

SEXUAL VIOLENCE INJURY IN CONNECTICUT: A FACT SHEET – 2023 UPDATE

INJURY AND VIOLENCE SURVEILLANCE UNIT • OCTOBER 2024

What We Know About Sexual Violence In Connecticut:

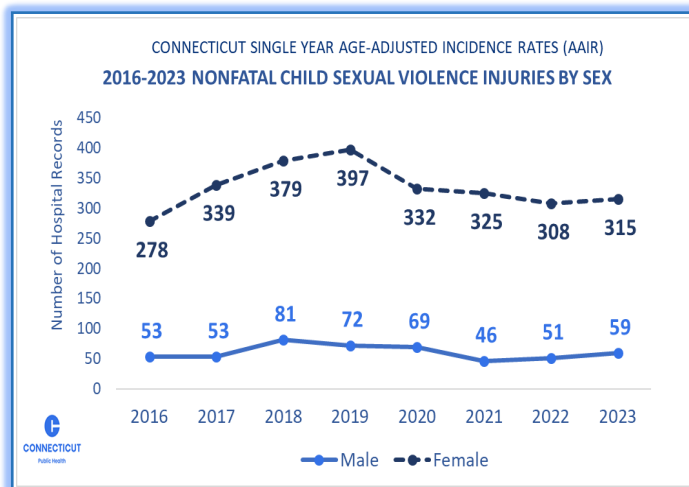
Sexual violence (SV) is a serious public health concern that can have profound, lifelong impacts on the well-being of a survivor, especially when that survivor was first approached as a child.¹ SV is a sexual act that is committed or attempted by another person without freely given consent of the victim or against someone who is unable to consent or refuse² 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.³ Sexual violence includes rape, child sexual abuse (victims younger than 18), and sex trafficking, a form of human slavery.⁴

Survivors of sexual assault experience higher rates of depression, anxiety, substance use disorders, eating disorders, sleep disorders, suicidal thoughts, and attempted suicide.

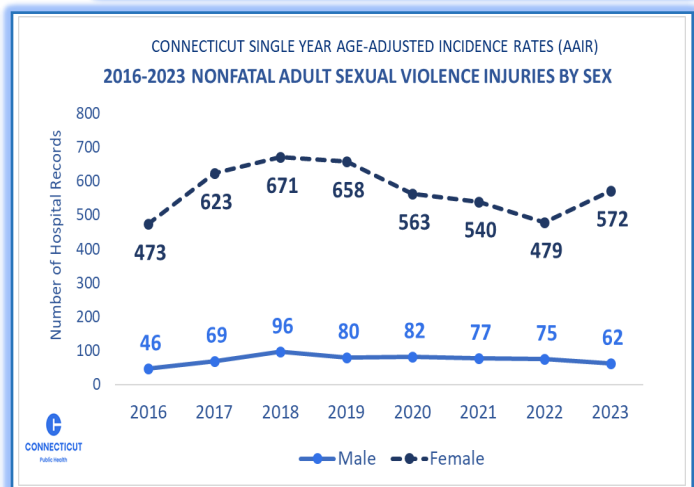
Sexual violence is likely underreported because survivors may be ashamed, embarrassed, or afraid to tell the police, friends, or family about the violence⁵, making the full impact of this abuse difficult to measure. Data in this fact sheet address a subset of sexual violence, those individuals treated in a Connecticut hospital because of a sexually violent injury. Sexual violence, different from domestic violence, is typically not a reported cause of death, and is not addressed in this fact sheet.

Key Points:

- In Connecticut, during 2023, 374 minors and 634 adults were seen in area hospitals for injuries from sexual violence.
- The 2023 Connecticut School Health Survey shows 6.7 % of high school students reported forced intercourse and 14.7 % 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.⁶
- Nationally, almost 85% of sexual violence survivors *knew* the person who raped or assaulted them.



Data Source: Connecticut Hospital Discharge Data

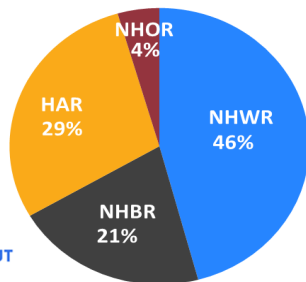


Data Source: Connecticut Hospital Discharge Data

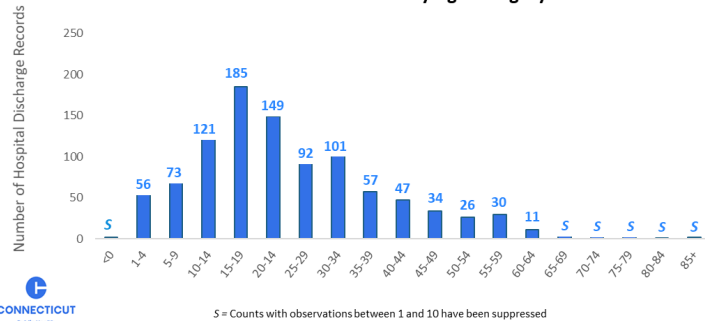
SEXUAL VIOLENCE INJURY IN CONNECTICUT: A FACT SHEET – 2023 UPDATE

INJURY AND VIOLENCE SURVEILLANCE UNIT • OCTOBER 2024

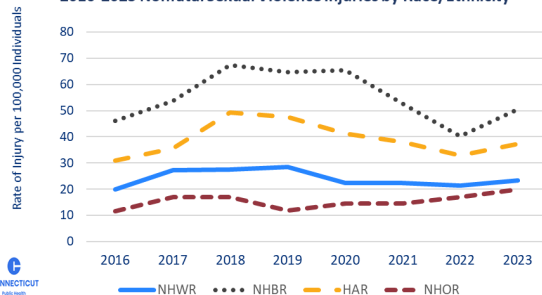
Percentage of Nonfatal Sexual Violence Injury in Connecticut by Race/Ethnicity (2019-2023 5-year Average)



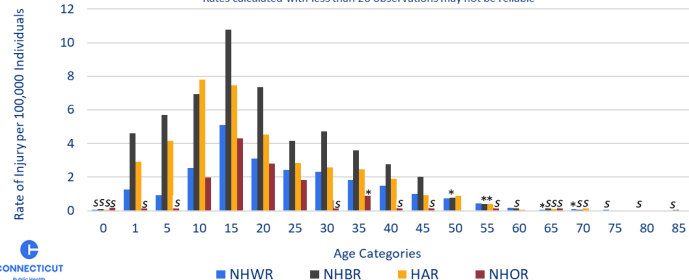
2023 Distribution of Connecticut Nonfatal Sexual Violence by Age Category



CONNECTICUT SINGLE YEAR AGE-ADJUSTED INCIDENCE RATES (AAIR) 2016-2023 Nonfatal Sexual Violence Injuries by Race/Ethnicity



CONNECTICUT FIVE-YEAR AVERAGED AGE-ADJUSTED INCIDENCE RATES (AAIR) 2019-2023 Nonfatal Sexual Violence Injuries by Race/Ethnicity/Age



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

Sexual Violence Prevention in Connecticut:

Individuals, organizations, and communities are working together to support survivors of sexual abuse by

- Building and strengthening collaborative partnerships to address **shared risk and protective factors** associated with multiple forms of community violence
- Equipping professionals with the resources, knowledge, and skills to support those who have experienced harm
- Promoting policies, social norms, and physical environments that improve safety and social supports
- Conducting active bystander training to create cultural norms that protect against community violence

Through partnerships with the **Alliance to End Sexual Violence** (<https://endsexualviolencect.org/>), free, confidential support services are available to children, adolescents, and adults who have experienced sexual violence.

Free 24-Hour Helpline: English 888-999-5545 & Spanish 888-568-8332

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://nmcsap.org/prevention/what-is-sexual-violence/>
- 4 <https://www.nsvrc.org/about-sexual-assault>
- 5 https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/Publications_NSVRC_Factsheet_What-is-sexual-violence_1.pdf
- 6 Letourneau, et al., 2018. Child Abuse and Neglect. May:79:413-422. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.02.020. Epub 2018 Mar 20.