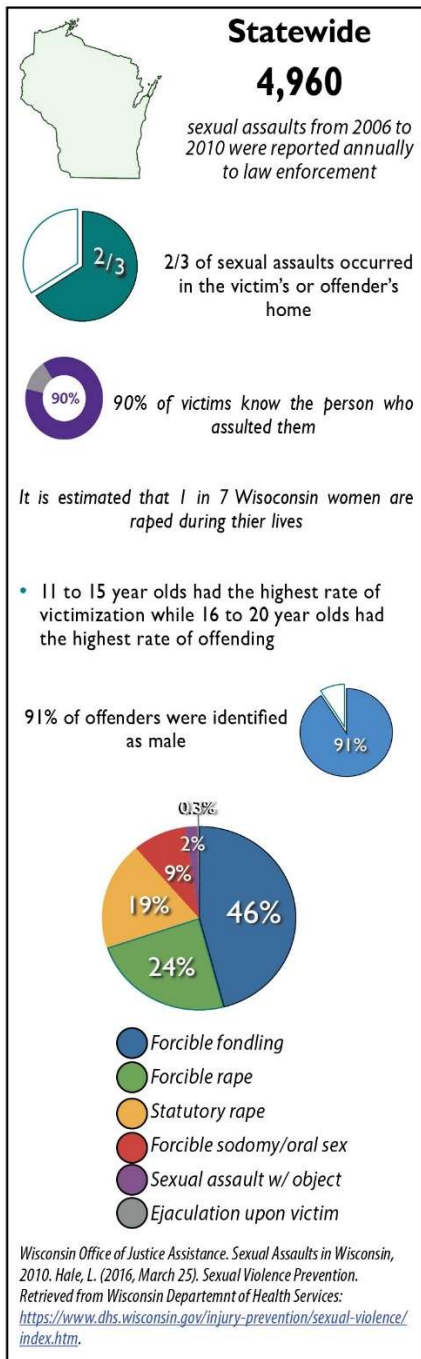


## What is Sexual Assault?

**Sexual assault refers to an actual or attempted act that is sexual in nature where consent is not obtained or freely given. It is a forced, coerced, or manipulated act that is sexual in nature, breaks a person's trust and safety, and is primarily motivated out of a need to feel powerful by controlling, dominating, or humiliating the victim.**

This can include rape, sexual assault, incest, child sexual abuse, sex trafficking, sexual contact or sexual harassment. Non-contact unwanted sexual experiences are also forms of sexual violence and include exposure, voyeurism, making a victim look at or participate in sexual photos or movies, or verbal sexual harassment. Sexual violence is one of the most personal and invasive expressions of violence deeply affecting all genders, ages, races, ethnicities, ability levels, socioeconomic statuses, and sexual orientations.

Sexual assault is widely accepted to be a vastly underreported crime. It is estimated that less than 30% of sexual assaults are reported to the police (U.S. Department of Justice, 2012). That makes collecting accurate data about sexual assault challenging. The statistics represented here come primarily from victimization studies, which survey the general public about their experiences with sexual assault. These surveys are considered to be more accurate because they include victims who did not report to the police.

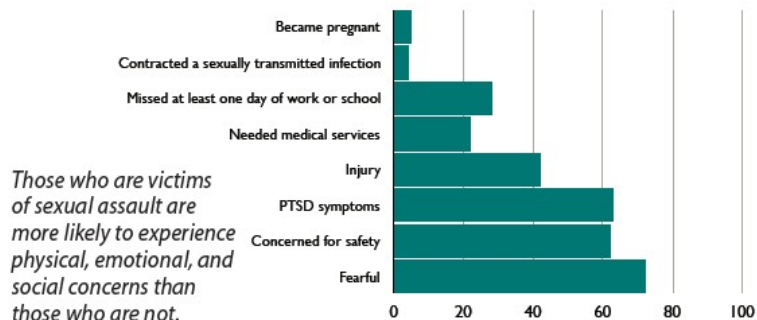


## Sexual Assault in Wisconsin

This information represents data from the 2010 Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance report entitled 'Sexual Assaults in Wisconsin, 2010'. The information was collected between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010, representing only one year of reported sexual assaults.

The report is only one measure of incidences of sexual assault, keeping in mind the infrequency of reporting. This information and the OJA's report do not include reports made to hospitals or other health care providers and other service providers; they only reflect those reported to law enforcement. The actual number of sexual assaults in Wisconsin is estimated using a national data reporting system called the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey.

## Impacts of Sexual Assault on Female Victims



national data: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2011). National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report.

This fact sheet was updated in 2016 by the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc. (WCASA). WCASA is a membership organization of sexual assault centers, other organizations, and individuals throughout Wisconsin working to end sexual violence. For information sheets on other topics or to become a member, contact WCASA, 2801 West Beltline Highway, Suite 202, Madison, WI 53713, (608)257-1516, <http://www.wcasa.org>. For more information about sexual assault or to receive support with a sexual assault experience, contact your local sexual assault program. This sheet may be reproduced in its original format only.