**Violence against Women – 5 Facts X 2**

Having a few facts in hand helps convey the magnitude of violence in women’s lives. This is one example using national data. **Cautions & Questions**: Measuring intimate partner violence and sexual violence is complicated. Rates vary because of a many factors: the questions asked, the sample selected (e.g. urban, rural, isolated rural, reservation, college campus, age, race, class, disability, language capacity, education, income, sexual identity, separated or in a relationship, etc.), the method used (e.g. in person, Internet survey, mailed survey, or phone interview—and whether landline or cell or both), and the approach (e.g. population survey or criminal justice system data). In understanding data on intimate partner violence, for example, it is essential to ask, does it explicitly address the: (1) **context** of the violence (i.e., offensive or defensive/resistive) and (2) **impact** of the violence (i.e., fear, injury, missed work, sexually transmitted disease)?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Intimate Partner (Domestic) Violence** | **Sexual Violence** |
| 1. More than 1 in 3 (35.6%) women have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. 81% of women who experience such violence report significant short or long term impacts, such as fear, concern for safety, injury, or trauma. 12% of women experienced an overlap of all of these forms of violence by an intimate partner.[[1]](#endnote-1) 2. More than 90% of “systematic, persistent, and injurious” IPV is perpetrated by men.[[2]](#endnote-2) 3. As many as 40% to 68% of battered women experience sexual violence as part of the abuse.[[3]](#endnote-3) 4. 30% to 50% of female homicide victims are murdered by a current or former intimate partner compared with 5% of male homicide victims.[[4]](#endnote-4) “Collateral murders,” such as a child, ally, or new partner, are also more likely to be committed by a woman’s current or former male partner.[[5]](#endnote-5) 5. American Indian and Alaska Native women experience some of the highest rates of intimate partner violence: 39% in their lifetimes.[[6]](#endnote-6) | 1. Nearly 1 in 5 (18%) women have been raped in their lifetime; 1 in 71 (1.4%) of men.[[7]](#endnote-7) 2. Most rape is perpetrated by men (98.1% of female rape victims; 93.3% of male). In the majority of cases, perpetrators victimize those known to them.[[8]](#endnote-8) 3. For women, sexual violence is far more likely to continue beyond childhood. About 35% of women who were raped as minors were also raped as adults.[[9]](#endnote-9) 4. Most sexual assault is not reported to police or prosecuted. Out of every 100 rapes (adult and child victims), 40 are reported to police (20 if adult women), [[10]](#endnote-10) of those less than 6 are prosecuted.[[11]](#endnote-11) 5. American Indian and Alaska Native women experience some of the highest rates of rape: 34% in their lifetimes. Most perpetrators are non-Native (between 67% and 86%), presenting complex jurisdictional issues for Native women seeking protection and justice.[[12]](#endnote-12) |

**References**

1. . Centers for Disease Control, *National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey* (NISVS), 2010 Findings. The NISVS was conducted via random telephone survey to one adult in a household. In addition to the data presented above, the NISVS also reports that 1 in 4 men (28.5%) have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Cautions and questions: The number lumps together (“and/or”) several types of violence; most of what men reported was actually physical violence, not rape and not stalking. The survey did not address the context of the act (i.e., it cannot be determined whether the physical violence occurred in the context of the perpetrator defending her or himself). The number includes reports by gay and bisexual men as well as heterosexual men. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. . National Institute of Justice (NIJ), *Measuring Intimate Partner Violence*, <http://nij.gov/topics/crime/intimate-partner-violence/Pages/measuring.aspx> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. . NIJ, *Rape and Sexual Violence*, <http://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/rape-sexual-violence/Pages/victims-perpetrators.aspx>

   [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. . NIJ, *Intimate Partner Violence*, citing Bureau of Justice Statistics data. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. . NIJ, Measuring Intimate Partner Violence; Russell P. Dobash and R. Emerson Dobash, *Who Died? The Murder of Collaterals Related to Intimate Partner Conflict*, Violence Against Women, August 2012. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. . *Policy Insights Brief: Statistics on Violence Against Native Women*, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), February 2013. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. . NISVS, 2010 Findings. Again, this is one example, drawing on data specific to rape. Sexual violence includes many other acts. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. . Ibid. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. . Ibid. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. . *Extent, nature, and consequences of rape victimization: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey – Special Report*, 2006. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. . *The “Justice Gap” for Sexual Assault Cases*, K. A. Lonsway & J. Archambault. Violence Against Women Journal, February 2012, vol. 18, no. 2, 145-168. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. . NCAI, *Policy* Insights Brief. The 2013 VAWA reauthorization includes a pilot project to exercise special criminal jurisdiction over certain crimes of domestic and dating violence, regardless of the defendant’s Indian or non-Indian status. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)