

SEXUAL ASSAULT AMONG UTAH WOMEN: A 2022 UPDATE

OVERVIEW

Sexual assault is a serious concern in Utah and the nation.



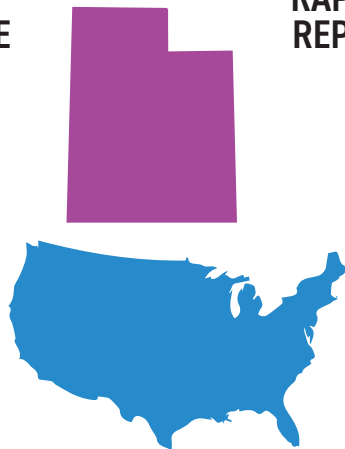
- Sexual assault includes
- harassment
 - unwanted touching
 - being forced to take sexual pictures
 - being forced to observe sexual behavior

Rape is sexual assault with vaginal/anal penetration.

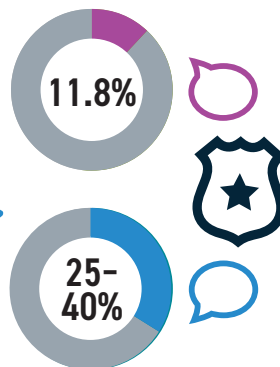
HOW DOES UTAH STACK UP?

Rape is the only violent crime where Utah's rate is above the national average.

RAPES PER 100,000 PEOPLE



RAPE & SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTED TO THE POLICE



Utah has the **9th highest** rape per capita rate in the nation.

SEXUAL ASSAULT VULNERABILITIES

Forensic examination data helps us understand personal and situational vulnerabilities of victims.

Victim Vulnerabilities

- 27.6 average age
- 94.7% women
- 47.2% self-disclosed mental illness
- 22.4% reported no permanent address
- 9.6% reported physical/mental impairment

Situational Vulnerabilities

- 62.6% of assaults take place in a house/apartment
- 40.7% involve alcohol use by the victim
- 16.2% are suspected drug-facilitated sexual assaults
- 16.1% involve drug use by the victim
- 12.6% of victims are asleep and awakened to assault

Compared to Utah census data, Black and Native American individuals are disproportionately affected by sexual assault.

PSYCHOLOGICAL & PHYSICAL IMPACT

Victims experience significant harm due to sexual assault.

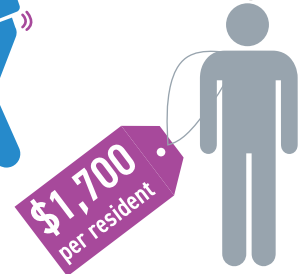


71% report non-anogenital injuries (e.g., bruises to extremities)
48.6% report loss of consciousness
47.7% report anogenital injuries (e.g., lacerations)

High levels of fear can incapacitate victims during the assault.



The financial burden of rape is estimated to cost \$1,700 per Utah resident per year.



>75% of survivors **KNOW THE ATTACKER** before the assault.

58% acquaintance
6.9% spouse/partner
5.7% ex-partner
6.1% other

SEXUAL ASSAULT KITS & PROSECUTION

Decade long efforts are improving processing of sexual assault kits.

38% of sexual assault kits submitted to state crime laboratory



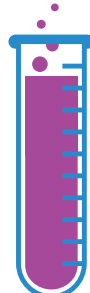
2010-2013

legislation passed mandating testing

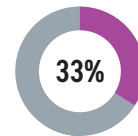


2017

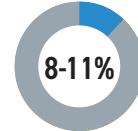
submission rates over 95%



2022



33% of adult sexual assault cases are referred by law enforcement for prosecution.



8-11% of cases are actually prosecuted.

National and state funding allowed state officials to test over 11,000 backlogged sexual assault kits and log over 5,000 forensic DNA profiles into national databases.

WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?

We must all do our part to reduce sexual violence in Utah.



Teach children about consent and healthy relationships.



Support agencies working to help survivors.



Believe and assist women who report sexual assault.



Increase referral and prosecution efforts.

UTAH WOMEN & LEADERSHIP Project

Click [here](#) for the full report.

UTAH WOMEN & LEADERSHIP PROJECT
Jon M. Huntsman School of Business
Utah State University Extension
uwlp@usu.edu • www.utwomen.org