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U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics



# Bureau of Justice Statistics Bullletin

# The Crime of Rape

Women of all ages, races, and income levels are victims of rape. They are more likely, however, to be young and unmarried. They are disproportionately from low-income families. Rapists usually operate alone; most of them are unarmed. The offender is usually a stranger to the victim. Most rape assaults occur at night. Most are attempts rather than completed rapes.

This profile of rape emerges from an examination of all the cases of female rape and attempted rape reported in the National Crime Survey (NCS) from 1973 to 1982.<sup>1</sup> During this 10-year period dramatic changes occurred in public awareness and attitudes concerning the crime of rape. Rape crisis centers were developed to help victims deal with the aftermath of this crime. The police as well as other parts of the criminal justice system became increasingly aware of the importance of handling victims sensitively. Special procedures and programs for rape victims were developed in many police departments.

The focus of public attention on rape has helped to lessen the stigma victims often feel. Still, rape and attempted rape both remain serious crimes that have a traumatic effect on victims for months or even years after the event.

Rape and attempted rape, for all their fearsome and brutal aspects, are relatively rare crimes compared with other violent crimes such as robbery or assault, accounting for about 3% of all violent crimes. In 1983 an estimated

1The National Crime Survey collects information on rape for both males and females. About 84 cases with male victims were reported between 1973 and 1982, producing a national estimate of 123,000 rapes or attempted rapes, or 0.15 for every 1,000 males.

## March 1985

The National Crime Survey estimates that during the 10-year period, 1973-82, there were about 1.5 million rapes or attempted rapes in the United States. This bulletin presents the first indepth study of those crimes. Using data compiled from 10 years of the National Crime Survey, the study presents detailed characteristics of the crime of rape, such as its setting, the relationship between victim and offender, the likelihood of injury, and the reasons rape is not reported to the police.

Rape is a brutal and terrifying crime. It is especially important that our understanding of this crime is based on reliable information.

> Steven R. Schlesinger Director

154,000 rapes and attempted rapes occurred, or roughly 1 for every 600 females 12 years of age and over.<sup>2</sup>

The relative infrequency of rape makes it difficult to collect enough information to analyze many aspects of the crime in detail. In the course of twice-a-year interviews conducted with more than 125,000 people each year in the National Crime Survey, only about 100 cases of rape or attempted rape are reported.<sup>3</sup> When the sample is com-

 $^{2}$ All statistics in this report are for persons 12 years of age and older.

<sup>3</sup>Statistics on rape reported to the police are published annually by the FBI in the Uniform Crime Reports, <u>Crime in the U.S.</u> For a comparison of BJS and FBI crime statistics see <u>Measuring Crime</u>, BJS Bulletin, 2/81, NCJ-75710.

pared to the size of the general population, it is estimated that each reported incident represents about 1,200 rapes or rape attempts that took place across the country. Nevertheless, 100 cases are too few for detailed statistical analysis.

To obtain enough information for a detailed examination of the crime of rape, all cases of female rape reported in the National Crime Survey from 1973 through 1982 were aggregated into a single data set. The set consists of 1,082 cases representing a national total of 1.5 million instances of rape or attempted rape during the decade (table 1).

## Measurement

The social stigma traditionally attached to rape makes the experience difficult for many victims to discuss. Only about half of the victims of rape or attempted rape surveyed during the decade stated that the crime had been reported to the police. As might be expected, the rate was somewhat lower

Table 1. Total crime, vi and rape, 1973-82	orent crime,	
	Number of victim- izations	Annual rate per 1,000 population
Total crime	395,172,000	
Total violent crime	59,050,000	
Total rape	1,634,000	0,93
Male victims	123,000	0.15
Female victims:	1,511,000	1.65
of attempted rapes of completed rapes	1,032,000 479,000	$1,13 \\ 0.52$

Note: Victimization rates for males are based on male population only; victimization rates for females are based on female population only.



for attempted rape than for rape, and cases involving strangers were more readily reported to the police than those involving offenders the victims knew.

Just as some women are reluctant to report rape to the police, others are reluctant to report the event to a survey interviewer. It is almost certain that the national estimate of 1.5 million rapes and rape attempts for 1973-82 understates the total number that occurred during that period. The exact amount of the understatement is impossible to ascertain.

In the National Crime Survey, each victim defines rape for herself. If she reports that she has been the victim of rape or attempted rape, she is not asked to explain what happened any further. On the other hand, no one in the survey is ever asked directly if she has been raped. This response must come voluntarily in reply to a series of questions on bodily harm.

# The setting

Two-thirds of all rapes and rape attempts occur at night, with the largest proportion occurring between 6 p.m. and midnight. The patterns for rape and rape attempts are slightly different. Rape attempts were about twice as likely as rapes to occur during the daytime and only half as likely to occur between midnight and 6 a.m. (table 2).

	Total	Victims o Attempt- ed rape	Complet
Number of victims (in thousands)	1,511	1,032	479
Percent of rape victimizations that occurred during: Daytime Nighttime	34%	40%	20%
6 p.m. to midnight Midnight	39	38	40
to 6 a.m.	27	21	39

 $^{4}$ The principal questions that elicit reports of rape are: "Did anyone beat you up, attack you or hit you with something, such as a rock or bottle?" and "Did anyone try to attack you in some other way?" If a person answers yes to either of these questions a number of additional questions were asked about the incident, including: "Did the person(s) threaten you with harm in any way?" "How were you threat-ened?" "Any other way?" "What actually happen-ed?" "Anything else?" "How did the person(s) attack you?" "Any other way?" Not all of these questions are asked of each respondent. Once it has been determined that a rape has occurred, the interviewer skips to questions about the incident itself.

		Victims of:	
	Total	Attempted rape	Completed rape
Number of victims	1,511,000	1,032,000	479,000
Percent of rapes occurring:			
Any place	100%	100%	100%
At home	27	24	35
Near home	7	9	- 4
Vacation home	2	1	3
On the street, or in park, playground,			
parking lot, or parking garage	39	43	31
In a commercial building	5	6	3
In an office	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	#	#
In school	2	2	#
Other locations	17	14	23

# Too few ceses in survey sample to obtain statistically reliable data.

The sites of rapes and rape attempts also vary. A third of the completed rapes occurred in the home. Nearly half the rest occurred on the street or in a park, field, playground, parking lot, or parking garage. Only a fourth of the attempted rapes occurred in the home: well over half the rest occurred on the street or in a park, field, playground, parking lot, or parking garage (table 3).

# The victim

Rape victims are young. The ages with the highest victimization rates for rape and attempted rape were 16- to 24-year-olds. Young women in these age groups were two to three times more likely to be victims of rape or attempted rape than women as a whole. The age profile for whites and blacks is similar (table 4).

Most victims of rape or attempted rape are white, reflecting the racial composition of the general population. However, the likelihood of being a rape victim is significantly higher for black women than for white women.

Age	All <sup>&amp;</sup> victims	White victims	Black victims
Number of victims (in thousands)	1,511	1,228	265
Percent of victims who were age:	100%	100%	100%
12-15	11	11	14
16-19	25	26	23
20-24	27	27	26
25-34	25	25	26
35-49	7	8	5
50-64	3	3	4
65 and older	. 1	1	2
Annual rate per			
1,000 population	1.6	1.5	2,5
12-15	2.2	2.0	3.3
16-19	4.7	4.6	5.2
20-24	4.0	3.9	5.3
25-34	2,2	2.1	3.4
35-49	.6	.6	.6
50-64	.3	.2	.6
65 and older	.2	.1	.5

2

The marital status of rape and attempted rape victims strongly reflects their age distribution. More than half of all victims had never been married. while widows accounted for only 3% of all rape or attempted rape victims. One in five victims was married; about the same proportion was separated or divorced (table 5).

Rape victims are usually members of low-income families. About half of all victims from 1973 to 1982 reported family income of less than \$10.000 a year and less than 10% reported yearly family incomes of \$25,000 or more. About three-fourths of all black victims had incomes of less than \$10,000 and about one-third had incomes of less than \$3,000 (table 6). Because income figures were collected over a 10-year period of rising prices and have not been adjusted for inflation, the absolute income levels are understated in current dollars.

# The offender

The most frightening form of rape, an assault by a total stranger, is also the most common. A woman is twice as likely to be attacked by a stranger as by someone she knows. There was little difference in the percentage of rapes committed by strangers for blacks, whites, or victims of other races.

It has been suggested that a victim may be less likely to report a rapeeither to the police or to a survey interviewer-when she knows her assailant than when he is a stranger. The victim may feel a greater sense of embarrassment under these circumstances. She may feel that she should have been able to prevent the attack. She may wish to protect the identity of an assailant who is a friend or family member. She may even fear reprisals or worry that her account of the attack will not be believed. There is some support in the statistics for this line of reasoning. According to the victims, somewhat more than half of the rapes or rape attempts involving strangers

because of rounding and because "don't       some car         vere reported to the police; somewhat       About 15         bess than half of the rapes and rape       more that         ttempts involving assailants known to       10% of the         he victim were reported (table 7).       ple crime         More than three-fourths of all rapes       dents with         nvolve one victim and one offender.       and single         Table 7. Reporting of female rapes to police, 1973-82       Image: Comparison of the second s	Victims           Attempted           rape           1,032,000           100%           84           15           1           100%           24           27           25           8           2           100%           24           27           25           8           100%           54           21           3           100%           54           21           3           8           14           100%           15           16           8           100           15           16           8           100%           29           71           100%           29           71           100%           50           49           w" responses were           15% are lone           than one offen           than one offen		Complete rape 479,000 1009 76 23 1 1009 11 28 26 26 26 26 26 5 4 4 1 1009 57 14 28 18 1009 21 24 11 17 14 7 7 1009 38 62 1009
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Family income       100%         Less than \$3,000       18         \$3,000-\$7,499       25         \$7,500-\$9,999       10         \$10,000-\$14,999       15         \$25,000 and over       8         Offender's relationship to victim       100%         Nonstranger to victim       22         Stranger to victim       68         Crime reporting       100%         Reported rape to police       52         Did not report rape to police       47         Note: Percents may not add to 100       know" r         because of rounding and because "don't       some ca         ere reported to the police; somewhat       About 15         st than half of the rapes and rape       more tha         termpts involving assailants known to       10% of the         raped). T       more than three-fourths of all rapes         wolve one victim and one offender.       and singl         Table 7. Reporting of female rapes to police, 1973-82       1	100% 17 26 10 15 16 8 100% 29 71 100% 50 49 w" responses were te categories.		1009 21 24 11 17 14 7 1009 38 62
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\$3,000-\$7,499       25         \$7,500-\$9,999       10         \$10,000-\$14,999       16         \$15,000-\$24,999       15         \$25,000 and over       8         Offender's relationship to victim       100%         Nonstranger to victim       22         Stranger to victim       68         Crime reporting       100%         Reported rape to police       52         Did not report rape to police       47         Note: Percents may not add to 100       know" r         because of rounding and because "don't       some ca         ere reported to the police; somewhat       About 15         ss than half of the rapes and rape       more tha         ttempts involving assailants known to       10% of the         ne victim were reported (table 7).       ple crime         More than three-fourths of all rapes       dents wit         volve one victim and one offender.       and singl         Table 7. Reporting of female rapes to police, 1973-82       19	10 15 16 8 100% 29 71 100% 50 49 w" responses were ne categories. 15% are lone than one offen		11 17 14 7 1009 38 62
\$10,000-\$14,999       16         \$15,000-\$24,999       15         \$25,000 and over       8         Offender's relationship to victim       100%         Nonstranger to victim       32         Stranger to victim       32         Stranger to victim       68         Crime reporting       100%         Reported rape to police       52         Did not report rape to police       47         Note: Percents may not add to 100       known'n         because of rounding and because "don't       some cate         ere reported to the police; somewhat       About 15         ers than half of the rapes and rape       more that         ttempts involving assailants known to       10% of th         ne victim were reported (table 7).       ple crime         More than three-fourths of all rapes       dents wit         volve one victim and one offender.       and singl         Table 7. Reporting of female rapes to police, 1973-82       1973-82	15 16 8 100% 29 71 100% 50 0 49 w" responses were the categories. 15% are lone than one offen		17 14 7 1009 38 62
\$15,000-\$24,999       15         \$25,000 and over       8         Offender's relationship to victim       100%         Nonstranger to victim       32         Stranger to victim       68         Crime reporting       100%         Reported rape to police       52         Did not report rape to police       47         Note: Percents may not add to 100       know" r         because of rounding and because "don't       some cate         ere reported to the police; somewhat       About 15         more than half of the rapes and rape       more tha         ttempts involving assailants known to       10% of the         ne victim were reported (table 7).       ple crime         More than three-fourths of all rapes       dents wit         volve one victim and one offender.       and singl         Table 7. Reporting of female rapes to police, 1973-82       1	16 8 100% 29 71 100% 50 49 w" responses were te categories. 15% are lone than one offen		14 7 1009 38 62
\$25,000 and over       8         Offender's relationship to victim       100%         Nonstranger to victim       32         Stranger to victim       68         Crime reporting       100%         Reported rape to police       52         Did not report rape to police       47         Note: Percents may not add to 100       know" r         because of rounding and because "don't       some cat         ere reported to the police; somewhat       About 15         ss than half of the rapes and rape       more tha         ttempts involving assailants known to       10% of tl         ne victim were reported (table 7).       ple crime raped). The volve one victim and one offender.         Table 7. Reporting of female rapes to police, 1973-82       1973-82	8 100% 29 71 100% 50 49 w" responses were than one offen than one offen		7 1009 38 62
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Stranger to victim       68         Crime reporting       100%         Reported rape to police       52         Did not report rape to police       47         Note: Percents may not add to 100       know" r         because of rounding and because "don't       some ca         ere reported to the police; somewhat       About 15         ss than half of the rapes and rape       more that         ttempts involving assailants known to       10% of the         ne victim were reported (table 7).       ple crimes         More than three-fourths of all rapes       dents with         volve one victim and one offender.       and single	100% 50 49 w" responses were te categories. 15% are lone than one offen		
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Reported rape to police       52         Did not report rape to police       47         Note: Percents may not add to 100       know" r         because of rounding and because "don't       some er         ere reported to the police; somewhat       About 15         erss than half of the rapes and rape       more that         ttempts involving assailants known to       10% of the         ne victim were reported (table 7).       ple crime         More than three-fourths of all rapes       dents with         volve one victim and one offender.       and single         Table 7. Reporting of female rapes to police, 1973-82       Image 1000000000000000000000000000000000000	50 49 w" responses were te categories. 15% are lone than one offen		
Did not report rape to police       47         Note: Percents may not add to 100       know" r         because of rounding and because "don't       some cr         ere reported to the police; somewhat       About 15         erss than half of the rapes and rape       more tha         ttempts involving assailants known to       10% of th         ne victim were reported (table 7).       ple crime         More than three-fourths of all rapes       and singl         Table 7. Reporting of female rapes to police, 1973-82       Image: Crime and crime	49 w" responses were the categories. 15% are lone than one offen	· .	58
Note: Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding and because "don't some of ere reported to the police; somewhat ss than half of the rapes and rape more tha tempts involving assailants known to 10% of the evictim were reported (table 7). ple crime raped). The of all rapes dents with volve one victim and one offender. and single Table 7. Reporting of female rapes to police, 1973-82	w" responses were le categories. 15% are lone than one offen		40
because of rounding and because "don't       some car         ere reported to the police; somewhat       About 15         ss than half of the rapes and rape       more that         itempts involving assailants known to       10% of the         ie victim were reported (table 7).       ple crime         More than three-fourths of all rapes       dents with         volve one victim and one offender.       and single         Table 7. Reporting of female rapes to police, 1973-82       Image: Comparison of the compariso	te categories. 15% are lone than one offen		
ere reported to the police; somewhat ss than half of the rapes and rape more tha tempts involving assailants known to ne victim were reported (table 7). More than three-fourths of all rapes volve one victim and one offender. Table 7. Reporting of female rapes to police, 1973-82	15% are lone than one offen	eliminated	d from
volve one victim and one offender. and singl Table 7. Reporting of female rapes to police, 1973-82	ime victims (at ). The percent with single and	der. In 1 were th least or ages for	less than here mult ne was rape inc
I	ngle and multip		
	Percent of vict	inizations	that were:
Total	Reported		reported
Characteristics victimizations	to police	Not r	

Characteristics	Total victimizations	Percent of victim Reported to police	izations that were: Not reported to police
All rapes Completed rape Attempted rape	1,511,000 479,000 1,032,000	52% 58 50	47% 40 49
Offender's relationship to victim Stranger to victim Nonstranger to victim	1,024,000 486,000	56 45	43 55
Race White Elack	1,228,000 265,000	52 53	47 46
Age 12-15 16-19 20-24 25-34 35-49 50-64 65+	168,000 384,000 403,000 382,000 109,000 44,000 21,000	71 50 49 45 60 76 56	28 49 51 53 40 # #
Marital status Married Widowed Divorced Separated Never married	287,000 42,000 231,000 118,000 825,000	52 66 51 52 52	47 34 47 48 46

Table 6. Family income of female rape victims by race, 1973-82 Percent of victims who were: Total<sup>a</sup> White Black Number of victims (in thousands 1,511 1,228 265 Annual family income of rape victims 100% 100% 100% 15 25 10 17 Less than \$3,000 34 29 18 25 \$3,000-\$7,499 \$7.500-\$9.999 10 16 10 \$10.000-\$14.999 - 9 15 16 11 \$15,000-\$24,999 \$25,000 and over Not ascertained 6 Annual rate per 1.6 4.2 2.2 1.9 1.5 3.7 2.2 1.7 1.4 2.5 5.3 2.4 2.5 1.5 1,000 population Less than \$3,000 \$3,000-\$7,499 \$7,500-\$9,999 1.4 1.1 \$10,000-\$14,999 2.1 0.7 1.7 \$15,000-\$24,999 1.1 \$25,000 and over 0.9 1.0 1.3 Not ascertained 1.3 Note: Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding. <sup>a</sup> Includes "other" races not shown separately. Offenders Single Multiple Victims

15% Single 77% Multiple 4 Even though two-thirds of the rapists are strangers, the offenders are still likely to be the same race as their victims. In assaults involving one offender, victim and offender were the same race 70% of the time for white victims and 89% for black victims. When there were two or more offenders, victims and offenders were the same race 52% of the time for white victims and 75% of the time for black

Rapists appear to be younger when they act as a group than when they act

victims (table 8).

Race of	Rac	e of vict	ims
offenders <sup>a</sup>	White	Black	Other
Single offender			
Number			
(in thousands)	997	211	15
Percent who were:			
White	70%	8%	72%
Black	23	89	#
Other	6	#	#
Multiple offenders			
Number			
(in thousands)	218	50	3
Percent who were:			
White	52%	ŧ.	#
Black	27	75%	#
Other	6	#	#
Mixed groups	14	#	#

a As perceived by victim.

	Victimiza	tions by:
	Single offender	Multiple offenders
Number	1,223,000	272,000
Age of offender <sup>a</sup>		
12-20 years	17%	28%
21 and older	80	45
Mixed ages		21

alone. In rapes with one offender, fewer than 2 in 10 offenders were under age 21. In rapes with more than one offender, however, all offenders were under 21 in 28% of the crimes, and in another 21% of the cases at least one offender was under 21 (table 9).

In rape incidents with one victim and one offender there is some relationship between the age of the victim and the age of the offender. Few of the offenders—less than a fifth—were under age 21, but about three-fifths of these young offenders attacked girls and young women between ages 12 and 19. Those age 21 or older, who accounted for more than four-fifths of all lone offenders, attacked 12-19-yearolds in only about a quarter of the incidents (table 10).

Most offenders are unarmed. Weapons were used in only 25% of the rapes and rape attempts. The victim was not sure whether or not a weapon had been used in about 11% of the cases. Not surprisingly, weapons were used more often in completed rapes than in attempted rapes. Knives were used in about 12% of all rapes and rape attempts and guns in 10%. Other weapons were used in 4% of the incidents (table 11).

# The outcome

Most victims offered some form of resistance. Most individuals using selfprotection were victims of attempted rape, while most not using selfprotection were victims of completed rapes (table 12). The most common responses to the situation were to try to get help; to resist physically; to threaten, argue, or reason with the offender; or to resist without force, for example, by running away or hiding. Victims rarely used weapons against their assailants.

Some of the victims of attempted rape were exposed to verbal threats or weapons, but were not physically attacked. Those who were physically attacked received injuries in addition Table 10. Incidents of female rape with one victim and one offender by age of victim and offender, 1973-82 Age of offender<sup>8</sup> 12-20 21 years Age of victim years old or older 207,000 984,000 Number of rapes Rape in which the victim was: 100% 100% Any age 12-15 years old 26 36 22 16-19 20-24 17 30 25 - 3413 30 35-49 50-64 65 and older # Too few cases in the survey sample to obtain statistically reliable data. <sup>a</sup> As perceived by victim.

to the rape or attempted rape more than half the time. In cases where the victim used some form of resistance, injury was somewhat more likely (57%) than in cases where she did not (47%) (table 13).<sup>5</sup>

The most common injuries in addition to the rape itself were bruises,

<sup>5</sup>This comparison is significant at the 88% confidence level. All other statements are significant at the 90% confidence level.

		Victims of:	
	Total	Attempted rape	Completed rape
Number of victims	1,511,000	1,032,000	479,000
Total victimizations No weapon used by offender Weapon used by offender Don't know if weapon was used	100% 64 25 11	100% 66 21 13	100% 58 34 8
Percent of all rape victimizations with: Gun Knife Other Type unknown	10 12 4 1	7 10 5 #	16 17 3 #
Note: Percents for type of weapon used add to more than the percent of victimiza- tions with weapons because some offenders	# Too few	re than one type of wea cases in survey sample cally reliable data.	pon. to obtain

		10	Victims of:	
	Number of victims	Total	Attempted rape	Completed rape
All victims	1,511,000	100%	68%	32%
Victims using self-protection	1,257,000	100	73	27
Victims not using self-protection	254,000	100	44	56

	Total number	Total percent	Victims with injury	Victims without injury
All victims of rape attacks	1,043,000 <sup>a</sup>	100%	56%	44%
Victims using self-protection	872,000	100	57	43
Victims not using self-protection	171,000	100	47	53

black eyes, and cuts (31%), but the nature or severity of these injuries is not known. An extremely small proportion of the victims sustained gurshot or weapon wounds or broken bones (table 14). (Note that the sample includes only those victims who survived the rape or rape attempt. Wounds that resulted in death are classified as homicides rather than rapes. In 1983, 185 such cases were reported to the FBL.<sup>6</sup>)

The total cost of medical expenses victims reported during 1973-82 was almost \$72 million. This estimate has not been adjusted for inflation, which rose rapidly during the period. The median medical cost to victims of rape was \$115 compared with \$86 for attempts (table 15).

According to the victims, their experiences were reported to the police 58% of the time if the rape was completed and 50% of the time if the rape was attempted. Many victims who did not report the crime to the police gave more than one reason for not reporting. The most common reasons were that it was too private or personal a matter and that nothing could be

<sup>6</sup>FBI Uniform Crime Reports, unpublished data.

done. Victims of completed rape most often said it was too private or personal a matter or that they feared reprisal. These victims were more likely to say that they feared reprisal than were victims of attempted rape. Among the most important reasons why victims of attempted rape did not report the crime was that they didn't think anything could be done about it (table 16).

# Methodology

Data in this bulletin were obtained by aggregating statistics from the

Table 14. Injuries received by female victims of	of 1
Number of victims	
Percent of victims:	
Not injured Injured	
Percent of victims receiving:	
Bruises, black eyes, and cuts	
Internal injuries or knocked unconcieus	
Broken bones or teeth knocked ou? Knife or gunshot wound	
Other injuries	
Note: As used in this table, "injury" means	
<ul> <li>injury in addition to the rape or attempted</li> </ul>	
rape itself. Percents for types of injury add to more than 100 because some victims	
Table 15. Medical expenses of injured female r	ар
	_
	Т
	_
Injured victims <sup>®</sup>	5
Percent of injured victims with medical expenses	
Total medical expenses \$71	1,6
Median medical expenses	
Note: As used in this table, "injury" means	-
injury in addition to the rape or attempted	
rape itself. Medians are computed only for	, i
Table 16. Reporting of rape of female victims	to
All victims <sup>a</sup>	
Rape reported to police Rape not reported to police	
Percent of unreported rapes by reason not reported:	
Nothing could be done	
Didn't think it was important Police would not want to be bothered	
Didn't want to take the time	
Private or personal matter	
Didn't want to get involved Afraid of reprisal	
Reported to someone else	
Other	-
Note: Percentages for reasons not reporting	
add to more than 100 because some respond-	
ents gave more than one reason.	

# Too few cases in survey sample to obtain

National Crime Survey for the decade 1973-82. During this period 1,082 cases of rape or attempted rape were reported by females age 12 and older, with each case having a weight of approximately 1,200. (Weights vary somewhat from year to year.)

Because the data were obtained from a sample and not from a complete enumeration, a sampling error (standard error) is associated with each number in this report. For example, the sampling error for the total number of rapes and attempted rapes (1,510,603)is  $\pm 62,800$ . That is, if a large number

ape, 1973-82			
	Victims of:	ims of:	
Total	Attempted rape	Completed rape	
1,511,000	1,032,000	479,000	
62%	71%	42%	
38	29	58	
31	23	49	
4 .	2	10	
2	#	3	
#	# 8	#	
9	8	12	

received more than one type.

Too few cases in survey sample to obtain statistically reliable data.

	Victims of:	
otal	Attempted rape	Completed rape
80,000	303,000	277,000
29%	15%	43%
49,000	\$13,601,000	\$58,048,000
\$104	\$86	\$115

those with medical expenses.
 a Includes some victims who did not know the amount of their medical expenses.

Victims of:					
Total	Attempted rape	Completed rape			
1,511,000	1,032,000	479,000			
52%	50%	58%			
47	49	40			
	1				
24%	27%	13%			
7	8	#			
9	10	#			
2	2	#			
29	25	39			
6	5	8			
16	12	27			
12	14	7			
36	34	42			

 Includes rapes for which reporting status was unknown,

5

of samples were drawn, the estimated number of rapes and attempted rapes would fall between 1,447,803 and 1,573,403 2 times out of 3. The estimated number will fall between  $\pm$  1.6 standard errors 9 times out of 10 and between  $\pm$  2.0 standard errors 19 times out of 20.

For smaller estimates the standard error will be smaller in number but proportionately larger. The standard error for 478,552 completed rapes is  $\pm$ 35,356; for 264,894 black victims,  $\pm$ 26,307; and for 20,608 victims 65 years of age or older,  $\pm$  7,338. Standard errors for estimates based on 10 or fewer cases are so large that they render the estimate virtually meaningless. Estimates this small have been eliminated from all tables.

Another point of methodological significance is the definition of rape. As defined in the National Crime Survey, attempted rape includes cases that involve verbal threat of rape only. About 25% of all rapes reported here were verbal threats. Some characteristics of verbal-threat incidents differed from other types of incidents, but the differences were not dramatic. For example, police were informed of the crime in 43% of the events involving only verbal threats compared with 52% of all rapes.

Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletins are prepared principally by the staff of BJS. This bulletin was written by Patsy A. Klaus and Marshall DeBerry, assisted by Anita Timrots. Carol B. Kalish, chief of data analysis, edits the bulletins. Marilyn Marbrook, publications unit chief, administers their production, assisted by Millie J. Baldea and Joyce M. Stanford. Tina L. Dorsey also assisted in the production of this bulletin.

CEA.

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