
Sexual Assault Statistics for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

Older Adults

- 18% of women raped each year are sixty years of age or older.
Cries from the Heartland Video, 1995.
- About 70.7% of older victims were assaulted in a nursing home; 14.6% of older victims were assaulted in the home of the perpetrator; 12.2% were sexually assaulted in their home; 2.4% were assaulted in an adult care residence.
Teaster, P., Roberto, K., Duke, J., Myeonghwan, K. 2000. "Sexual Abuse of Older Adults: Preliminary Findings of Cases in Virginia." Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect. Vol. 12 (3-4).
- In one-third of the cases, sexually abusive acts towards elders were witnessed by others.
Ramsey-Klawnsnik, H. 1991. Elder Sexual Abuse: Preliminary Findings. Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect. Vol. 3 No. 3.
- According to one study more than ½ of nursing home residents, who were victims of sexual assault, died within 1 year of their victimization.
Burgess, A., Dowell, E., Prentky, R. Sexual Abuse of Nursing Home Residents. Journal of Psychosocial Nursing, Vol. 38, No. 6. June 2000.
- In 90% of all elder abuse cases, the perpetrator was a family member. Two-thirds of the offenders were adult children or spouses.
Administration on Aging, 1998. National Elder Abuse Incidence Study.

People with Disabilities

- Among adults who are developmentally disabled, as many as 83% of females and 32% of males are victims of sexual assault.
Johnson, I., Sigler R. 2000. "Forced Sexual Intercourse Among Intimates," Journal of Interpersonal Violence. 15 (1).
- 40% of women with physical disabilities reported being sexually assaulted.
Young, M.E., Nosek, M.A., Howland, CA., Chanpong, G., Rintala, D.H. 1997. Prevalence of Abuse of Women with Physical Disabilities. Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Special Issue. Vol.78 (12, Suppl.5) 534-538.

- 49% of people with developmental disabilities, who are victims of sexual violence, will experience 10 or more abusive incidents.
Valenti-Heim, D., Schwartz, L. 1995. The Sexual Abuse Interview for Those with Developmental Disabilities.
- Only 3% of sexual abuse cases involving people with developmental disabilities are ever reported.
Valenti-Heim, D., Schwartz, L. 1995. The Sexual Abuse Interview for Those with Developmental Disabilities.
- Of the women with disabilities who have been married, 38% experienced sexual violence by their partner.
Statistics Canada, Centre for Justice Statistics, 1994 in Roeher Institute (1995). Harm's Way. Ontario: Roeher Institute.
- 33% of abusers are friends or acquaintances, 33% are natural or foster family members, and 25% are caregivers or service providers.
Sobsey, D. (1988) "Sexual Offenses and Disabled Victims: Research and Practical Implications." Visa Vis, Vol.6 NoA.