



Data Brief

Self-Reported Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence in Minnesota

Quantifying intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence (SV) is difficult. There is no single source of data that captures all incidents. Furthermore, multiple definitions of these forms of violence exist, which make data difficult to compare across sources. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has been collecting hospital data to describe IPV and SV; however, not all victims seek medical care, and hospital data appear to represent only a small percentage of all of IPV and SV incidents in Minnesota.

To provide context for the hospital data, and to obtain a better understanding of IPV and SV in Minnesota, the MDH sponsored a one-time telephone survey of women ages 18 to 44 in 2004 (*Community Survey of Health and Safety of Minnesota Women*). The survey focused on females and this age group because women in this age range typically experience the highest rates of IPV and SV.

Summary findings from other surveys in Minnesota are also presented in this data brief. Although methodology and definitions of IPV and SV vary from survey to survey, findings from these surveys are presented to provide more insight and context on the topic.

I. Results from Community Survey of Health and Safety of Minnesota Women¹

Three (3) percent of Minnesota women ages 18 to 44 reported being victims of physical violence by an intimate partner during the 12 months preceding the survey. One (1) percent of women reported being the victim of sexual violence. Extrapolating to Minnesota 2003 population, about 30,000 of women in this age group experienced IPV and 10,000, SV.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) was defined as a physical assault by an intimate partner. An intimate partner is a current or former husband, boyfriend, or partner (including same sex partner). Sexual violence (SV) was defined as an attempted or completed nonconsensual sex act.

In this Data Brief...

- ▶ Results from the Community Survey of Health and Safety of Minnesota Women, 2004
- ▶ Results from the Minnesota Crime Survey, 2002
- ▶ Findings on special populations in Minnesota
- ▶ Summary findings from national / state intimate partner violence surveys

Victims or anyone with concerns is encouraged to seek assistance or a referral from the Minnesota 24-Hour Domestic Violence Crisis Line (1-866-233-1111). Or RAINN, a national sexual abuse hotline that automatically refers to local program by caller's area code (1-800-656-4673).

Table 1. Prevalence and treatment for intimate partner violence and sexual violence, Community Survey of Health and Safety of Minnesota Women, 2004

	IPV		SV	
	N	%	N	%
Prevalence ^a	57	3	26	1
Injured victim	42	74	26	100 ^b
did not receive medical care when needed	18	43	n/a	n/a
received ED / inpatient treatment	6	14	1	4
received urgent care treatment	10	24	5	19
unknown treatment status / blank	8	19	20	77
Intimate partner reported as the perpetrator	57	100	4	14

^a Prevalence refers to the percentage of the 2,000 respondents who reported being victimized between January 2003 and May 2004.

^b All victims of sexual violence are considered injured.

The majority (74 percent) of IPV victims reported they sustained injuries, but less than one-half of these women (38 percent) reported they received medical care (in/outpatient or urgent care treatment) for their injuries, and even fewer (23 percent) of SV victims reported they received

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medical care. An intimate partner was mentioned as the perpetrator by about one fifth (14 percent) of SV victims (Table 1).

Victims² were younger than non-victims (mean age in years: IPV; 31 vs. 35. SV; 30 vs. 35), and of lower educational and income levels (Table 2).

Table 2. Selected demographic characteristics of victims^a of intimate partner violence and sexual violence, Community Survey of Health and Safety of Minnesota Women, 2004

	Intimate Partner Violence				Sexual Violence			
	Victims		Non-victims		Victims		Non-victims	
	N ^b	%	N ^b	%	N ^b	%	N ^b	%
Age, year								
18 to 24	13	22	192	10	10	38	195	10
25 to 34	22	39	627	32	5	19	645	33
35 to 44	22	39	1123	58	11	42	1133	57
Level of education								
High school or less	21	37	380	20	10	39	390	20
Some college	14	25	377	19	7	27	385	20
Two year college or more	22	39	1185	61	9	35	1198	61
Annual Household Income, \$								
<30,000	20	35	239	13	15	60	245	13
30,000-49,999	18	32	417	23	7	28	428	23
50,000-74,999	10	18	566	31	2	8	573	31
>74,999	9	5	595	33	1	4	599	32

^aThere is statistically significant difference between victims and non-victims where N is greater than 20.

^bComparisons when N is less than 20 should be interpreted with caution.

II. Results from the Minnesota Crime Survey³

Three (3) percent of female survey respondents⁴ ages 18-44 reported being an IPV and SV victim in 2001. Like the respondents in the Minnesota's Women's Health and Safety Survey, IPV and SV victims in the Minnesota Crime Survey were younger and of lower educational and income levels than non-victims.

Seventy-seven percent and 68 percent of IPV and SV victims, respectively, reported being victimized on more than one occasion; IPV/ SV victims reported an average of two to three incidents in the year preceding the survey. Less than one-third (29 percent) of IPV victims and about one-tenth (13 percent) of SV victims reported their experience to the police.

Although most of the victims sustained injuries -68 percent of IPV victims and 100 percent of SV victims, since all SV victims are considered injured - only 18 and 10 percent received medical treatment, respectively. Twenty-three (23) percent of SV victims described the perpetrator as an intimate partner.

III. Findings on High Risk Populations in Minnesota

The Minnesota Student Survey⁵ and the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System⁶ (PRAMS) are self-report surveys on populations that may be at high risk for IPV and SV.

Table 3. Lifetime experience of date rape, date violence and sexual abuse among 9th and 12th grade students, Minnesota Student Survey, 2001

	Overall	Male	Female
	%		
Date rape ^a	3	3	4
Date violence ^b	5	5	6
Intrafamilial sex abuse ^c	6	2	9
Extrafamilial sex abuse ^d	3	3	4
Date rape and / or sexual abuse	9	5	13

Questions asked:

^a Have you ever been the victim of date rape?

^b Have you ever been the victim of violence on a date?

^c Has any older or stronger member of your family ever touched you sexually or had you touch them sexually?

^d Has any adult or older person outside the family ever touched you sexually or had you touch them sexually?

Minnesota Student Survey

The lifetime prevalence of date rape and / or sexual abuse was nine (9) percent among the ninth and twelfth grade respondents to the Minnesota Student Survey. Overall, females recorded higher rates than males (**Table 3**).

Compared to non-victims, students who were victims of date rape and sexual abuse had higher prevalence of drug/alcohol problems, suicide ideation and suicide attempts (**Table 4**).

Table 4. Selected mental health problems among 9th and 12th grade students, Minnesota Student Survey 2001

	Date rape		Sexual abuse ^a		Date violence	
	Victim	Non-victim	Victim	Non-victim	Victim	Non-victim
	%					
Reported being treated for alcohol/drug problem	26	4	15	4	21	3
Prevalence of suicide ideation ^b	43	20	43	18	40	19
Prevalence of suicide attempts ^c	27	5	23	4	23	5

^a Intra- and extrafamilial sexual abuse.
^b Answered 'Yes' to the question: 'Have you ever thought of killing yourself during the past year'.
^c Answered 'Yes' to the question: 'Have you ever tried to kill yourself during the past year'.

Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

In 2002, three (3) percent of women who had recently given birth reported being victims of physical assault⁷ by an intimate partner during their most recent pregnancy. One (1) percent of respondents reported being sexually assaulted⁸ by an intimate partner.

IV. Summary Findings from National / State IPV Surveys

Oregon Women's Health and Safety Survey,⁹ Oregon 2002

The Oregon Women's Health and Safety Survey recorded the same prevalence of IPV as the Community Survey of Health and Safety of Minnesota Women. In the 12 months preceding the survey, three (3) percent of women in Oregon, aged 20 to 55 years, reported being physically assaulted by an intimate partner, and one (1) percent reported being sexually assaulted by an intimate partner. Compared to non-victims, IPV victims in

Oregon were more likely to report suffering from impaired mental health.

National Violence Against Women Survey,¹⁰ 1995

In 1995, the National Violence Against Women (NVAW) Survey estimated the prevalence of intimate partner physical assault against women in the US as one (1) percent, and the lifetime prevalence as 22 percent. Forty-one (41) percent of victimized women reported they sustained physical injuries, but less than a one-third (28 percent) received medical treatment. Less than one (1) percent (0.3%) of women surveyed said they were raped in the preceding 12 months.

V. Limitations

Data on race/ethnicity are limited and not used in this analysis. Due to limited resources, there was a limit on the number of questions available to respondents; for instance, respondents were not questioned about lifetime experience of IPV/SV. It is possible that some interactions exist between the occurrence and prevalence of IPV and its victims, particularly the age, household income and educational status of victims. Due to some statistical and methodological constraints, these associations could not be further examined.

VI. Summary

Intimate partner and sexual violence affect thousands of Minnesotans each year. Rates are similar in all the studies reported in this brief, from varied sources, both state and national. Victims can be of any race, age, income, or gender. When injured, victims often do not seek medical treatment or report their experience. They tend to suffer higher rates of impaired mental health conditions than do non-victims.

Despite advances in the understanding and measuring of IPV and SV nationally and in Minnesota, available data remain a close approximation at best. Most data sources, including hospital data, underestimate the scope and impact of IPV and SV. Despite these limitations, surveillance data are helpful in guiding prevention activities.

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End Notes and Methodology

1. The Community Survey of Health and Safety of Minnesota Women was a one-time telephone survey of 2,000 Minnesota women ages 18 to 44 conducted in 2004. Respondents were gathered from a commercial database of phone numbers and names and were asked questions regarding demographics and their experience with intimate partner violence and sexual violence. A total of 9,584 calls were made, the target was 2,000 completed calls.

The disposition of the calls was as follows: 1,295 calls were refused, 2,374 were ineligible because of wrong age, and 1,039 were incorrect home numbers. In addition, 2,790 calls were in process and unresolved at completion of study (includes answering machines, no answers, busy signals, and call backs), 76 calls could not be completed because of language barrier, 10 calls were terminated because of mental or physical limitations, and 2,000 calls were completed.

2. The counts (n) for SV victims are less than 20 and should be interpreted with caution.

3. The Minnesota Crime Survey is an ongoing mail survey. These data are from the survey conducted in 2002. Respondents were Minnesotans with driver licenses or identity cards. The survey was designed to measure citizen perceptions of crime and experience with crime in 2001. The vast majority of victimized respondents were female, (IPV: 72 percent and SV: 84 percent). Female (IPV or SV) victims ranged in age from 17 to 83, while male victims were between ages 20 and 65.

4. There were 973 victimized female respondents with valid responses to survey questions.

5. The Minnesota Student Survey is a triennial voluntary survey of sixth, ninth and twelfth-grade students enrolled in Minnesota public schools. It asks specifically about behaviors that put young people at risk: alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse, violence, and sexual activity. It asks for the student's perspective on the positive and negative aspects of life. Sixth graders were not asked sex-related questions

6. This survey was based on live births that occurred in Minnesota in May through December 2002. The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a mail survey of women who have had a recent live birth. This sample included 1,971 women. There were a total of 44,169 births statewide during this time period in 2002. The survey collects state-specific, population-based data on maternal attitudes and experiences prior to, during, and immediately following pregnancy.

7. Defined as being slapped, kicked, choked, or physically hurt by husband or partner.

8 Defined as "any unwanted sexual activity (including touch that made you uncomfortable) initiated by husband or partner".

9. The Oregon Women's Health and Safety Survey was a telephone survey conducted between October 2001 and March 2003. A total of 2,962 women age 20-55 responded to the survey.

10. The National Violence Against Women (NVAW) survey was a telephone survey conducted from November 1995 to May 1996. A total of 8,000 women age 18 and older were interviewed