

A Report of the Interagency Task Force on

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention

State of Minnesota
January 2004

A Report from the Interagency Task Force on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention

Prepared by:

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January 2004

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Minnesota Office of Justice Programs

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Office of Justice Programs

January 2004

Dear Governor Pawlenty and Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

The crimes of domestic violence and sexual assault continue to be a significant problem in Minnesota. The issues stemming from these crimes are complex and the needs of victims varied. Hundreds of agencies including victim assistance programs, crisis centers, and shelters provide intervention and prevention services throughout the state. Police departments, prosecutors' offices, and probation agencies in Minnesota attempt to address these issues through a victim-centered approach. Prevention strategies continue to be developed and implemented. But even with all of this good work, violence continues and the resultant need for assistance to victims remains critical.

When the Legislature created the Interagency Task Force on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention, there was no funding provided to support its operation. Staff and funding within the Office of Justice Programs were reallocated to incorporate the responsibilities of the task force and the expenses associated with its ongoing operation. The budget crisis of the past two years has resulted in staff reductions and increased responsibilities for the Office of Justice Programs. For these reasons, the Interagency Task Force on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention was unable to meet during 2004.

The Office of Justice Programs submits this report for your consideration. The report provides facts about domestic violence and sexual assault in Minnesota, an overview of funding provided to meet the needs of victims, and a recommendation of no further budget cuts to crime victim services. Also included is a new report from the Minnesota Department of Health titled, *Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence in Minnesota: Strategies for Prevention and Intervention*. Please review this report and keep the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault in the forefront as the state continues its work addressing the needs of Minnesota communities in the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Weber".

Paula Weber
Director, Interagency Task Force
Crime Victim Justice Unit



2004 Legislative Session

As a result of the state budget deficit, domestic violence and sexual assault programs have undergone difficult cut-backs in recent years. The Legislature has reduced the state general fund grant dollars for victim services almost 46 percent over the past three years. Reduction in services dictated by these cuts will have an extremely negative impact on the lives of victims, public safety, and the quality of life in our state.

Violence against women continues to be an epidemic in Minnesota. The annual cost of violence against women includes expenditures for law enforcement, prosecution, courts, hospitals, social services and corrections and is estimated at billions of dollars. These costs far exceed the cost

of domestic violence and sexual assault intervention and prevention programs.

These programs play a vitally significant role in providing essential victim services and reducing violence against women and the costs associated with violence. As the state faces additional budget concerns, further cuts in these services cannot be absorbed. The remaining state funds are urgently needed to support the statewide network of organizations that are struggling for stability to ensure that victims continue to receive adequate services.

Therefore, we renew the recommendation made in the 2003 IATF Report that there be no further budget reductions in the area of crime victim services.

Funding Sources and Amounts

Battered Women's Services	2003	2004
State General Fund Shelter Per Diem	\$18,379,000	\$15,595,000
State General Fund Grants	\$5,497,000	\$3,364,000
Federal Victims of Crime Act Funds	\$693,500	\$2,688,200
Federal Violence Prevention and Services Act Funds	\$1,555,848	\$1,555,848
Federal Violence Against Women Act Funds	\$988,000	\$1,373,080
Total	\$27,113,348	\$24,576,128

Sexual Assault Services

State General Fund Grants	\$2,087,000	\$1,052,000
Federal Victims of Crime Act Funds	\$1,098,712	\$1,454,398
Federal Violence Against Women Act Funds	\$1,143,000	\$875,168
Federal Prevention and Personal Health Care Block Grant Funds	\$130,936	\$120,468
Total	\$4,459,648	\$3,502,034

Domestic Violence

What is Domestic Violence?

According to the Office for Victims of Crime, “Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive behavior designed to exert power and control over a person in an intimate relationship through the use of intimidating, threatening, harmful or harassing behavior.”¹ It can be sexual, physical, or emotional abuse.

Domestic Violence in America

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) collects data annually on crimes against persons age 12 and older, reported or not reported to the police, from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. The NCVS provides information on victims, offenders and crime circumstances on a national level.² The NCVS is the source of the national data in this report.

In 2001, it was estimated that nearly 700,000 incidents of non-fatal domestic violence occurred in America, and of these, 85 percent were against women.³

Nationally, the number of non-fatal violent crimes by intimate partners has decreased by almost half since 1993.⁴ However, 1,247 women and 440 men were killed by an intimate partner in 2000. One-third of all female murder victims but only 4 percent of all male murder victims were killed by an intimate.⁴

Domestic violence made up 20 percent of all non-fatal violent crime experienced by women in 2001, but only 3 percent of non-fatal violence against men.⁵

Who Are Victims of Domestic Violence?

African-American and American Indian/Alaskan Native women experience the highest rates of domestic violence in the U.S.⁶

Younger women are more at risk of domestic violence; women ages 16 to 24 experienced the highest per capita rates of domestic violence of all age groups surveyed from 1993-99.⁷

Separated/divorced women who have low household incomes are particularly at risk for domestic violence.⁸

About four in 10 female victims of domestic violence lived in households with children under age 12.⁹

About half of the incidence of domestic violence against women from 1993-98, was reported to police; African-American women were more likely than other women to report the violence.¹⁰

Half of female victims of domestic violence reported a physical injury, and of these, four of 10 sought professional medical treatment for their injuries.¹¹

Domestic Violence in Minnesota

In 2002, 16 women and 13 children under age 16 were murdered as a result of domestic violence incidents.¹²

¹ National Victim Academy Textbook, Office of Victims of Crime; Chapter 9.

² Bureau of Justice Statistics, *National Crime Victimization Survey, 1995-2000*, December 2003.

³ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Intimate Partner Violence, 1993-2001*, February 2003.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ National Institute of Justice, *Extent, Nature and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence*, 2000.

⁷ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Intimate Partner Violence and Age of Victims, 1993-99*, October 2001.

⁸ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Intimate Partner Violence*, May 2000.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

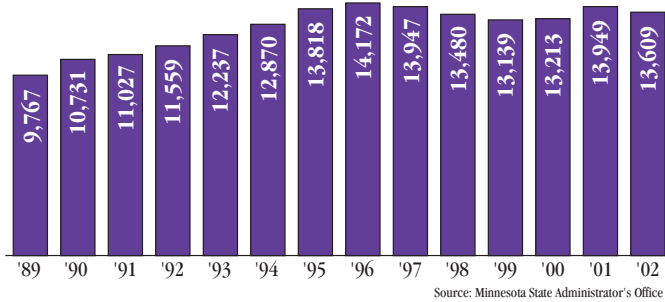
¹² Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, *2002 Femicide Report Women and Children Murdered in Minnesota*.

Domestic Violence

Orders for Protection and Domestic Violence Case Court Filings

Domestic orders for protection are court orders to protect individuals from domestic violence. Order for protection filings in Minnesota were highest at 14,172 in 1996, and fell to 13,609 in 2002.¹³

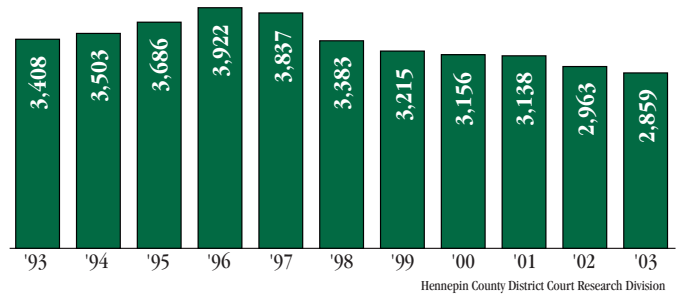
Domestic Abuse Orders for Protection Filings in Minnesota 1989 – 2002



Domestic Violence in Hennepin County and Minneapolis

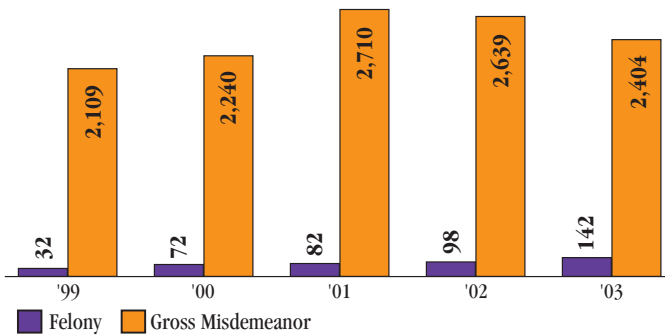
In Hennepin County, domestic abuse order for protection filings was highest at 3,922, in 1996. Since then, the number of domestic abuse order for protection filings have decreased each year.¹⁵

Domestic Abuse Order for Protection Filings in Hennepin County 1993 – 2003



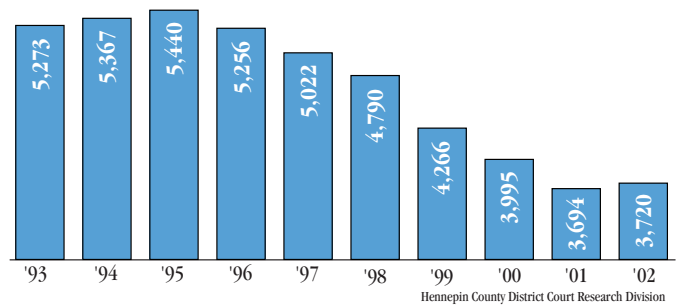
Minnesota domestic assault cases charged at the felony level have increased from 1999 to 2003.¹⁴

Minnesota Cases with Domestic Assault Charges 1999 – 2003*



In Hennepin County, misdemeanor domestic assault filings decreased from 1995 to 2001.

Misdemeanor Domestic Assault Filings in Hennepin County 1993 – 2002



¹³ Minnesota State Court Administrator's Office.

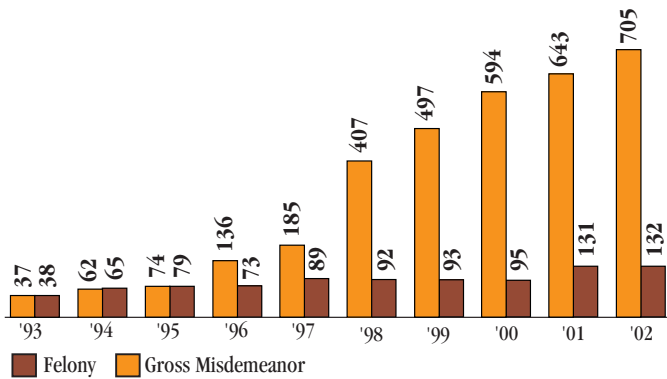
¹⁴ Minnesota State Court Administrator's Office. Domestic assault cases may also be charged as misdemeanors.

¹⁵ Hennepin County District Court Research Division.

Domestic Violence

Felony and gross misdemeanor domestic assault filings steadily increased in Hennepin County from 1993 through 2002.

Felony and Gross Misdemeanor Domestic Assault Filings in Hennepin County 1993 – 2002



In 2002, the Minneapolis Police Department received 19,031 “911 domestic calls.” In the same year, there were 4,652 reported cases of domestic assault, and of these, 2,368 resulted in an arrest.

Minnesota Hospital Data Results

In 2001, 806 Minnesotans received hospital care treatment for domestic violence. In 2000, the average charge for a domestic violence patient receiving hospital treatment was \$739. Of those domestic violence victims who went to the hospital, over 90 percent were treated in the emergency room and over 90 percent were women.¹⁷

2002 Minnesota Crime Survey Results

According to the 2002 Minnesota Crime Survey, 70 percent of domestic violence victims were victimized more than once in 2001. The survey also found that domestic violence victims accounted for more than one-quarter of all violent crime victims in 2001. Over 80 percent of victims of domestic violence in 2001 did not report the incidents to the police, according to the 2002 Minnesota Crime Survey.¹⁸

Domestic Assault in Minneapolis¹⁶

	2001	2002
911 Domestic Calls	19,701	19,031
911 Domestic Calls with a Weapon	465	426
Domestic Assault Reported	5,111	4,652
Domestic Assault Arrests	2,571	2,368
Domestic Assault Gone on Arrivals	2,540	2,284

Source: Minneapolis Police Department

¹⁶ Minneapolis Police Department.

¹⁷ Minnesota Department of Health, *Intimate Partner Violence Data Brief*, No. 1, November 2002.

¹⁸ Based upon a sample size of less than 80.

Domestic Violence

Programs to Assist Victims of Domestic Violence in Minnesota (2003)

There are 103 state funded programs in Minnesota for victims of domestic violence. This includes 27 shelters and 76 community advocacy programs, which provide shelter, crisis counseling/intervention, information/referral, advocacy, assistance filing reparations and group treatment/support.¹⁹

Shelter Services in Minnesota

In fiscal year 2003²⁰, 6,347 women and 6,578 children under age 17 were provided with housing at a shelter, hotel/motel or safe-home. The average length of stay at a shelter for women was 16.8 days and the average length of stay for a child was 19.6 days.²¹

In 2002, 25,419 beds were occupied by women and 29,098 by children in battered women's shelters in Hennepin County.²³ In Ramsey County, 1,209 women used battered women's shelters in 2002 and the average stay was 15 days.²⁴

The most common reason for women seeking shelter was to flee an abusive partner, according to a Minnesota study on homelessness. One in every three homeless women is homeless in part because of domestic violence. More than four in 10 homeless women reported that they stayed in an abusive relationship because they had nowhere else to live.²⁵

Further Information

For more information, contact the Criminal Justice Statistics Helpline at 651-296-4852, or Gail Carlson at 651-297-3824.

Victims of Domestic Violence Served by OJP-funded Shelters and Domestic Violence Community Advocacy Programs²²

	Number Served*	Number Sheltered	Bed Days**
Women	30,622	6,347	97,446
Children	17,736	6,578	114,510
Men	1,393	30	91
Total	49,751	12,955	212,047

* Number provided services such as shelter, crisis counseling, advocacy, group treatment/support and assistance with reparations. This number includes the number sheltered.

** Includes shelters, hotels/motels and safe-homes.

¹⁹ Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs.

²⁰ July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003.

²¹ Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs.

²² Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs.

²³ Hennepin County Office of Planning and Development, 2002 Hennepin County Community Indicators.

²⁴ Wilder Research Center, Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing and Battered Women's Shelters, July 2003.

²⁵ Wilder Research Center, Understanding Homelessness 2000.

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs Statistical Analysis Center

OJP Fact Sheet, Mary Ellison, Executive Director, November 2003

Sexual Assault

What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is the use of sexual actions and words that are unwanted by and/or harmful to another person. Some common terms that are used interchangeably with sexual assault are sexual abuse and sexual violence.¹

Rape is generally defined as nonconsensual sexual penetration perpetrated through physical or psychological force, or threat of bodily harm.

Sexual Assault in America

It is estimated that one in six American women have been victims of an attempted or completed rape in their lifetimes.²

Every two minutes in America, it is estimated that someone is sexually assaulted.³

In 2002, there were an estimated 247,730 victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault in America.⁴

It is estimated nationally that 53.7 percent of victims of sexual assault reported the incident to the police in 2002, up from 30 percent in 1993.⁵

Who Are victims of Sexual Assault?

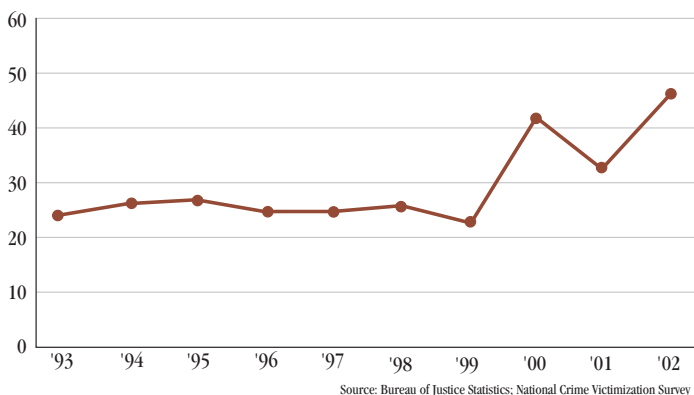
It is estimated that 88 percent of sexual assault victims are women; 12 percent are men.⁶

It is estimated that 3 percent of American men are victims of attempted or completed rape in their lifetimes.⁷

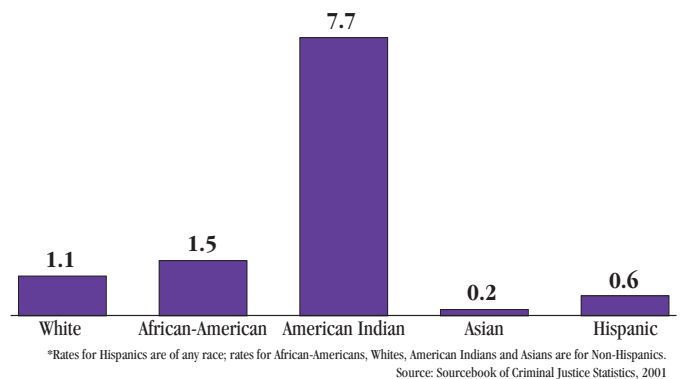
It appears that youth are particularly at risk for sexual assault. The rape/sexual assault rate for ages 16 to 19 was nearly twice as high as all other age groups, according to national survey data completed in 2002.⁸

The rape/sexual assault rate for American Indians is higher than for White, African-American, Asians and Hispanics in the U.S, according to the NCVS.⁹

Percentage of Rapes and Sexual Assaults Reported to Police from 1993 – 2002 for the U.S.



Rape/Sexual Assault Rate per 1,000 Persons by Race/Ethnicity for the U.S. in 2000



¹ Minnesota Department of Health.

² Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network (RAINN).

³ BCA, Minnesota Crime Information, 2002.

⁴ 2002 National Crime Victimization Surveys (NCVS).

⁵ Bureau of Justice Statistics, Criminal Victimization, 2002, National Crime Victimization Survey.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ RAINN.

⁸ Bureau of Justice Statistics, Criminal Victimization, 2002, National Crime Victimization Survey.

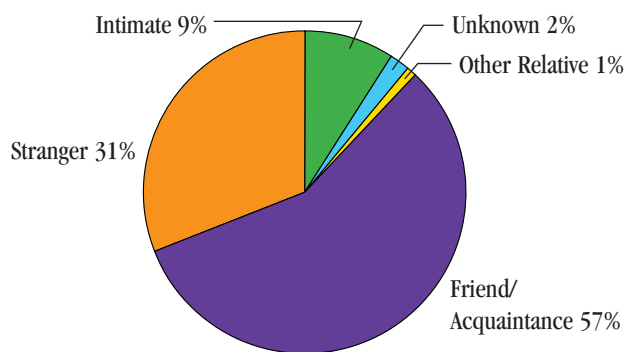
⁹ Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 2001.

Sexual Assault

National surveys suggest that household income is negatively related to sexual assault/rape victimization rates;¹⁰ families with the lowest incomes (less than \$7,500) have the highest victimization rates and families with incomes of \$75,000 and over have the lowest victimization rates.¹¹

Of victims, 67 percent know their attackers; 31 percent of attackers are strangers to their victims.¹²

Attackers Relationship to Victims of Rape/Sexual Assault in the U.S. in 2002



Source: Criminal Victimization, 2002; Bureau of Justice Statistics

Sexual assault was most likely to occur at the victim's home or the home of a friend, relative, or neighbor, according to the NCVS.¹³

Sexual Assault in Minnesota

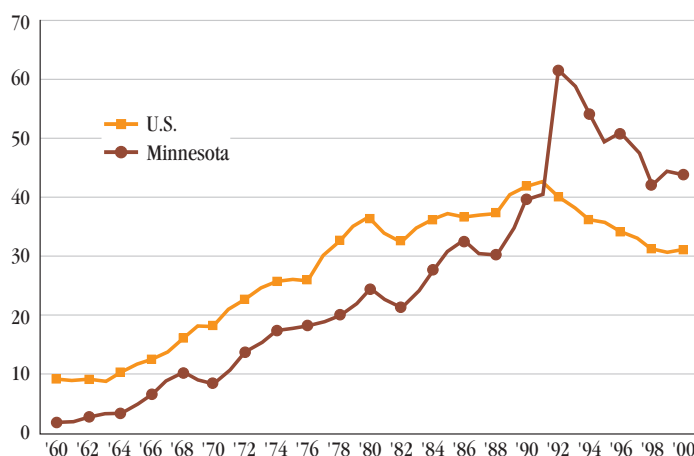
In Minnesota, there is a sexual assault every 83 minutes.

In 2002, there were 6,321 reported sexual assaults in Minnesota, including 2,258 reported forcible rape cases. Forty-eight percent of the rape cases were cleared by arrest.¹⁴

The total number of sexual assaults has dropped nearly 50 percent in the U.S. from 1993 to 2002 according to the NCVS, but only 2 percent in Minnesota, according to FBI data.

From 1960 to 1993, Minnesota's rape rate was lower than the nation's. Since 1993, Minnesota's rape rate has been higher than the national average.¹⁵

Forcible Rape Rate* per 100,000 Persons for U.S. and Minnesota from 1960 – 2001



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

* In 1993, Minnesota rape data furnished by the State-level Uniform Crime Reporting Program were not in accordance with national UCR guidelines. Therefore, in 1993, rape totals for Minnesota were estimated.¹⁶

Violent crime rates for both the U.S. and Minnesota have decreased since 1993. Minnesota's violent crime rate has been consistently lower than the national average.

¹⁰ Age 12 and over.

¹¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2001, (NCVS).

¹² Bureau of Justice Statistics, Criminal Victimization, 2002, (NCVS).

¹³ Bureau of Justice Statistics, Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2001, (NCVS).

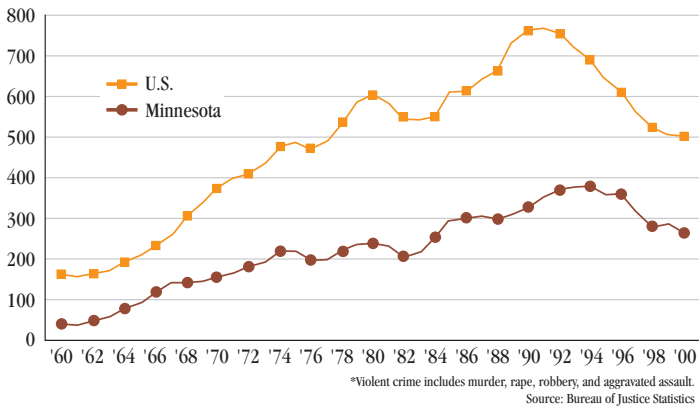
¹⁴ Includes rapes and other sex offenses.

¹⁵ Bureau of Justice Statistics, Criminal Victimization, 2002, (NCVS).

¹⁶ Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Sexual Assault

Violent Crime* Rates per 100,000 Persons for U.S. and Minnesota from 1960 – 2001



A 2001 University of Minnesota Boynton Health Service survey found that 4.3 percent of Minneapolis campus college women and 0.8 percent of college men experienced actual or attempted sexual intercourse against their will over the past year.¹⁷ A national survey of college women found that one in 10 women were raped, one in 10 were victims of attempted rape, and one in three women were victims of unwanted sexual contact in their lifetimes.¹⁸

In 2001, 1,051 Minnesotans received hospital care for sexual violence. The majority of those seeking hospital care were treated in the emergency room. The average charge for this treatment in 2000 was \$452 and for inpatient treatment was \$5,235.¹⁹

Programs to Assist Victims of Sexual Assault in Minnesota (2003)

In fiscal year 2003, there were 55 programs in Minnesota for victims of sexual assault. These programs served 8,699 primary victims and 4,750 secondary victims. Primary victims contacted the programs because they were victims of sexual assault and secondary victims contacted the program because of the sexual assault of another person.²⁰

Further Information

For more information, contact the Criminal Justice Statistics Helpline at 651-296-4852, or Gail Carlson at 651-297-3824.

Characteristics of New Primary Victims***

Primary Victims served	7,177
Percentage Female	89%
Percentage Children**	37%
Percentage Minority*	28%

* Includes all race categories except White Non-Hispanics.

** Includes ages 17 and under.

*** Victims served for the first time from July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003.

¹⁷ Roberta Gibbons, Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

¹⁸ Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Institute of Justice, The Sexual Victimization of College Women, 2000.

¹⁹ Minnesota Department of Health, Violence Data Brief Sexual Violence, No. 2, June 2003.

²⁰ Minnesota Center for Crime Victim Services.

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs Statistical Analysis Center

OJP Fact Sheet, Mary Ellison, Executive Director, November 2003

