

SEXUAL VIOLENCE INJURY IN CONNECTICUT: A FACT SHEET – 2022 UPDATE

INJURY AND VIOLENCE SURVEILLANCE UNIT • APRIL 2024

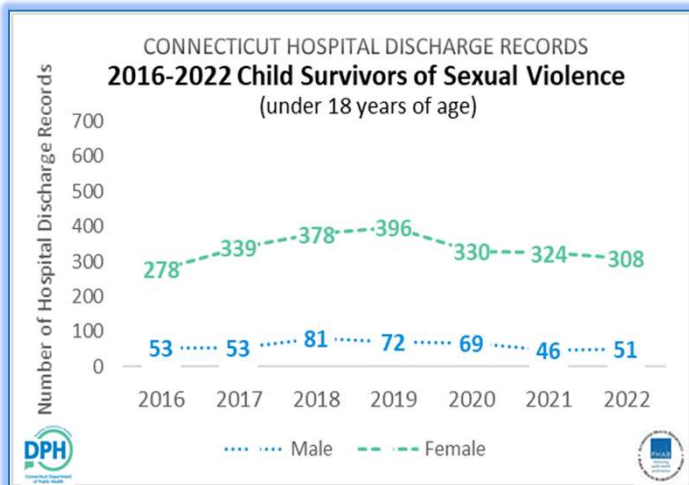
What We Know About Sexual Violence In Connecticut:

Sexual violence (SV) is a serious public health concern that can have profound, lifelong impacts on the well-being of a survivor, especially when that survivor was first approached as a child.¹ SV is a sexual act that is committed or attempted by another person without freely given consent of the victim or against someone who is unable to consent or refuse^{2,3} and occurs through physical force, coercion, intimidation, humiliation, causing or taking advantage of another’s drug or alcohol intoxication, or taking advantage of another person’s inability to consent.⁴ Sexual violence includes rape, child sexual abuse (victims younger than 18), and sex trafficking, a form of human slavery.⁵

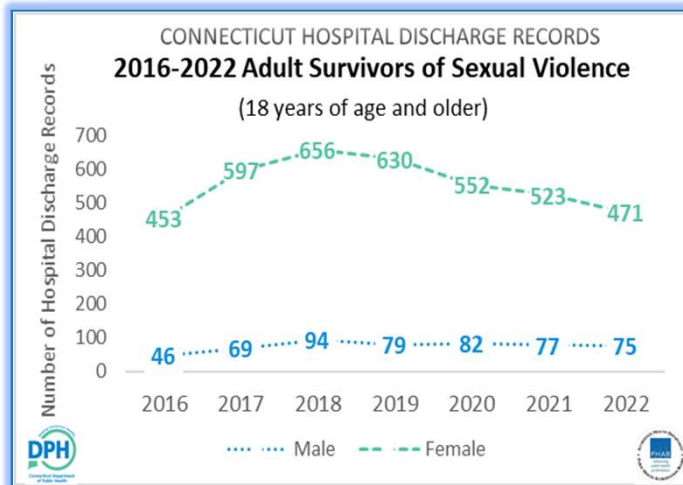
Official numbers for sexual violence are likely underestimated because survivors may be ashamed, embarrassed, or afraid to tell the police, friends, or family about the violence⁶, making the full impact of this abuse difficult to measure. Data provided in this fact sheet address a subset of sexual violence, those individuals treated in a Connecticut hospital because of a sexually violent injury. Sexual violence, different from domestic violence, is typically not a reported cause of death, thus fatal injury from sexual violence is not addressed in this fact sheet.

Key Points:

- In CT during 2022, 359 minors and 546 adults were seen in area hospitals for injuries from sexual violence.
- The 2021 Connecticut School Health Survey shows 6 % of high school students reported forced intercourse and 14 % reported dating pressure to engage in unwanted sexual acts.
- The risk of injury from sexual violence is highest in the female non-Hispanic black race and in Hispanics of all races.
- In the 2017 study, “Lifetime Economic Burden of Rape Among U.S. Adults” the estimated costs of rape exceeded \$122,000 per victim, contributing to \$1.2 trillion in medical costs, \$1.6 trillion in lost productivity at work for victims and perpetrators, and \$234 billion in criminal justice costs to the US economy.
- Nonfatal child sexual abuse was associated with nearly \$283,000 in costs over the lifetime of each female survivor.⁷
- Nationally, almost 85% of sexual violence survivors knew the person who raped or assaulted them.



Data Source: Connecticut Hospital Discharge Data

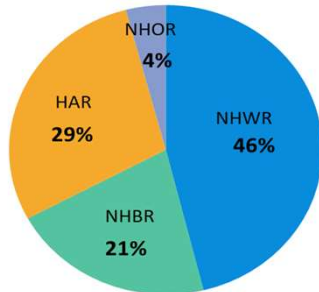


Data Source: Connecticut Hospital Discharge Data

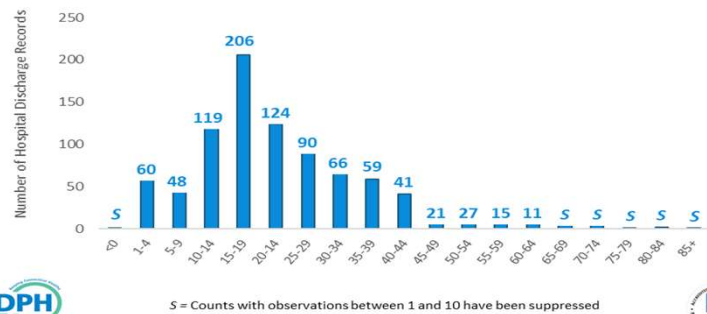
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Percentage of Nonfatal Sexual Violence Injury in Connecticut by Race/Ethnicity (2018-2022 5-year Average)



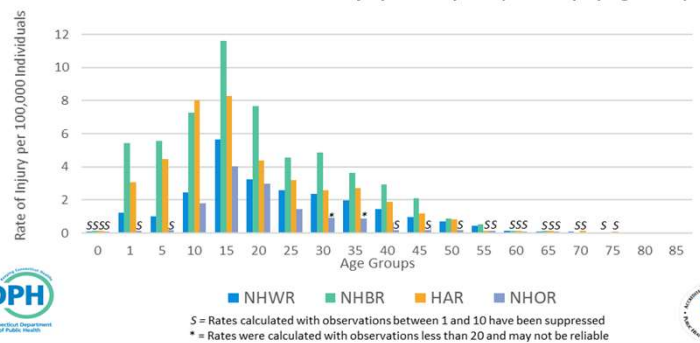
2022 Distribution of Connecticut Nonfatal Sexual Violence by Age Category



AGE-ADJUSTED INCIDENCE RATES (AAIR)
Nonfatal Sexual Violence Injury Rates by Race/Ethnicity by Year
2020 - 2022 Data are Provisional



2018-2022 FIVE-YEAR AGE-ADJUSTED INCIDENCE RATES (AAIR)
Connecticut Nonfatal Sexual Violence Injury Rates by Race/Ethnicity by Age Group



Data Source: Connecticut Hospital Discharge Data

NHWR=non-Hispanic white race, NHBR=non-Hispanic black race, HAR=Hispanic (all races), NHOR=non-Hispanic other races

How to reduce the risks for sexual violence:

- Challenge cultural norms that support aggression towards others, and harmful norms around masculinity and femininity.
- Build neighborhoods with community support and connectedness.
- Provide access to mental health and substance abuse services.
- Invest in strategies to reduce other kinds of community violence - gun violence, interpersonal violence, youth violence.
- Advocate for policies that invest in health, education, and social safety nets.
- Support programs and policies designed to reduce poverty and unemployment.

Additional Resources:

- Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence: <https://endsexualviolencect.org/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/>
- Office on Women's Health (womenshealth.gov): <https://www.womenshealth.gov/relationships-and-safety/sexual-assault-and-rape>

References

- 1 <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/sv-prevention-technical-package.pdf>
- 2 https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/sv_surveillance_definitions-2009-a.pdf
- 3 <https://centerforsurvivors.msu.edu/education-resources/sexual-violence-educational-information/sexual-violence-definitions.html>
- 4 <https://nmcscap.org/prevention/what-is-sexual-violence/>
- 5 <https://www.nsvrc.org/about-sexual-assault>
- 6 https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/Publications_NSVRC_Factsheet_What-is-sexual-violence_1.pdf
- 7 Letourneau, et al., 2018. Child Abuse and Neglect. May;79:413-422. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.02.020. Epub 2018 Mar 20.