveyed on the national YRBS reported experiencing physical dating violence.⁹

⁸ Arizona Department of Education. *Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2013.*

⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Youth Online: High School YRBS: Unintentional Injuries and Violence: 2013, 2014.*

Arizona also assessed dating and relationship violence with the Arizona Youth Survey (AZYS), which surveyed almost 63,000 Arizona teens in grades 8, 10, and 12. In 2012, 13.6% of students reported having been hit, slapped, pushed, shoved, kicked, or in any other way physically assaulted by a boyfriend or girlfriend in the past year, compared to 17.3% in 2010.¹⁰ At the county level, the percentages ranged from 11.4% to 20.8%, illustrating the variability of dating and relationship violence among teens throughout Arizona and suggesting it would be most prudent to focus primary prevention at the community level.¹¹

A 2011 report from the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, using data from the 2010 Arizona Youth Survey, found that of students who reported being the victim teen dating violence, 48.8% consumed alcohol in the last 30 days, while only 28.5% of teens who did not experience teen dating violence consumed alcohol in the last 30 days.¹² Overall, 64.3% of victims of teen dating violence reported using any substance (including alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, prescription medications, and over-the-counter drugs), compared to 39.2% of teens who were not victims of teen dating violence.¹¹

Although the results of the YRBS and the AZYS are not completely comparable due to the difference in grades surveyed and slightly different wording of questions, the sample size of the AZYS gives a more accurate portrayal of the problem of dating and relationship violence in Arizona teenagers.

Another area of concern in Arizona is the prevalence of sexual assault among American Indians. Arizona has 21 federally recognized Tribes¹³, with a total population of 309,035, or 4.7% of the state's population in 2013.¹ Arizona's high Native American population is an important topic in assessing the scope of sexual assault in the state. According to U.S. Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs' *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Rape Victimization: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey* (2006), Native American women have a higher risk of being raped at some point in their lives as compared to other racial/ethnic groups.⁴ Similar findings were made in the 2011 *National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey*, conducted by the CDC, which found that 27.5% of American Indian /Alaska Native

¹⁰ Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. *Arizona Youth Survey State Report 2012*, 2012.

¹¹ Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. *Arizona Youth Survey: 2012 County Profile Reports*, 2012.

¹² Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. *Arizona Youth Survey: Teen Dating Violence Fact Sheet*. 2011, 2012.

¹³ 2010 National Conference of State Legislatures. *Federal and State Recognized Tribes*. Apr 2014.

women reported experiencing rape in their lifetime, while 20.5% of non-Hispanic white women reported having experienced rape in their lifetime.¹⁴ Fifty-five percent of American Indian/Alaska Native women reported experiencing other sexual violence, compared to 46.9% of non-Hispanic white women. Arizona tribal agencies reported 419 forcible rapes in 2012.⁷

As illustrated above, sexual assault is an important issue in Arizona, affecting a large portion of the population and there is a real need for effective prevention strategies, both at the state and the community levels.

¹⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention. *Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization — National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011, 2014.*