Gender-Based Violence State Brief

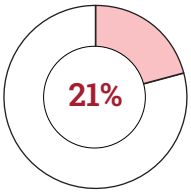
DELAWARE

September 2026

Know Your Numbers

Sexual Violence (SV)

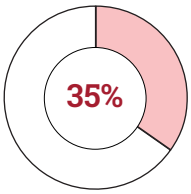
- **49%** of women have experienced rape, sexual coercion, or unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime. There are over 195,000 survivors in Delaware alone. Prevalence for men is not available in Delaware (NISVS, 2023/2024).[1]
- **28%** of women and **10%** of men first experienced sexual violence when they were under the age of 18 (NISVS, 2016/2017).[2]
- **15%** of female high school students experienced sexual violence in the past year (YRBS, 2023).[3]
- **18%** of gay, lesbian, or bisexual high school students experienced sexual violence in the past year (YRBS, 2023).[3]



21% of women have experienced completed or attempted rape in their lifetime (NISVS, 2023/2024).[1]

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- **40%** of women have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. There are over 159,000 survivors of IPV in Delaware alone. Prevalence for men is not available in Delaware (NISVS, 2023/2024).[4]
- **3.4%** of postpartum women experienced IPV in the 12 months before pregnancy. **1.9%** experienced IPV during their pregnancy (PRAMS, 2022).[5]
- **10%** of female high school students experienced physical dating violence in the past year (YRBS, 2023).[3]
- **11%** of gay, lesbian, or bisexual high school students experienced physical dating violence in the past year (YRBS, 2023).[3]



35% of women have experienced at least one IPV-related impact* in their lifetime. Prevalence for men is not available for Delaware (NISVS, 2023/2024).[4]

Intimate Partner Homicide

Between 2019 and 2023, **22 Delaware women** were killed by their intimate partners. Intimate partner homicide affects women, especially Black and Indigenous women, at a disproportionate rate to men. At the national level, for cases in which the victim/offender relationship is known, intimate partners are responsible for over 50% of women's homicides and 8% of men's homicides.[6]

* IPV-related impacts include: being fearful, being concerned for safety, any post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, injury, need for medical care, filed a police report, missing at least one day of work, missing at least one day of school, need for housing, need for victim advocate services, need for legal services, contacting a crisis hotline.

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Stalking

- Over **1 in 5 women** has experienced stalking in their lifetime (NISVS, 2023/2024).[7]

Human Trafficking

- A review of human trafficking data for 2024-2025 in Delaware police records and Human Trafficking Hotline data produced fewer than 10 cases.[8-9]

Sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking, and human trafficking remain among the most underreported crimes globally.

Today's Key Priorities in GBV Prevention and Response

The first U.S. National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence[10] was released in 2023, informed by a comprehensive, national process that engaged survivors, advocates, and other stakeholders. This policy overview is organized around selected National Plan priority areas, with a brief summary describing policies responsive to GBV prevention or survivor support.

KEY: GBV Responsive | Some elements GBV responsive | Not GBV responsive

Priority Area 1: Prevention

Not GBV responsive — DV training for healthcare workers is not encouraged or required in state policy (2019).[11]

Not GBV responsive — Training for prevention of human trafficking among certain professions (e.g., hospitality management) or in specific locations is not encouraged or required in state law (2024).[12]

GBV Responsive — State law mandates child sexual abuse (CSA) education to some or all students and some or all staff (2025).[13]

Required for school staff and students pre-K to Grade 6.[13]

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Priority Area 2: Survivor Support, Safety, and Well-being

- Delaware has **3** Domestic Violence Service Providers (2025).[14]
- State policy protects survivors of IPV from insurance discrimination for health insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, and property insurance (2019).[11]

Priority Area 3a: Housing Stability

- State law allows for court/protection orders to remove abusive partners and other violent perpetrators from a shared home (2024).[16]
- State law allows for early lease termination for IPV, SV, or stalking survivors with protections from financial penalty (2024).[16]
  Evidence requirements may differ by state. See state policy for details.[16]
- Landlords are not legally required to change locks for individuals experiencing GBV (2024).[16]
- State law prohibits landlords from evicting survivors due to the GBV they experienced (2024).[16]

State officials conduct an annual point-in-time count to estimate the number of unhoused individuals in each state and locality.

In a single night, there were 50 unhoused IPV survivors counted in Delaware (2025).[15]

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Priority Area 3b: Economic Security

- ✗ As of 2023, the criminal definition of domestic violence does not include elements of economic coercion or abuse.[18]
- ✗ No existing policy allows survivors to take leave from employment due to the consequences of abuse (2025).[19]
- ✓ State law prohibits employers from discrimination or retaliation against employees based on their status as survivors (2025).[19]
- ✓ State law allows survivors who must leave or quit work due to domestic violence-related circumstances to remain eligible for unemployment benefits (2025).[19]
  The claimant may need to show proof of violence or harassment to qualify.[19]

Economic insecurity is both a risk factor for and a consequence of GBV victimization. Some women in Delaware are more likely to face economic insecurity than others.

In Delaware (2024), among full-time, year-round workers, for every $1 a white man makes,

- a white non-Hispanic woman makes **$0.82**
- a Black woman makes **$0.67**
- a Latina woman makes **$0.56**
- Wage gap data not available for Indigenous women in Delaware[17]

Priority Area 4: Online Safety and Security

- ✓ As of 2025, the criminal definition of stalking is inclusive of online tactics (cyberstalking).[20]
  Because the law does not specify particular tactics, it is inclusive of any tactic used.[20]
- ✓ State law criminalizes AI-generated Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM) as part of definition of CSAM (2025).[22]
- ✓ Additional state online safety laws prohibit violations of (online) privacy and interception of communications (2025).[20]
  As of 2026, all U.S. states have criminalized nonconsensual distribution of intimate images.[21]

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Priority Area 5: Legal and Justice Systems

Survivors of stalking, when perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner or household member, may file for protective orders (2025).[20]

Survivors without a relationship with the perpetrator are not covered by current protective orders.[20]

State policy does not establish a Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, although establishing one is allowed (2019).[11]

Access to Guns

State law includes an extreme risk/red flag gun law allowing courts to temporarily limit an individual from purchasing or possessing firearms (2026).[23]

State law closes the "boyfriend loophole" present in federal law, prohibiting gun possession by those convicted of IPV (including dating partners) (2026).[23]

Rape Kit Policy

There is no legal requirement that the state establish a Rape Kit Tracking System (2026).[24]

State policy establishes deadlines for submission and testing of newly submitted rape kits (2026).[24]

See state policy for details.[24]

State policy establishes a Victims' Right to Know for rape kit progress (2026).[24]

Survivors have the right to information, upon request, of the location and results of their kit.[24]

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