

FACT SHEET: Men, Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Assault

Males Are Victims Too

A significant number of Canadian sexual assault survivors (as reported to 154 police agencies) are male:¹

- 29% of child abuse victims are boys
- 12% of youth victims are male
- 8% of adult victims are male; over half of them (53%) were acquaintances of their attacker

Gay or disabled men can become targets for sexual assault.

- According to one study, between 5 and 10% of sexual assaults against gay men were committed by heterosexual males as a form of "gay bashing."²
- Research suggests that 28% of gay men experience sexual assault committed by their partner.³
- Adult men with disabilities experience sexual abuse more often than those without them: 30% of sexual abuse survivors with disabilities are male.⁴

Survivor Impacts

Research into the sexual assault of adult men is limited. However, one American study makes these observations:⁵

- 92% of adult male survivors suffered from depression
- 89% of adult male survivors felt shame about being sexually assaulted
- 69% of adult male survivors increased their use of alcohol or drugs
- 46% experienced thoughts of suicide

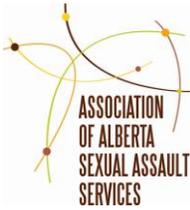
¹ Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. (2003). *Juristat*, 23 (6), 1 - 26.

² Berrill, K.T. (1990). *Antigay Violence and Victimization in the United States: An Overview*. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 5, 274–294.

³ McClennen, J., Summers, A. and Vaughan, C. (2002). *Gay Men's Domestic Violence: Dynamics, Help-seeking Behaviours and Correlates*. *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services*, 14(1), 23 - 49.

⁴ Sobsey, D. (1994). *Violence and Abuse in the Lives of People with Disabilities: The End of Silent Acceptance?* Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes.

⁵ Isley P. and Gehrenbeck-Shim, D. (1997). *Sexual Assault of Men in the Community*. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 25 (2), 159 - 166.



Like women, male child abuse survivors pay a heavy price. An American examination of 166 studies found these common symptoms for men who suffered sexual abuse as children: ⁶

- Higher rate of post-traumatic stress disorder
- Higher rate of suicide attempts
- Anger
- Aggressive behavior
- Major depression
- Anxiety disorders
- Paranoia
- Dissociation
- Bulimia
- Poor self-image
- Poor school performance
- Running away from home
- Legal problems

Offender Statistics

Men commit most sexual assaults against other men: ⁷

- 94% of the offenders were male
- 6% of the offenders were female
- 90% of the offenders were heterosexual
- 69% of the adult male victims knew the offender
- 41% of the sexual assaults involved more than one offender
- 60% of the offenders used physical force to commit the assault
- 49% of the offenders used a weapon during the assault

AASAS welcomes your suggestions and recommendations about other relevant Canadian research references that could be included on this website. Please e-mail us at mailbox@asas.ca.

⁶ Holmes, W. and Slap, G. (1998). Sexual Abuse of Boys: Definition, Prevalence, Correlates, Sequelae, and Management. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 280, 1,855–1,862.

⁷ Isley P. and Gehrenbeck-Shim, D. (1997). Sexual Assault of Men in the Community. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 25 (2), 159 - 166.