U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

APRIL 2021 —SPECIAL REPORT— BJS ONLINE REPORT 2021-1

NCS X NIBRS
Collect. Analyze. Empower.

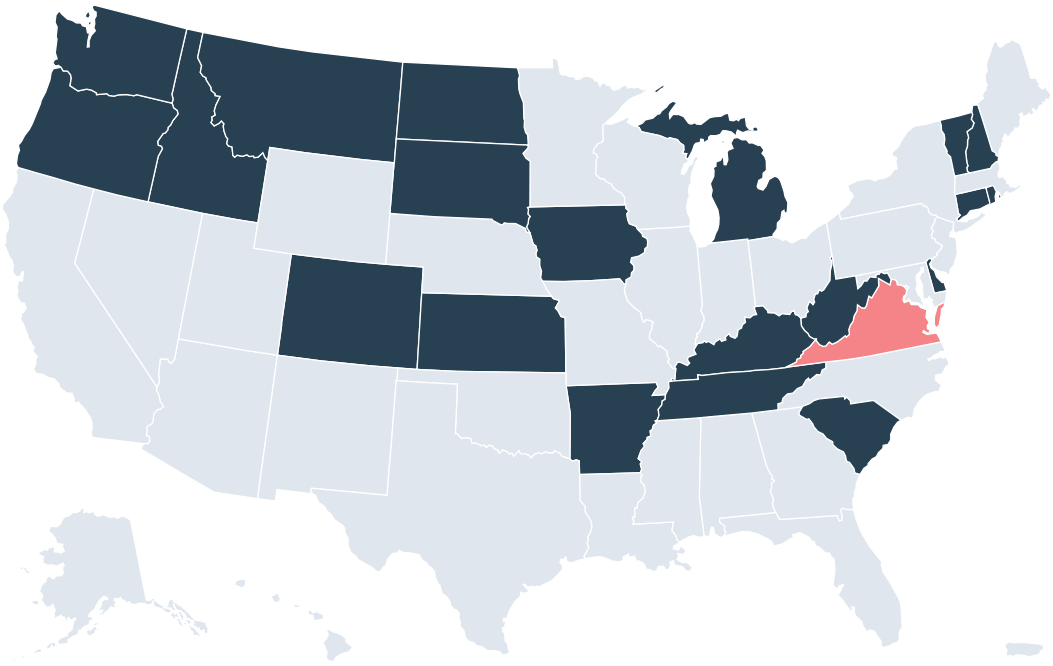
NATIONAL INCIDENT-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM

Sexual Assaults Recorded by Law Enforcement, 2019

This report presents statistics on sexual assault victimizations that were reported to NIBRS in 2019 by law enforcement agencies in 21 states. The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) captures detailed information on four types of violent sexual assaults recorded by law enforcement: rape , sodomy , sexual assault with an object , and fondling . This report contains interactive charts that compare the demographic characteristics of sexual assaults to victims of other serious violent crimes, estimates of sexual victimization rates by victim demographic characteristics, and statistics on police clearance and arrest outcomes for sexual assaults. Data for this report were submitted by state and local law enforcement agencies from 21 states certified by the FBI to report all of their 2019 crime data to NIBRS. Those 21 NIBRS-certified states are highlighted in the map below.

Click a state to create report

click another state to refresh



In 2019 in Virginia—

- **25%** of all violent victimizations involved a sexual assault; the percentage was higher for females **(23%)** than for males **(4%)**.
- There were **67.6 sexual assault victimizations per 100,000** persons; the rate was **5 times** higher for juveniles **(178.4)** than for adults **(35.5)**.
- The average age of sexual assault victims was **15 years** for males and **20 years** for females.
- **94%** of sexual assault victimizations were committed by someone the victim knew.

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PART 1

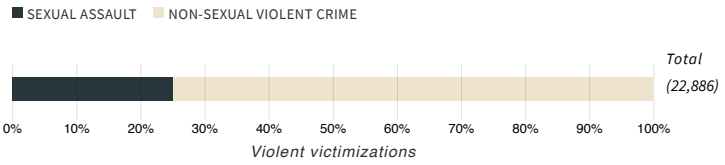
Violent Victimizations That Involved a Sexual Assault

One-quarter of all violent victimizations recorded by law enforcement in Virginia involved a sexual assault offense of rape, sexual assault with an object, sodomy, or fondling.

Violent victimizations that involved a sexual assault, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: See *Methodology* for description of sexual assault victimizations and non-sexual violent crime victimizations.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

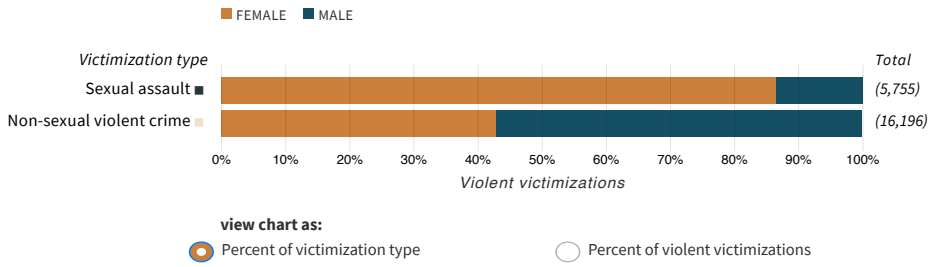
Most sexual assaults—87%—were against a female victim, while males were the majority—57%—of victims of non-sexual violent crimes, such as robbery, aggravated assault, kidnapping, and homicide.

In 2019, sexual assaults against females made up a sizeable portion —about 23%—of all violent victimizations recorded by Virginia law enforcement agencies.

Violent victimizations that involved a sexual assault, by victim sex, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



view chart as:

Percent of victimization type

Percent of violent victimizations

Note: Excludes 935 violent victimizations for which victim sex is unknown. See *Methodology* for description of sexual assault victimizations and non-sexual violent crime victimizations.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

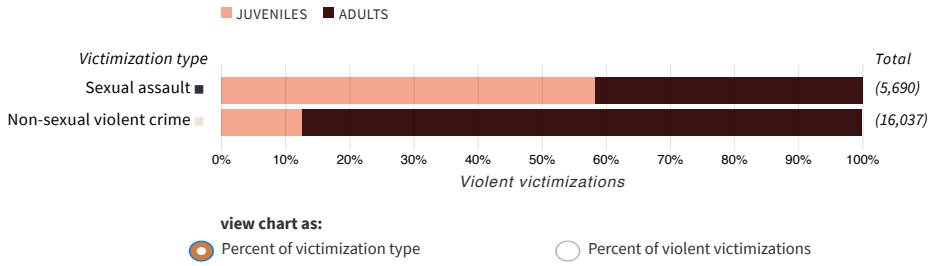
On average, sexual assault victims were younger than victims of non-sexual violence. The majority—58%—of sexual assaults in Virginia were against juvenile victims age 17 or younger, while juveniles accounted for a considerably smaller portion—13%—of non-sexual violent victimizations.

Sexual assaults against juveniles made up 15% of all violent crimes handled by Virginia law enforcement in 2019.

Violent victimizations that involved a sexual assault, by victim age, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



view chart as:

Percent of victimization type

Percent of violent victimizations

Note: Excludes 1,159 violent victimizations for which victim age is unknown. See *Methodology* for description of sexual assault victimizations, non-sexual violent crime victimizations, and adult and juvenile age categories.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

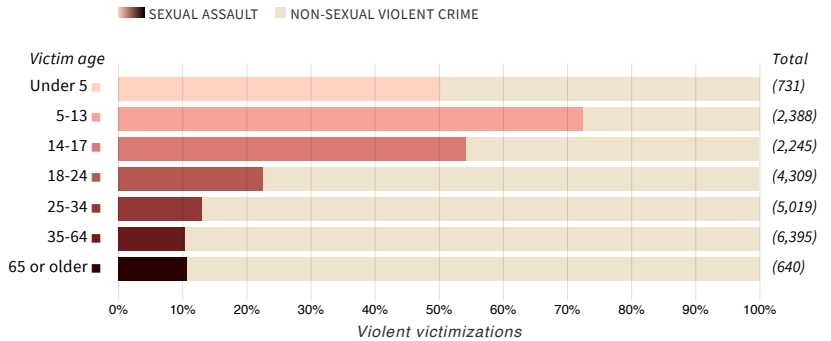
Nearly three-quarters of the violent crimes experienced by victims ages 5 to 13 involved a sexual assault, making the victims in this age group the most likely to experience violence of a sexual nature.

Violent victimizations against youth age 17 or younger were more likely to involve a sexual assault than violent victimizations against victims age 18 or older. About 54% of violent crime victims ages 14 to 17 experienced a sexual assault, compared to 23% of victims ages 18 to 24.

Violent victimizations that involved a sexual assault, by victim age, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



view chart as:

Percent of victim age

Percent of violent victimizations

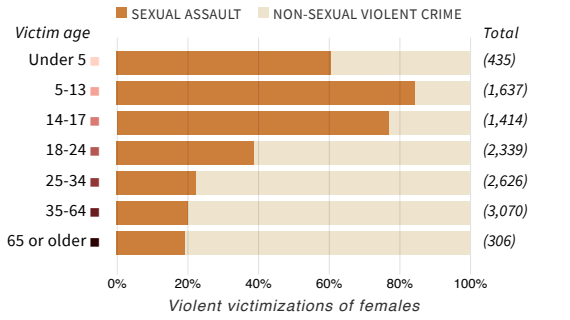
Note: Excludes 1,159 violent victimizations for which victim age is unknown. See *Methodology* for description of sexual assault victimizations and non-sexual violent crime victimizations.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

Violent crimes against young females were more likely to involve a violent sexual assault than those committed against young males. About 85% of violent crimes against females ages 5 to 13 involved a sexual assault, compared to 46% for males in the same age group.

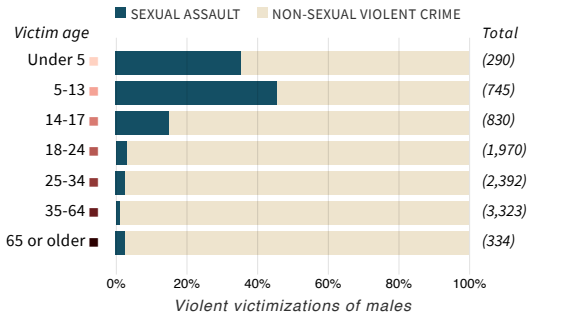
Violent victimizations of females that involved a sexual assault, by victim age, Virginia, 2019



Note: Excludes 114 violent victimizations of females for which victim age is unknown. See *Methodology* for description of sexual assault victimizations and non-sexual violent crime victimizations.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

Violent victimizations of males that involved a sexual assault, by victim age, Virginia, 2019



Note: Excludes 126 violent victimizations of males for which victim age is unknown. See *Methodology* for description of sexual assault victimizations and non-sexual violent crime victimizations.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

PART 2

Characteristics of Sexual Assault Victims and Incidents

Sexual victimization and abuse can take on various forms. NIBRS captures information on four unique sexual assault offense types: rape, sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and fondling. Rape, sexual assault with an object, and sodomy offenses form the basis of the official UCR definition of rape in the United States. NIBRS provides detailed information about the context of sexual assault victimizations, such as the demographic characteristics of victims and offenders, the type of location and time of day during which these victimizations occur, the relationship of the victim to the offender, and the type of weapon or force used by the offender.

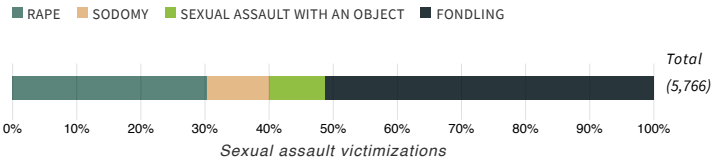
SEXUAL ASSAULT OFFENSE TYPES

The majority of sexual assault victimizations recorded by Virginia law enforcement in 2019 consisted of rape (31%) and fondling (51%).

Sexual assault victimizations, by offense type, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: See *Methodology* for description of sexual assault offense types.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

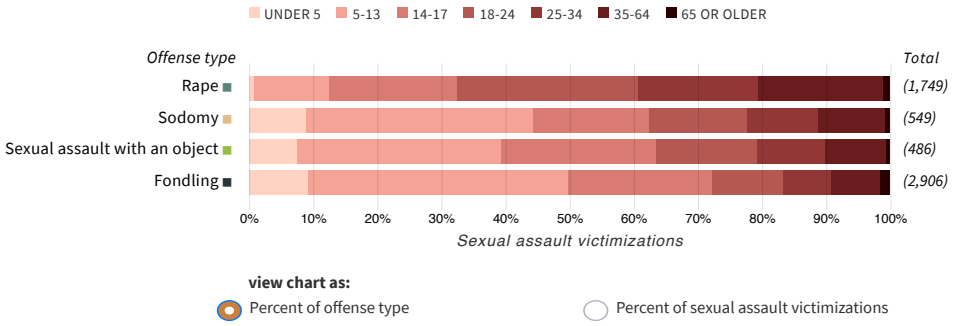
Download chart data

The age groups with the highest proportion of rapes recorded by law enforcement were victims ages 18 to 24 (28%) and ages 14 to 17 (20%). Approximately 35% of sodomy and 41% of fondling victimizations were committed against victims in one age group—children ages 5 to 13. Cases of fondling against children in this age group accounted for one-fifth (21%) of all sexual assaults recorded in 2019.

Sexual assault victimizations, by offense type and victim age, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



view chart as:

Percent of offense type

Percent of sexual assault victimizations

Note: Excludes 76 sexual assault victimizations for which victim age is unknown. See *Methodology* for description of sexual assault offense types.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS

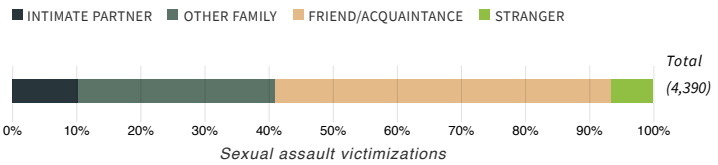
Most sexual assaults recorded by law enforcement were committed by someone the victim knew, typically a friend or acquaintance (53%) or a non-intimate family member (31%).

A small fraction—6%—of sexual assaults were committed by a stranger.

Sexual assault victimizations, by victim-offender relationship, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: Excludes 1,376 sexual assault victimizations for which victim-offender relationship is unknown. See *Methodology* for description of victim-offender relationship categories.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

The majority of sexual assaults were committed against victims ages 5 to 17. Victimizations against children ages 5 to 13 accounted for nearly one-third of all sexual assaults recorded by law enforcement, and those against children ages 14 to 17 accounted for over one-fifth.

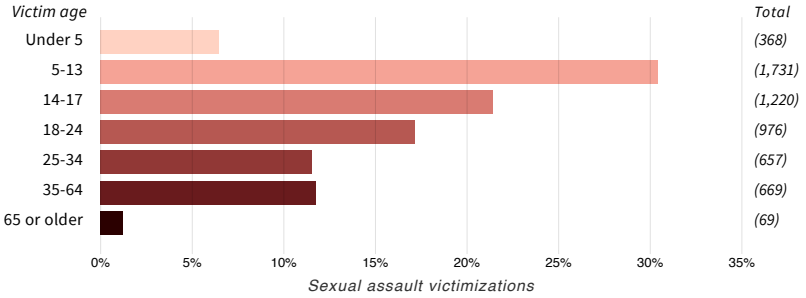
Sexual assaults against children were far less likely to be committed by a stranger than those against victims age 18 or older .

Family members committed two-thirds (65%) of all sexual assaults against young children under age 5 and over half (54%) of those against children ages 5 to 13. Most sexual assaults against victims age 14 or older were committed by friends and acquaintances.

Sexual assault victimizations, by victim age, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: Excludes 76 sexual assault victimizations for which victim age is unknown.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

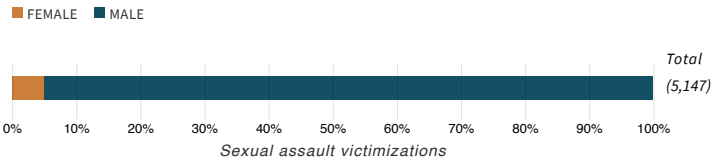
Download chart data

The overwhelming majority of sexual assaults—95%—were committed by a male offender.

Sexual assault victimizations, by offender sex, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: Excludes 619 sexual assault victimizations for which offender sex is unknown.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

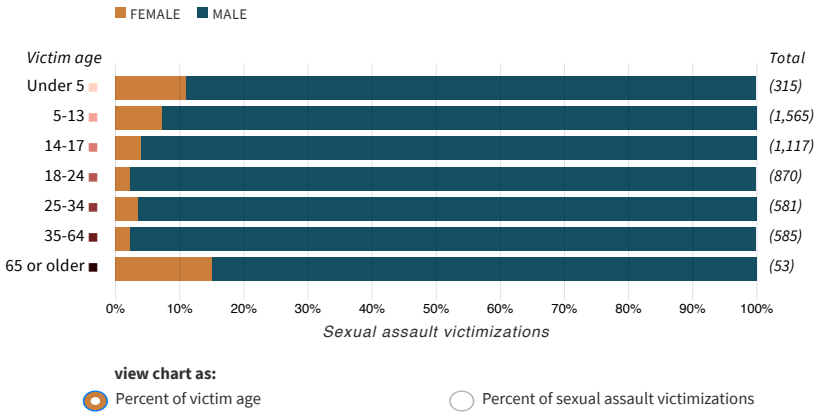
Download chart data

The portion of sexual assaults committed by a male offender was highest among those against victims ages 35 to 64.

Sexual assault victimizations, by victim age and offender sex, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

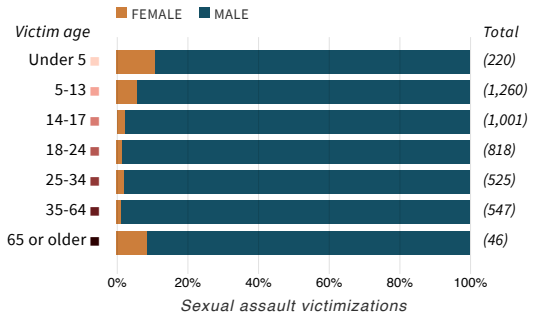
Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: Excludes 76 sexual assault victimizations for which victim age is unknown and 619 sexual assault victimizations for which offender sex is unknown.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

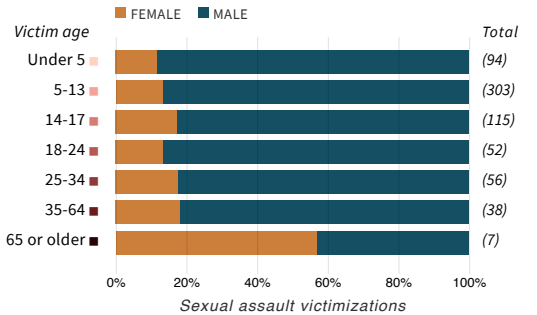
Sexual assault victimizations of females, by victim age and offender sex, Virginia, 2019



Note: Excludes 56 sexual assault victimizations of females for which victim age is unknown and 520 sexual assault victimizations of females for which offender sex is unknown.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

Sexual assault victimizations of males, by victim age and offender sex, Virginia, 2019



Note: Excludes 14 sexual assault victimizations of males for which victim age is unknown and 95 sexual assault victimizations of males for which offender sex is unknown.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

TYPE OF WEAPON AND FORCE USED

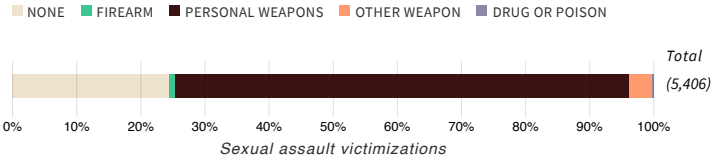
Over two-thirds—71%—of all sexual assaults were committed using personal weapons, such as the offender's hands, fists, feet, arms, teeth, etc. while one-quarter (25%) involved no weapon or force.

Firearms were rarely used to commit sexual assaults. In Virginia in 2019, 0.8% of all sexual assaults were committed with a firearm.

Sexual assault victimizations, by weapon type, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: Excludes 360 sexual assault victimizations for which weapon type is unknown. See *Methodology* for description of weapon types.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

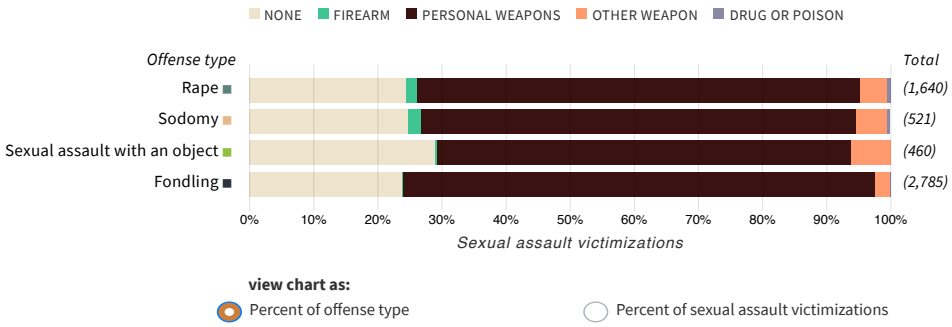
Download chart data

Firearms were rarely used to commit sexual assaults, regardless of the type of sexual assault committed. A firearm was used in 1.8% of rape offense victimizations and in 2.1%, 0.2%, and 0.1% of victimizations that involved sodomy, sexual assault with an object, or fondling, respectively.

Sexual assault victimizations, by offense type and weapon type, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: Excludes 360 sexual assault victimizations for which weapon type is unknown. See *Methodology* for description of weapon types and sexual assault offense types.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

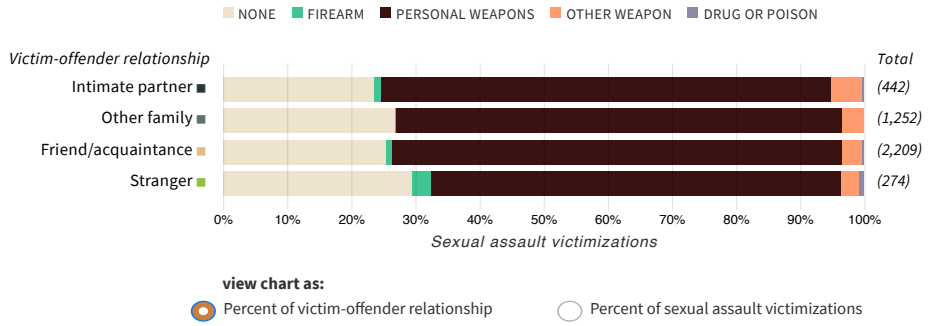
Sex offenders used personal weapons such as hands, fists, feet, arms, teeth, etc. in 64% or more of sexual assault victimizations, regardless of whether the offender was a stranger (64%) or someone the victim knew, such as an acquaintance (70%) or an intimate partner (70%).

In 2019, there were 8 recorded sexual assault victimizations (0.2% of all sexual assault victimizations) committed by a stranger armed with a gun.

Sexual assault victimizations, by victim-offender relationship and weapon type, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: Excludes 1,376 sexual assault victimizations for which victim-offender relationship is unknown and 360 sexual assault victimizations for which weapon type is unknown.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

TIME OF DAY AND LOCATION OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS

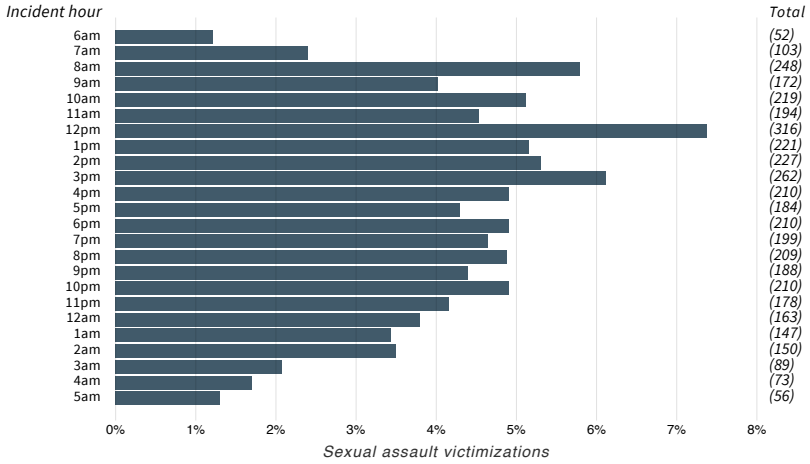
Sexual assault victimizations recorded by law enforcement peaked at 12 p.m.

However, the time of day at which sexual assaults occurred was strongly correlated with victim age. A juvenile was the victim in most sexual assaults that occurred between the daytime hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm. Persons age 18 or older were the most common victims of sexual assaults that occurred in the late evening and early morning hours between 11:00 pm and 6:00 am.

Sexual assault victimizations, by incident time of day, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: Excludes 761 sexual assault victimizations for which incident hour is unknown. See *Methodology* for description of data transformations to values for incident time of day.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

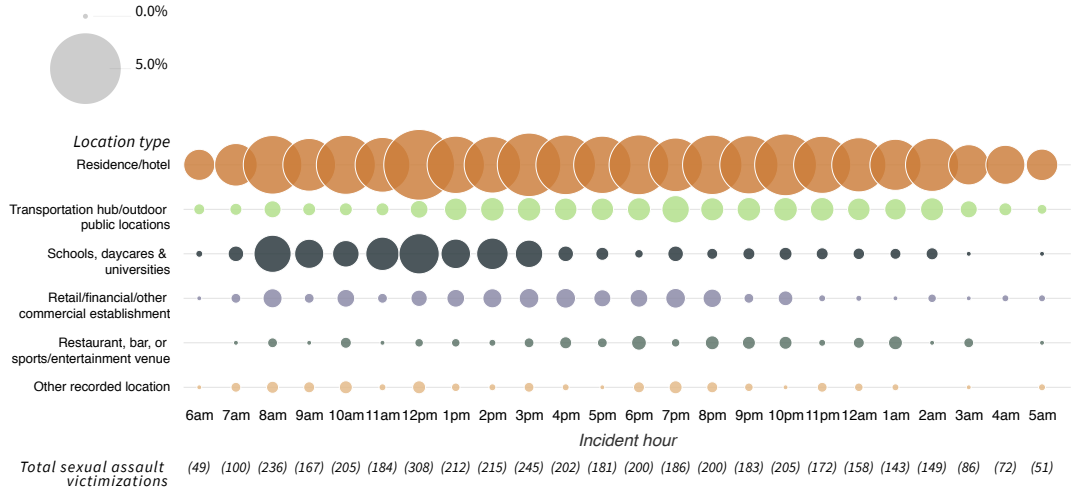
Download chart data

The majority of sexual assaults were committed in a private location, such as a residence or hotel, regardless of the time of day during which the incident occurred.

Sexual assault victimizations, by location type and incident time of day, Virginia, 2019

Hover over circles for more detail.

Circle size represents % out of total number of sexual assault victimizations.



Note: Excludes 761 sexual assault victimizations for which incident hour is unknown and 245 sexual assault victimizations for which location type is unknown. See *Methodology* for description of data transformations to values for incident time of day and for location type.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

PART 3
Rates of Sexual Assault Victimization, by Victim Demographics

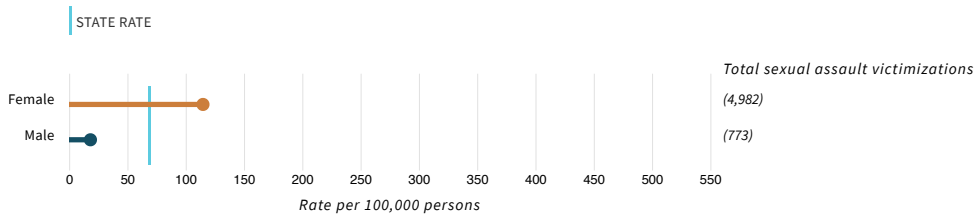
Information on victim characteristics in NIBRS was combined with U.S. Census population estimates to calculate victimization rates for select demographic groups. The charts below display the overall sexual assault victimization rate for the state and rates for persons grouped by sex, race, and age. When expressed as a rate per 100,000 residents, NIBRS victimization data provides one indicator of the extent to which some demographic groups are at greater risk of sexual assault victimization relative to their share of the state population.

In 2019, there were 67.6 sexual assault victimizations per 100,000 Virginia residents. The rate was 6 times higher for females (114.9) than for males (18.4).

Rates of sexual assault victimization, by victim sex, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: Excludes 11 sexual assault victimizations for which victim sex is unknown.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System2019; and U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Population Estimates Program, 2019.

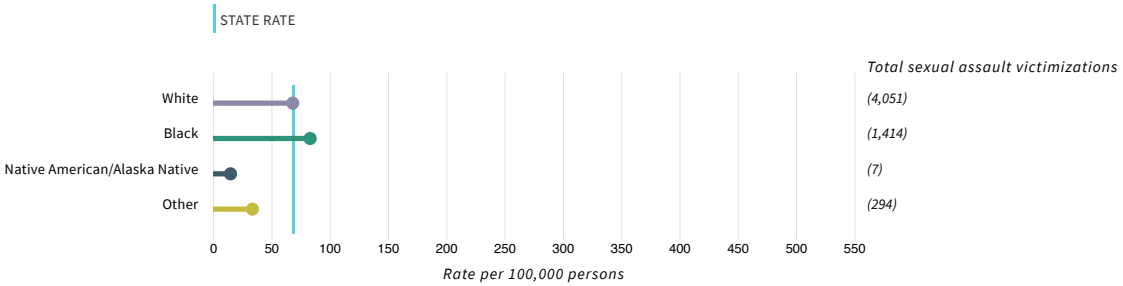
Download chart data

The rate of sexual assault victimization in Virginia was 83.3 per 100,000 for blacks, compared to 68.4 for whites, 15 for Native Americans/Alaska Natives, and 33.8 for persons of other races.

Rates of sexual assault victimization, by victim race, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: "Other" race category includes Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and cases for which victim race is unknown. See *Methodology* for description of race categories.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System2019; and U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Population Estimates Program, 2019.

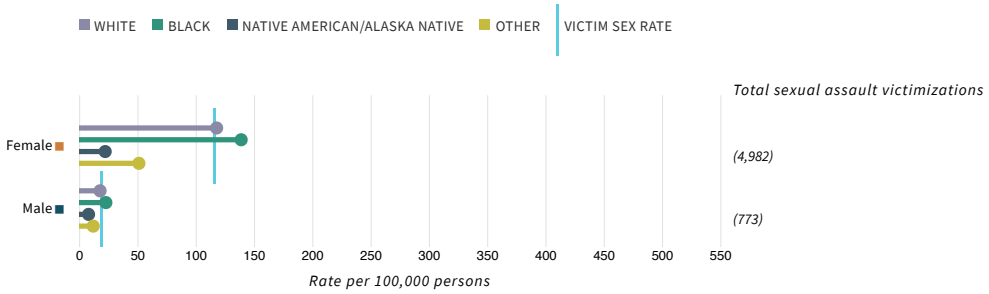
Download chart data

In Virginia, black females experienced the highest rate of sexual assault victimization (139.1 per 100,000), about 2 times the overall rate for Virginia (67.6).

Rates of sexual assault victimization, by victim sex and victim race, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: Excludes 11 sexual assault victimizations for which victim sex is unknown. "Other" race category includes Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and cases for which victim race is unknown. See *Methodology* for description of race categories.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System2019; and U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Population Estimates Program, 2019.

Download chart data

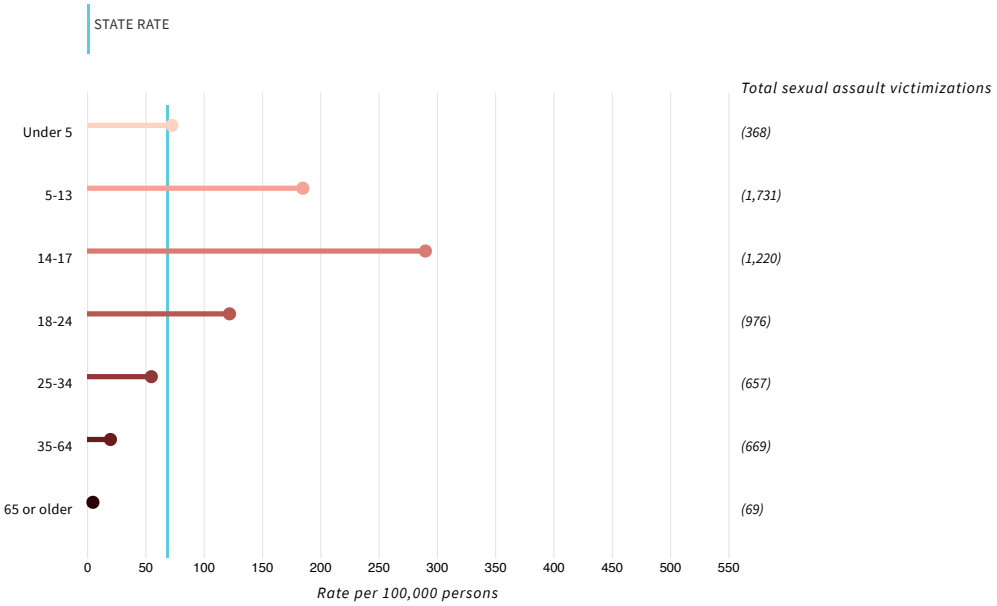
Teens ages 14 to 17 experienced the highest rate of sexual assault victimization, compared to other age groups. In 2019, police recorded an estimated 1,220 sexual assaults against persons ages 14 to 17 (290.3 per 100,000), a rate 4 times higher than the overall rate (67.6) for Virginia.

The rate of sexual assault victimization for females ages 14 to 17 (528.7 per 100,000) was 9 times higher than the rate for boys in this same age group (59.4 per 100,000) and 8 times higher than the overall rate for Virginia (67.6).

Rates of sexual assault victimization, by victim age, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: Excludes 76 sexual assault victimizations for which victim age is unknown.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System2019; and U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Population Estimates Program, 2019.

Download chart data

PART 4

Clearance and Arrest

NIBRS is the only source of incident-based crime data that also provides information about whether sexual assault incidents are cleared and whether law enforcement agencies make an arrest. NIBRS also allows users to examine whether police clearance and arrest outcomes vary according to attributes of the incident, such as the type of sexual assault(s) committed, whether the victim and offender were strangers, whether a weapon was used, and the time of day and location of the incident.

The result is a detailed picture of law enforcement handling of sexual assault incidents that come to their attention. For each sexual assault recorded by law enforcement, NIBRS captures information on whether the incident was cleared and whether the incident was cleared by arrest or by exceptional means. Sexual assault incidents that are cleared by exceptional means are considered solved for administrative purposes but do not result in an arrest or in the prosecution of the offender(s).

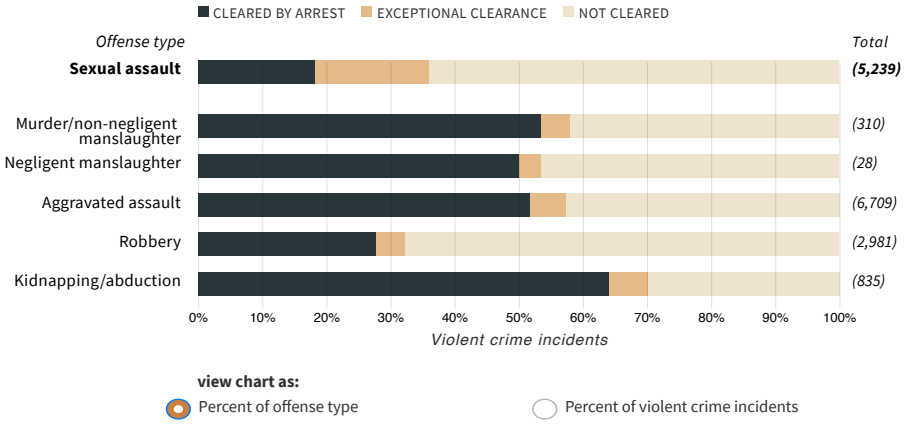
At least 52% of murder/non-negligent manslaughter, aggravated assault, or kidnapping incidents resulted in an arrest. For sexual assault incidents, 18% resulted in an arrest.

Under certain circumstances, law enforcement agencies may clear an incident by exceptional means rather than arrest. While the incident is still considered cleared, the clearance does not result in the arrest or conviction of an offender. In Virginia, the exceptional clearance rate for sexual assaults was 18%, compared to 5% for robberies, 6% for aggravated assaults, and 6% for kidnappings.

Violent crime incidents that were cleared by arrest, cleared by exceptional means, or not cleared, by offense type, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



Note: See *Methodology* for descriptions of cleared, cleared by arrest, and exceptional clearance.
Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

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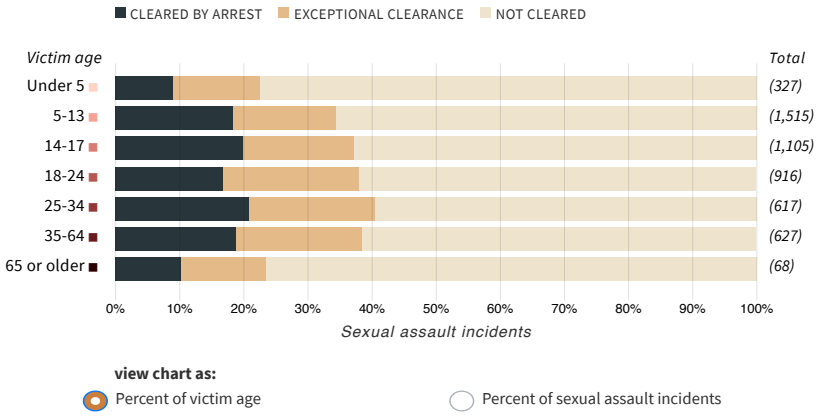
For every age category, at least 59% of sexual assault incidents were not cleared by law enforcement. Sexual assault incidents involving victims ages 25 to 34 had the highest percentage of incidents resulting in an arrest.

Sexual assault incidents that were cleared by arrest, cleared by exceptional means, or not cleared, by victim age, Virginia, 2019

Hover over bars for more detail.

Hover over a category in legend to isolate that category.



view chart as:

Percent of victim age

Percent of sexual assault incidents

Note: Excludes 64 sexual assault incidents for which victim age is unknown. See *Methodology* for descriptions of cleared, cleared by arrest, and exceptional clearance.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2019.

Download chart data

Data tables *(zip format ≈ 45kb)*

Report *(PDF format ≈ 1.5mb)*

Methodology

View downloadable files by state:

AR CO CT DE IA ID KS KY MI MT ND NH OR RI SC SD TN VA VT WA WV