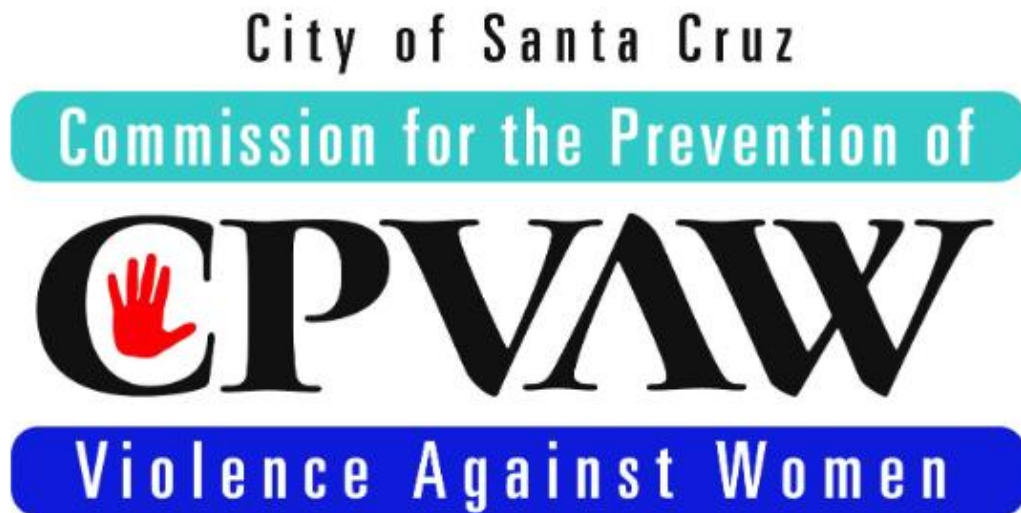


The 2024 Annual Report & Joint Report on Sexual Assault

Presented by the Commission for the
Prevention of Violence Against Women
&
The Santa Cruz Police Department



Approved on April 2, 2025

Dear Mayor Keeley and Esteemed Council Members,

On behalf of the Santa Cruz City Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women (CPVAW) and the Santa Cruz Police Department (SCPD), we are pleased to present the 2024 Joint Annual Report on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. This report represents a collaboration between CPVAW and the SCPD, aimed at addressing sexual assault and domestic violence against women in our community.

Purpose and Impact: We are confident that this report serves as a resource for community education and the activation of initiatives to reinforce safety measures and prevent violence against women. Through our unified endeavors, CPVAW and the SCPD are steadfast in our commitment to safeguarding the well-being of our residents and nurturing a secure environment for all.

Progress and Challenges: This report also serves as a vital compass for mobilizing initiatives to combat violence against women, which is at the core of CPVAW's mission. Our collaborative efforts are dedicated to ensuring the safety and welfare of every resident while upholding the dignity and rights of all individuals.

Ongoing Initiatives:

- SCPD remains committed and dedicated to conducting thorough, timely, and professional investigations, ensuring justice for survivors.
- CPVAW will persist in collaborating with educational and preventative programs, fostering awareness and prevention.
- Both entities will closely collaborate during critical events, emphasizing outreach and support.

Together, we are resolutely committed to eradicating sexual assaults and domestic violence in Santa Cruz. Our dedication extends to fostering community engagement and supporting programs and initiatives aimed at preventing violence against women. We sincerely thank you for your unwavering support in our shared endeavor to create a safer environment for all members of our community.

CPVAW and the SCPD stand committed to nurturing a culture of safety and support, enriching the lives of each resident we serve. Our commitment to delivering the highest level of service remains unwavering. Together, we strive to eliminate sexual assault and domestic violence through collaboration, community engagement, and effective solutions.

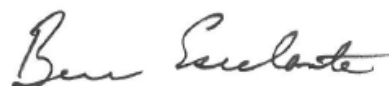
Respectfully submitted on behalf of CPVAW and the SCPD,



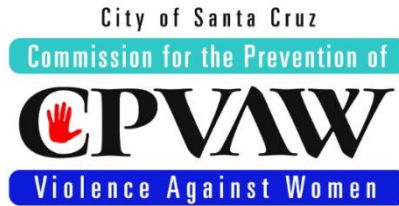
Karen Madura
2025 Chair CPVAW



Danielle Long
2024 Chair CPVAW



Bernie Escalante
Chief of Police, SCPD



MISSION

To collaborate with local stakeholder partners and law enforcement to ensure best practices to respond to and prosecute violent crimes against women.

VISION

To end sexual assault, sexual harassment, and domestic violence in the City of Santa Cruz through prevention, programs, and public policy.

ABOUT CPVAW

To end sexual assault, sexual harassment, and domestic violence in the City of Santa Cruz through prevention, programs, and public policy. Its creation was a response to the high rates of domestic violence and sexual assault in the city and the need for a community-led effort to address these issues.

The Commission's main focus areas and priorities include:

- Providing education to the community and raising awareness of the resources available to survivors of violence.
- Advocating for the development of programs and services that support survivors.
- Promoting the prevention of violence by addressing its root causes.

The Commission's primary goal is to raise awareness of the impact of violence against women and to promote healthy, non-violent relationships. In addition, it seeks to engage and empower community members to prevent violence through education, support, and resources. We also collaborate with other organizations and agencies to develop coordinated responses to violence against women, which includes training and educating first responders and law enforcement.

The Commission also has several specific goals and priorities that have been identified, including developing prevention programs for youth, working to increase the availability and accessibility of services for survivors, improving data collection and reporting on violence against women, and addressing the intersections of violence with issues such as racism and poverty. In 2024 the Commission focused on these two goal areas:

1. Increase CPVAW's Visibility and Impact
2. Strengthen CPVAW's Processes

Overall, CPVAW is committed to creating a safe and supportive community for all women, free from violence and oppression. Established in 1981 by Ordinance 81-29, CPVAW consists of

seven city resident volunteers who are appointed by the Santa Cruz City Council. Originally brought forward by community members, then approved by the City Council, the Commission is a City Council Advisory Body.

2024 Commissioners

Courtney Barrett

Ilene Feinman

Danielle Long, Chair

Karen Madura, Vice Chair

Anissa Novak

Ann Simonton

Gabriella Trigueiro

CPVAW Meetings

CPVAW schedules six meetings per year on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. We encourage members of our community and city government to attend CPVAW meetings. We hope to foster an open dialogue with our community to share information and concerns, and to work together to develop policies and programs that further our mission.

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to provide a better understanding for our community members regarding the issue of sexual assault, domestic violence, and identify local trends and key findings. This report should be used to tailor educational outreach, define opportunities for our community to reduce sexual assault, and identify ways for the Santa Cruz Police Department to remain up to date on the best practices when working with victims, and when conducting investigations.

Data Sources

The SCPD is currently transitioning from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Summary Reporting System (SRS) to UCR National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) / California Incident-Based Reporting System (CIBRS). NIBRS is now the FBI's statistical guideline for the entire nation which captures a higher standard of data reporting, better informing both the public and agencies on crime in general.

A few key benefits of this change will be that SRS used the hierarchy rule to only count the highest offense in each incident, whereas NIBRS/CIBRS counts up to 10 offenses per incident and reports on more offense categories than SRS. NIBRS captures detailed and meaningful information on victims, relationships between victims and offenders, property, arrestees, attempted versus completed crimes, and known offenders. This information provides greater insight into incidents holistically.

Below is a table showing the expanded categories in UCR CIBRS/NIBRS compared to UCR SRS (Source: SCPD):

Crimes Against	UCR SRS (categories which were previously reported)	UCR CIBRS/NIBRS (updated categories)
Persons	Homicide	Murder
		Negligent manslaughter
		Justifiable Homicide
	Rape	Rape
		Sodomy
		Sexual Assault with Object
		Fondling
	Aggravated Assault	Aggravated Assault
		Simple Assault
		Intimidation
		Kidnapping/Abduction
		Incest
		Statutory Rape
		Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts
		Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude

One of the primary advantages of NIBRS over UCR Summary is its ability to provide greater detail and context about crime incidents. By capturing information on multiple offenses within a single incident and including data on victim characteristics and relationships between victims and offenders, NIBRS offers insights into the dynamics of criminal activity that are not available through UCR Summary. This level of detail allows law enforcement agencies, policymakers, and researchers to better understand the nature and extent of crime in their communities, identify emerging trends, and tailor prevention and intervention strategies accordingly.

Moreover, NIBRS facilitates more accurate and standardized reporting practices by using a broader and more detailed set of data elements. This standardized approach reduces inconsistencies in reporting among different agencies and ensures that crime data are comparable and reliable across jurisdictions.

Despite its many advantages, NIBRS has been presented with its own challenges. While NIBRS was developed in the 1980s, its nationwide implementation has been gradual. The FBI has encouraged law enforcement agencies to transition from the traditional UCR Summary reporting format to NIBRS reporting over time. However, the transition process has been voluntary, and many agencies continue to report crime data using the summary-based UCR format. Many law enforcement agencies lack the resources and capacity to invest in training and technology to implement NIBRS fully.

While both the UCR Summary system and NIBRS systems aim to provide valuable insights into crime trends and statistics, NIBRS offers a more comprehensive and detailed approach to crime reporting. By adopting a broader definition of rape and collecting more detailed information about each incident, NIBRS provides a more accurate representation of the prevalence and nature of sexual assaults and other crimes. With the FBI's recent commitment to transitioning to NIBRS

reporting nationwide, law enforcement agencies and policymakers will have access to richer and more reliable crime data to inform their efforts to enhance public safety and address criminal justice issues.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024 COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

- Issued CPVAW Newsletter 2024
- Partnered with Santa Cruz City Schools to provide student safety and wellness programs
- Continued providing drug testing coasters at local establishments
- Increased CPVAW brand awareness by giving out t-shirts, tote bags, and stickers at community events
- Increased community-based organization partnerships by collaborating on the following programs and events: Dyke Trans March, Pride Parade, March to End Homelessness, She Is Beautiful race; Walnut Avenue Family and Women's Center; Monarch Services
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month: DVAM Banner hung at City Hall throughout the month; Monarch Services poster contest
- Hired half-time staff to support programs
- Created a shared data page to centralize information and resources related to domestic violence and sexual assault to enhance collaboration among service providers, improve public awareness, and inform policy-making efforts.



Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury

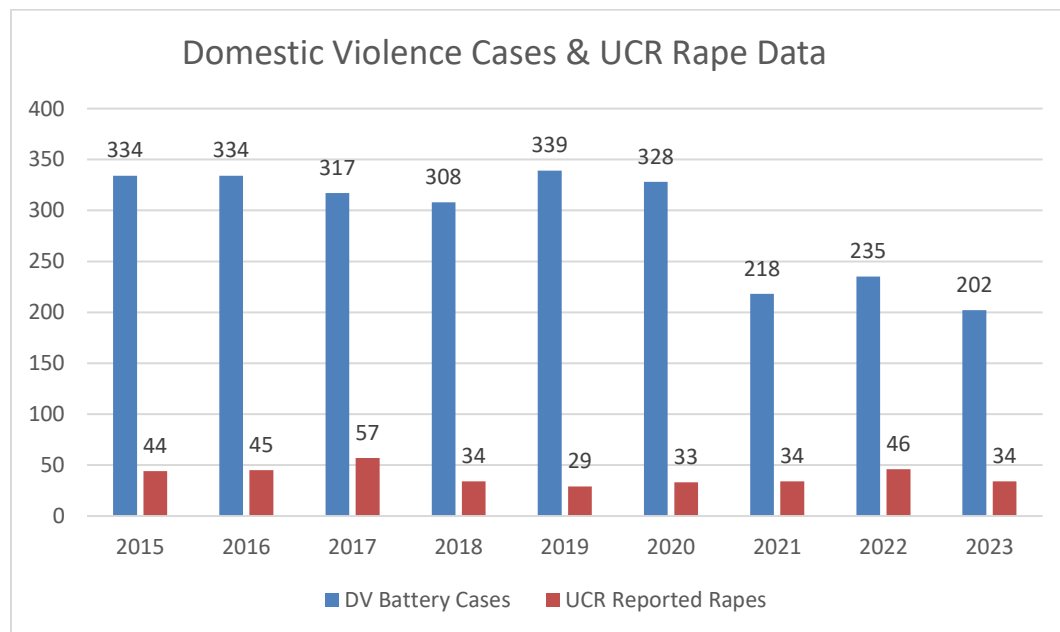
In June 2024, the Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury issued a report “City of Santa Cruz: Preventing Rape and Domestic Violence, Where’s the Priority?” ([Rape Data Draft Report](#)) which required responses from the Santa Cruz City Council, and invited responses from CPVAW, Santa Cruz City Manager and Superintendent, Santa Cruz City Schools. The report with responses can be found here: [2024-9 RapeData Report with Responses.pdf](#).

Statistical Data for the City of Santa Cruz

CPVAW collects data on Domestic Violence trends in the City. Domestic violence is defined as “abuse committed against an adult or a minor who is a spouse, former spouse, cohabitant, former cohabitant, or person with whom the suspect has had a child or is having or has had a dating or engagement relationship.”

The chart below includes both Domestic Violence (DV) cases and Rape cases as defined by the UCR over the past nine years. A review of this data shows a 34% decrease in Domestic Violence from 328 cases in 2020 to 218 cases in 2021, and an all-time low of 202 cases in 2023. **Data for 2024 is not available.**

For UCR Reported Rapes data there was a high of 57 cases in 2017, to a low of 29 cases in 2019. There has been a 26% decrease from 2022 (46 cases) to 2023 (34 cases). **Data for 2024 is not available.**



Data source: SCPD and DOJ

DOJ has not published data for 2021

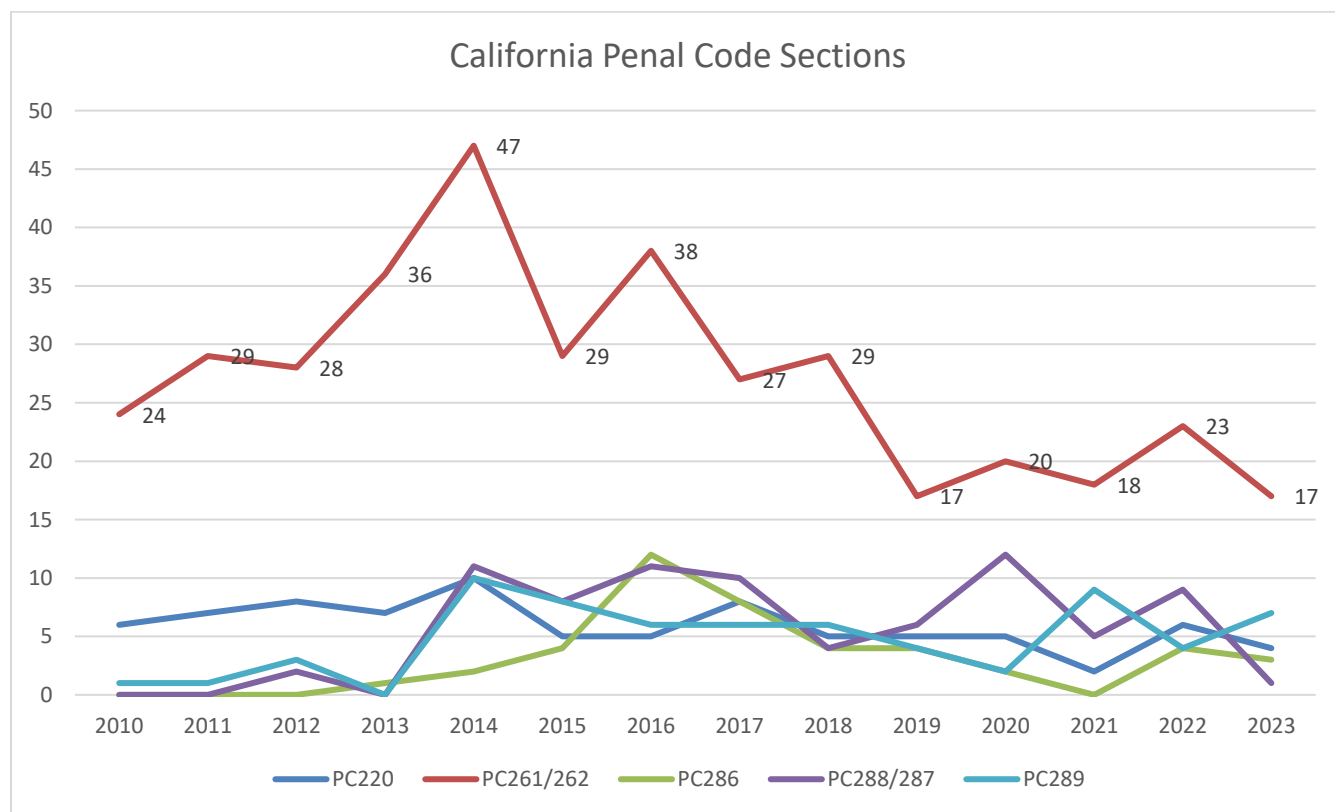
“Rape is the most under-reported crime; 63% of sexual assaults are not reported to police.”
National Sexual Violence Resource Center, Info & Stats for Journalists: Statistics About Sexual Violence

Department of Justice UCR Data & California Penal Code Sections

The UCR data is a summary composed of five different California Penal Code Sections. To understand the data, staff looked at each penal code section separately over the past 14 years. A reported crime may include multiple offenses within one case. This can make it difficult to interpret the data. The graph below shows that within the UCR data, PC261/262 “Rape” has the highest crime rate. There is a notable decline from the peak in 2014 of 47 cases to 17 cases in 2023.

Data from 2024 is not available.

There has been a decline from 2022-2023 in each of the separate penal codes with the exception of PC289 which increased from 4 cases to 7 cases.



Source: SCPD

- **California Penal Codes**

Sexual assault in California is defined as any sexual activity against the consent of the victim by means of force, threat of force, violence, duress, or where the victim is incapable of giving consent or is unconscious of the nature of the act. This includes various penal codes in addition to rape.

- 220 PC Attempted Rape: attempted unwanted vaginal intercourse.
- 261/262 PC Rape: unwanted vaginal intercourse
- 286 PC Sodomy: unwanted anal intercourse
- 287/288 PC Oral Copulation: unwanted oral intercourse
- 289 PC Penetration with a foreign object

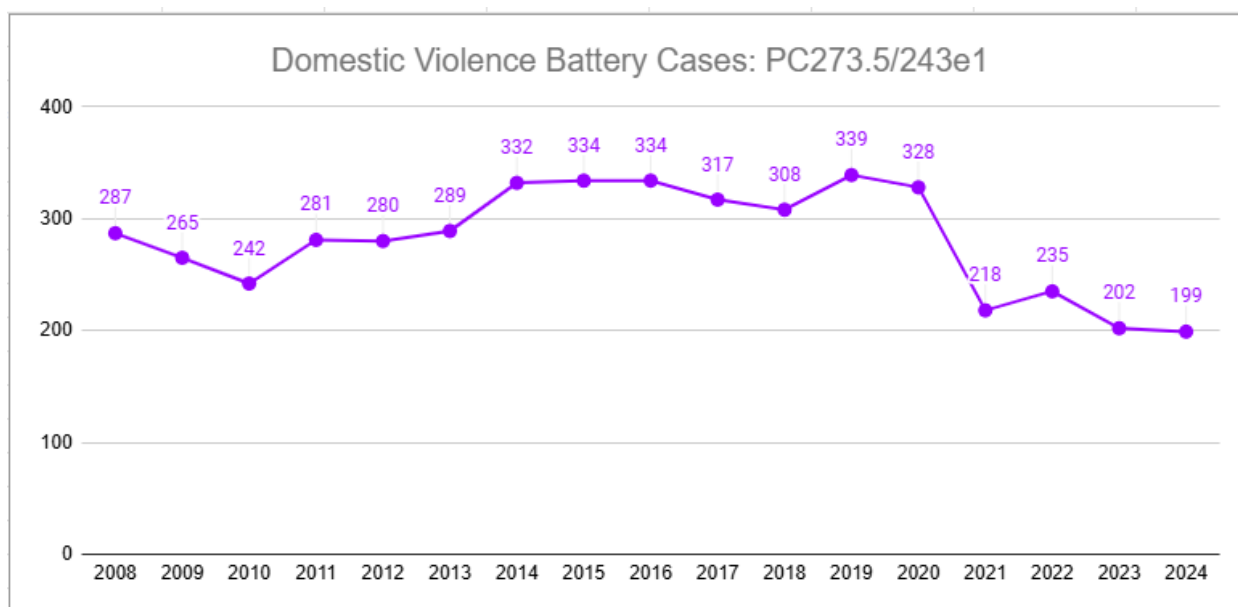
*PC262 Spousal Rape was repealed 2021, now under PC261

*PC288 Oral Copulation – in 2019 became PC287

City of Santa Cruz Domestic Violence Trends: 2008-2024

According to CA Penal Code Section 13700-13702, domestic violence means abuse committed against an adult or a minor who is a spouse, former spouse, cohabitant, former cohabitant, or person with whom the suspect has had a child or is having or has had a dating or engagement relationship. CA Penal Code Sections 273.5 and 243e1 are used to identify these cases.

A 17-year look at the number of Domestic Violence cases shows a high of 339 cases in 2019, and an all-time low of 199 cases in 2024.



Source: SCPD, previous CPVAW Annual Reports.

“One in four homicides in the United States is related to domestic violence.”

Improving Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence by Identifying and preventing Gender Violence. Department of Justice. *2019 Homicide trends in the United States: Intimate homicide*. U.S. Department of Justice,

As described on pages 2-3 of this report, the SCPD is currently transitioning from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Summary Reporting System (SRS) to UCR National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) / California Incident-Based Reporting System (CIBRS). The table below displays preliminary 2024 SCPD data using the NIBRS format for the first three quarters.

The Santa Cruz Police Department is now reporting UCR CIBRS/NIBRS per DOJ/FBI recommendations. CIBRS/NIBRS is a point in time report, which is continuously updated until the final numbers are reported to DOJ/FBI early the following year. Some reminders when reviewing the data:

→The hierarchy rule no longer applies*, and up to 10 offenses are reported per case - this means we are potentially reporting higher counts in each offense category. For example, previously a case where there was a rape and a robbery, SCPD would report only the rape. In the new system SCPD would report both the rape and the robbery (up to 10 offense types per case).

→These numbers update as crimes are reported or once case dispositions change (point in time data)

→Our offense numbers will not be final until DOJ/FBI accepts our 2024 annual submission - all data contained herein represents a preliminary report

Crimes Against	UCR SRS (categories which were previously reported)	UCR CIBRS/NIBRS (updated categories)	Q1	Q2	Q3
Persons	Homicide	Murder	1	0	0
	Rape	Rape	6	5	1
		Sodomy	5	3	1
		Sexual Assault with Object	0	1	0
		Fondling	3	12	5
		Incest	0	0	0
		Statutory Rape	1	1	2

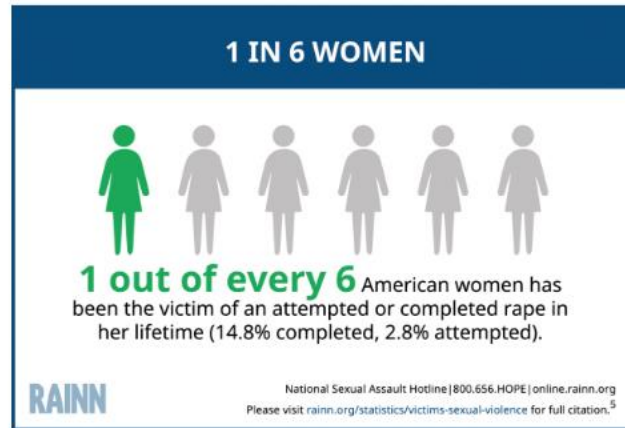
*Hierarchy Rule: When multiple offenses occur in a single case, only the most serious offense is counted in UCR Summary Reporting System

Who are the perpetrators?

The majority of perpetrators are someone known to the victim. Approximately eight out of 10 sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim, such as in the case of intimate partner sexual violence or acquaintance rape.

RAINN (Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network)

Women and Girls Experience Sexual Violence at High Rates



Millions of women in the United States have experienced rape.

- As of 1998, an estimated 17.7 million American women had been victims of attempted or completed rape.⁵

Young women are especially at risk.

- 82% of all juvenile victims are female. 90% of adult rape victims are female.⁶
- Females ages 16-19 are 4 times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault.³
- Women ages 18-24 who are college students are 3 times more likely than women in general to experience sexual violence. Females of the same age who are not enrolled in college are 4 times more likely.⁷

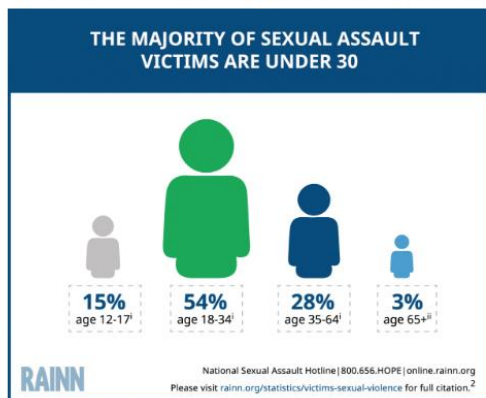
Sexual Violence Affects Millions of Americans



- On average, there are 463,634 victims (age 12 or older) of rape and sexual assault each year in the United States.

While CPVAW does not receive data with regards to age, gender, or other statistical details of victims in the City of Santa Cruz, a literature search of victims of sexual assault reveals the following staggering data points:

Younger People Are at the Highest Risk of Sexual Violence



Ages 12-34 are the highest risk years for rape and sexual assault.

According to a recent study (1) “Adolescents are at higher risk of sexual assault than any other age

group...”, “...Teenagers who have been sexually assaulted are at risk of mental health conditions and poor school performance, research found. The increased risk lasted for more than a year.”

- (1) Clarke, V., Goddard, A., Wellings, K. *et al.* Medium-term health and social outcomes in adolescents following sexual assault: a prospective mixed-methods cohort study. *Soc Psychiatry Epidemiol* **58**, 1777–1793 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00127-021-02127-4>

An unfortunate statistic from RAINN, the vast majority of perpetrators will not go to jail or prison. Out of every 1,000 sexual assaults, 975 perpetrators will walk free.

25 perpetrators will be incarceratedⁱⁱⁱ



RAINN

National Sexual Assault Hotline | 800.656.HOPE | online.rainn.org
Please visit rainn.org/statistics/scope-problem for full citation.¹

CONCLUSION

Recommendations

CPVAW and the SCPD share the common goal of keeping women safe in our community and make the following recommendations:

- CPVAW and the SCPD collaborate on their efforts to improve the safety of women in the City of Santa Cruz.
- CPVAW and the SCPD assess their programming, outreach efforts, collaboration with other community partners to better meet the needs of the women in the community.
- CPVAW continues to work on their established goals:
 - Goal 1: Increase CPVAW's Visibility and Impact
 - Deliverable: CPVAW will track and report on visibility and impact via metrics on distribution of information items and CPVAW-related branding materials (e.g. coasters, information flyers, packets distributed at events, number of events attended and co-sponsored).
 - Goal 2: Strengthen CPVAW's Processes
 - Deliverable: Complete and share CPVAW policy and strategic documents as a measure of outlined projects therein.
- The SCPD continues its commitment to providing the highest level of professional training on sexual assault response to victims and assault investigations to all of its police officers.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RESOURCES

- Law Enforcement – 911
- Santa Cruz Police Department Victim Advocate:
(831) 420-5827
- Monarch Services
24-hour Bilingual Crisis Help Line
1 (888) 900-4232

Santa Cruz Office
550 Water Street Suite J3
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 425-4030
- Walnut Avenue Family & Women's Center
24-hour Domestic Violence Helpline
1 (866) 269-2559
- National Domestic Violence Hotline
1 (800) 799-7233