



Sexual Assault and Health Care

There were 71 forcible rapes per 100,000 females reported to United States law enforcement agencies in 1996. (Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey. Bachman and Saltzman. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. 1995.)

About 1 in 3 women who were injured during a rape or physical assault required medical care. (Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey. Tjaden and Thoennes. National Institute of Justice Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. November 1998.)

Findings from a study of 3,006 women revealed that a rape victim was 9 times more likely to receive timely medical care if she reported the assault to the police or other authorities. 3 out of 4 victims in this study who reported the rape to police received medical care whereas only 15% of rape victims who did not report the crime received post-rape medical care. (Predictors of Post-Rape Medical Care in a National Sample of Women. Resnick, Holmes, Kilpatrick, Clum, Acierno, Best, and Saunders. 2000. American Journal of Preventive Medicine. Vol. 19, Issue 4, p. 224.)

The acute, immediate outcomes of a rape can include non-genital trauma in 25-45% of survivors, genital trauma in 19-22%, sexually transmitted diseases in up to 40% and pregnancy in 1-5%. (Rape-related Pregnancy: Estimates and Descriptive Characteristics from a National Sample of Women. Holmes, Resnick, Kirkpatrick, and Best. 1996. American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Vol. 175, Issue 2, pp. 320-325.)

Sexual assault survivors' visits to physicians increase 18% in the year of the assault, 56% in the year following the assault, and 31% in the second year following the assault compared with their physician usage prior to the assault. (The Impact of Crime Victimization on Women's Medical Use. Koss. 1993. Journal of Women's Health. Vol. 2, Issue 1, pp.67-72.)

In 2000, the total amount paid by Victim Compensation programs was \$295,447,580. Of that, \$141,310,762 was for medical expenses; \$48,738,160 for mental health expenses; \$4,759,393 for forensic exams. (National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards.)

Treating survivors of violent victimization is 2.5 times more costly than treating non victims. (Deleterious Effects of Criminal Victimization on Women's Health and Medical Utilization. Koss, Koss, and Woodruff. 1991. Archives of Internal Medicine, Vol. 151, pp.342-347.)

A 1998 Department of Justice study calculated that as a group, female victims of intimate violence incurred an average yearly loss in medical expenses of \$61,000,000. (Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends and Girlfriends. Greenfield, Rand, et al. 1998. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.)