

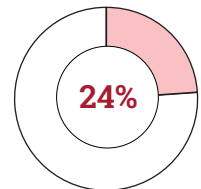
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Know Your Numbers

Sexual Violence (SV)

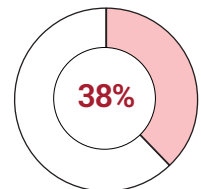
- **57%** of women have experienced rape, sexual coercion, or unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime. There are over 1 million survivors in Maryland alone. Prevalence for men is not available in Maryland (NISVS, 2023/2024).¹
- **40%** of women and **12%** of men first experienced sexual violence when they were under the age of 18 (NISVS, 2016/2017).²
- **11%** of female high school students experienced unwanted sexual activity (e.g., kissing, touching, intercourse) by an adult or person 5+ years older than them in past year (Maryland YRBS, 2022).³
- **16%** of gay, lesbian, or bisexual high school students experienced unwanted sexual activity (e.g., kissing, touching, intercourse) by an adult or person 5+ years older than them in the past year (Maryland YRBS, 2022).³



24% of women have experienced completed or attempted rape in their lifetime (NISVS, 2023/2024).¹

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- **43%** of women have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. There are over 1 million survivors of IPV in Maryland alone. Prevalence for men is not available in Maryland (NISVS, 2023/2024).⁴
- **16%** of women and **7%** of men first experienced IPV when they were under the age of 18 (NISVS, 2016/2017).²
- **12%** of female high school students experienced physical dating violence in the past year (YRBS, 2021).⁵
- **18%** of gay, lesbian, or bisexual high school students experienced physical dating violence in the past year (YRBS 2021).⁵



38% of women have experienced at least one IPV-related impact in their lifetime. Prevalence for men is not available in Maryland (NISVS, 2023/2024).⁴

Intimate Partner Homicide

Between 2019 and 2023, **120 Maryland women** were killed by their intimate partners. The rate of intimate partner homicide was more than **2.5 times higher for Black women** (1.65 per 100,000 women) than white women (0.57 per 100,000 women).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 4 women** has experienced stalking in their lifetime (NISVS, 2023/2024).⁷

Human Trafficking

- Between December 2024 and December 2025, there were **94** victims of commercial sex trafficking identified through police records.⁸
- In 2024, the Human Trafficking Hotline received calls identifying **254** victims of human trafficking (either sex or forced labor trafficking).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



Maryland state law establishes domestic violence screening programs at state healthcare facilities. Additionally, state law requires domestic violence prevention training for barber and beauty professional licensure.¹¹⁻¹³



State law requires or encourages training for prevention of human trafficking among specified professions or in specific locations.¹⁴
*Required for commercial drivers licensing and for lodging facilities staff.*¹⁴⁻¹⁵



State law mandates child sexual abuse (CSA) education to some or all students and some or all staff.¹⁶
*See state law for details.*¹⁶

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



Maryland has **26** Domestic Violence Service Providers and **17** Rape Crisis Centers.¹⁷⁻¹⁸



State policy protects survivors of IPV from insurance discrimination for health insurance and life insurance, but not for disability insurance or property insurance.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.¹⁹



State law allows for early lease termination for IPV, SV, or stalking survivors with protections from financial penalty.¹⁹

A survivor may terminate the lease early and vacate due to domestic violence/unlawful sexual behavior/stalking with required evidence.¹⁹



State law requires landlords to change locks if an individual is a survivor of IPV and/or SV and provides a court order.¹⁹

Tenant may be financially responsible for the lock change. See individual state law.¹⁹



State law prohibits landlords from evicting survivors due to the GBV they experienced.¹⁹

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 399 unhoused IPV survivors counted in Maryland (2024).²⁰

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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.²¹



State law allows survivors to take leave from employment due to the consequences of abuse.²²



GBV survivors are not legally protected against employer discrimination or retaliation based on their status as a survivor.²²



State law allows survivors who must leave or quit work due to domestic violence-related circumstances to remain eligible for unemployment benefits.²²

The claimant may need to show proof of violence or harassment to qualify.²²

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

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

- a white non-Hispanic woman makes **\$0.80**
- a Black woman makes **\$0.68**
- a Latina woman makes **\$0.49**
- an Indigenous woman makes **\$0.47**²³



Priority Area 4: Online Safety and Security



As of 2024, the criminal definition of stalking is inclusive of online tactics (cyberstalking).²⁴
Direct cyber components are included in the legal definition of stalking/harassment (electronic communication).²⁴



State law criminalizes AI-generated Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM) as part of the definition of CSAM.²⁵



Additional state online safety laws prohibit sexual extortion (including of private images) and camera surveillance without consent.²⁴

As of 2026, all U.S. states have criminalized nonconsensual distribution of intimate images.²⁶

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Priority Area 5: Legal and Justice Systems



Survivors of GBV can file for protective orders against stalking.²⁴

Survivors of stalking, regardless of their relationship to the perpetrator, can file for protective orders, no-contact orders, or civil injunctions.²⁴



State policy mandates the establishment of a Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team.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.²⁷



State law closes the “boyfriend loophole” present in federal law, prohibiting gun possession by those convicted of IPV (including dating partners).²⁷

Rape Kit Policy



State policy requires existence of a Rape Kit Tracking System.²⁸



State policy establishes or encourages some guidelines regarding submission or testing of newly submitted rape kits.²⁸

Maryland is currently addressing backlogged kits through non-legislative means. As of 2024, there were an estimated 5,000+ untested rape kits in Maryland.²⁸



State policy establishes a Victims’ Right to Know for rape kit progress.²⁸

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

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