



A Report from the
Behavioral Risk Factor
Surveillance System
(BRFSS)

Violence Against NC Women and Men: Prevalence, Perpetrators, and Sociodemographic Characteristics



Department of Health and
Human Services
Division of Public Health
Injury and Violence Prevention
Branch

How Common is Violence Against Women During Adulthood?

- Approximately one quarter of NC women (24%) experienced some type of physical and/or sexual violence during adulthood (since turning 18 years of age).
 - 14% of NC women experienced physical violence only (with no sexual violence) during adulthood.
 - 3% of NC women experienced sexual violence only (with no physical violence) during adulthood.
 - 7% of NC women experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood.

Who Perpetrates Violence Against Women?

- Perpetrators of physical violence against women during adulthood include:
 - Current or ex-intimate partners (58.1%);
 - Acquaintances (11.3%);
 - Strangers (6.8%); and
 - Persons in two or more of the above categories (23.8%) (e.g. a current partner and a stranger, etc.).
- Perpetrators of sexual violence against women during adulthood include:
 - Current or ex-intimate partners (37.6%);
 - Strangers (15.9%);
 - Acquaintances (15.2%); and
 - Persons in two or more of the above categories (31.2%) (e.g. a current partner and a stranger, etc.).

Are Women with Particular Sociodemographic Characteristics More Likely to have Experienced Violence?

- Several sociodemographic characteristics of the women at the time of the survey were associated with their experiences of violence during adulthood. These include being:
 - Non-Hispanic;
 - Aged 25-54;
 - Unmarried; and
 - Unemployed.

How Common is Violence Against Men During Adulthood?

- Approximately one fifth of NC men (20%) experienced some type of physical and/or sexual violence during adulthood (since turning 18 years of age).
 - 18% of NC men experienced physical violence only (with no sexual violence) during adulthood.
 - 1% of NC men experienced sexual violence only (with no physical violence) during adulthood.
 - 1% of NC men experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood.

Who Perpetrates Violence Against Men?

- Perpetrators of physical violence against men during adulthood included:
 - Strangers (32.3%);
 - Acquaintances (19.5%);
 - Current or ex-intimate partners (13.2%); and
 - Persons in two or more of the above categories (35.0%) (e.g. a current partner and a stranger, etc.).
- Perpetrators of sexual violence against men during adulthood included:
 - Strangers (32.1%);
 - Current or ex-intimate partners (27.4%);
 - Acquaintances (20.2%); and
 - Persons in two or more of the above categories (20.4%) (e.g. a current partner and a stranger, etc.).

Are Men with Particular Sociodemographic Characteristics More Likely to have Experienced Violence?

- Several sociodemographic characteristics of the men at the time of the survey were associated with their experiences of violence during adulthood. These include being:
 - Aged 25-34;
 - Educated beyond high school, i.e. having some post high school education but not college degree;
 - Unmarried; and
 - Unemployed.

These findings are from "Physical and Sexual Violence in North Carolina: Prevalence and Descriptive Information from the 2000-2002 Surveys of the North Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System." This report examines a representative sample of 15,969 NC residents who were surveyed during three years (2000-2002) as part of the North Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (NC-BRFSS), implemented by the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, with funds from the Centers for Disease Control. The Injury and Violence Prevention Branch sponsored the physical and sexual violence questions examined in this report. The surveys used during each of these years are available on the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics website (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/brfss/questions.html>).



Violence Against NC Women and Men: Use of Health Services



Utilization of Health Services by Women who have Experienced Violence During Adulthood

- Based on survey data from the 2000-2001 North Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (NC-BRFSS), women's experiences of violence during adulthood (since turning 18 years of age) were associated with their use of health services.
 - 79.0% of women who experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood had a regular health care provider, compared to 83.6% of women who experienced physical violence only during adulthood, 83.8% of women who experienced sexual violence only during adulthood, and 88.2% of women who had not experienced violence during adulthood.
 - 61.2% of women who experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood had a mammogram within the past year, compared to 66.2% of women who experienced sexual violence only during adulthood, 70.0% of women who experienced physical violence only during adulthood, and 72.4% of women who had not experienced violence during adulthood.
 - Women who experienced violence during adulthood were significantly more likely than women who had not experienced violence to have used family planning services. Such services were used by:
 - 49.7% of women who experienced both physical and sexual violence;
 - 41.6% of women who experienced sexual violence only;
 - 40.4% of women who experienced physical violence only; and
 - 26.4% of women who had not experienced violence.
 - Having an HIV test was significantly more common among women who had experienced violence during adulthood compared to those who had not experienced violence. HIV tests were used by:
 - 71.1% of women who experienced both physical and sexual violence;
 - 62.8% of women who experienced sexual violence only;
 - 59.6% of women who experienced physical violence only; and
 - 43.8% of women who had not experienced violence.

Utilization of Health Services by Men who have Experienced Violence During Adulthood

- Based on survey data from the 2000-2001 North Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (NC-BRFSS), men's experiences of violence during adulthood (since turning 18 years of age) were associated with their use of health services.
 - 74.8% of men who experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood had a regular health care provider, compared to 75.1% of men who experienced physical violence only during adulthood, 82.6% of men who experienced sexual violence only during adulthood, and 85.4% of men who had not experienced violence during adulthood.
 - Men who experienced violence during adulthood tended to be less likely than those who had not experienced violence to have had a flu shot in the past year. Flu shots were used by:
 - 12.3% of men who experienced both physical and sexual violence;
 - 25.5% of men who experienced physical violence only;
 - 28.5% of men who experienced sexual violence only; and
 - 31.0% of men who had not experienced violence.
 - Having an HIV test was significantly more common among men who experienced violence during adulthood compared to those who had not experienced violence. HIV tests were used by:
 - 65.4% of men who experienced both physical and sexual violence;
 - 57.8% of men who experienced physical violence only;
 - 49.3% of men who experienced sexual violence only; and
 - 41.0% of men who had not experienced violence.
 - Men who experienced violence during adulthood were more likely than men who had not experienced violence to have been counseled by a health care provider regarding the use of condoms to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. Such counseling was received by:
 - 20.9% of men who experienced both physical and sexual violence;
 - 17.6% of men who experienced sexual violence only;
 - 13.5% of men who experienced physical violence only; and
 - 10.6% of men who had not experienced violence.



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Violence Against NC Women and Men: Associations with Physical and Mental Health



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Physical and Mental Health Concerns of Women Who Experienced Violence During Adulthood

- Based on survey data from the 2000-2001 North Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (NC-BRFSS), women's experiences of violence during adulthood (since turning 18 years of age) were associated with their current health.
 - 29.1% of women who experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood had an activity limitation due to physical, mental, or emotional problems, compared to 22.1% of women who experienced physical violence only during adulthood, 17.3% of women who experienced sexual violence only during adulthood, and 16.0% of women who had not experienced violence during adulthood.
 - Women who experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood had an average of 6.3 days in the past month during which their physical health was not good, compared to 4.9 such days among women who experienced physical violence only during adulthood, 4.6 such days among women who experienced sexual violence only during adulthood, and 4.0 such days among women who had not experienced violence during adulthood.
 - Women who experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood had an average of 7.5 days in the past month during which their mental health was not good, compared to 5.2 such days among women who experienced sexual violence only during adulthood, 4.9 such days among women who experienced physical violence only during adulthood, and 2.8 such days among women who had not experienced violence during adulthood.
 - Women who experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood had an average of 6.4 days in the past month during which they felt sad, blue, or depressed, compared to 5.7 such days among women who experienced physical violence only during adulthood, 4.7 such days among women who experienced sexual violence only during adulthood, and 2.7 such days among women who had not experienced violence during adulthood.
 - Women who experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood had an average of 11.0 days in the past month during which they felt worried, tense, or anxious, compared to 7.9 such days among women who experienced sexual violence only during adulthood, 7.7 such days among women who experienced physical violence only during adulthood, and 4.2 such days among women who had not experienced violence during adulthood.

Physical and Mental Health Concerns of Men Who Experienced Violence During Adulthood

- Based on survey data from the 2000-2001 North Carolina Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (NC-BRFSS), men's experiences of violence during adulthood (since turning 18 years of age) were associated with their current health.
 - 19.7% of men who experienced physical violence only during adulthood had an activity limitation due to physical, mental, or emotional problems, compared to 18.6% of men who experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood, 13.7% of men who experienced sexual violence only during adulthood, and 13.0% of men who had not experienced such violence during adulthood.
 - Men who experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood had an average of 3.8 days in the past month during which their physical health was not good, compared to 3.5 such days among men who had experienced physical violence only during adulthood, 2.8 such days among men who had not experienced violence during adulthood, and 1.8 such days among men who had experienced sexual violence only during adulthood.
 - Men who experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood had an average of 5.1 days in the past month during which their mental health was not good, compared to 3.4 such days among men who experienced physical violence only during adulthood, 1.6 such days among men who had not experienced violence during adulthood, and 1.5 such days among men who experienced sexual violence only during adulthood.
 - Men who experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood had an average of 6.8 days in the past month during which they felt sad, blue, or depressed, compared to 4.4 such days among men who experienced physical violence only during adulthood, 1.8 such days among men who experienced sexual violence only during adulthood, and 1.7 such days among men who had not experienced violence during adulthood.
 - Men who experienced physical violence only during adulthood had an average of 9.1 days in the past month during which they felt worried, tense, or anxious, compared to 7.5 such days among men who experienced both physical and sexual violence during adulthood, 3.4 such days among men who experienced sexual violence only during adulthood, and 3.3 such days among men who had not experienced violence during adulthood.

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