Gender-Based Violence State Brief

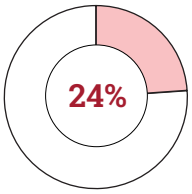
MONTANA

September 2026

Know Your Numbers

Sexual Violence (SV)

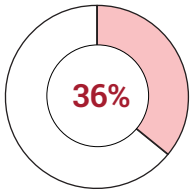
- **48%** of women and **19%** of men have experienced rape, sexual coercion, or unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime. There are over 278,000 survivors in Montana alone (NISVS, 2023/2024).[1]
- **41%** of women and **13%** of men first experienced sexual violence when they were under the age of 18 (NISVS, 2016/2017).[2]
- **20%** of female high school students experienced sexual violence in the past year (YRBS, 2023).[3]
- While there are no Montana-specific data on SV among LGBTQ high school students in national datasets, LGBTQ students in the U.S. overall experience higher rates of SV.[3]



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

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- **38%** of women and **24%** of men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. There are over 256,000 survivors of IPV in Montana alone (NISVS, 2023/2024).[4]
- **3.8%** of postpartum women experienced IPV in the 12 months before pregnancy. **2.6%** 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]
- While there are no Montana-specific data on IPV among LGBTQ high school students in national datasets, LGBTQ students in the U.S. overall experience higher rates of IPV.[3]



36% of women and **19%** of men have experienced at least one IPV-related impact* in their lifetime (NISVS, 2023/2024).[4]

Intimate Partner Homicide

Between 2019 and 2023, **26 Montana 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 4 women** has experienced stalking in their lifetime (NISVS, 2023/2024).[7]

Human Trafficking

- Between December 2024 and December 2025, there was **1** victim of commercial sex trafficking identified through police records.[8]
- In 2024, the Human Trafficking Hotline received calls identifying **87** 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

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

✗ 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]

◐ State law encourages but does not require child sexual abuse (CSA) education to K-12 students or K-12 school staff (2025).[13]

CSA education is broadly encouraged without specific population requirements.[13]

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

- Montana has **19** 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]
- GBV survivors have no legal protection against penalties for early lease termination due to GBV (2024).[16]
- Landlords are not legally required to change locks for individuals experiencing GBV (2024).[16]
- GBV survivors are not legally protected from being evicted by landlords 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 285 unhoused IPV survivors counted in Montana (2025).[15]

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]
- ✗ GBV survivors are not legally protected against employer discrimination or retaliation against them based on their status as a survivor (2025).[19]
- ✓ State law allows survivors who must leave or quit work due to domestic violence or harassment 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 Montana are more likely to face economic insecurity than others.

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

- a white non-Hispanic woman makes **$0.79**
- a Latina woman makes **$0.67**
- an Indigenous woman makes **$0.63**
- Wage gap data not available for Black women in Montana[17]

Priority Area 4: Online Safety and Security

- ✓ As of 2025, the criminal definition of stalking is inclusive of online tactics (cyberstalking).[20]
  Direct cyber components are included in the legal definition of stalking/harassment.[20]
- ✓ State law criminalizes AI-generated Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM) as part of the definition of CSAM (2025).[21]
- ✓ Additional state online safety laws prohibit disclosing explicit synthetic media or violating privacy in communications (including electronic messages) (2025).[20]
  As of 2026, all U.S. states have criminalized nonconsensual distribution of intimate images.[22]

Priority Area 5: Legal and Justice Systems

Survivors of GBV can file for protective orders against stalking, including cyberstalking (2025).[20]
Survivors of stalking, regardless of their relationship to the perpetrator, can file for protective orders, no-contact orders, or civil injunctions.[20]

State policy mandates the establishment of a Domestic Violence Fatality Review team (2019).[11]

Access to Guns

This state does not have an extreme risk/red flag gun law allowing courts to temporarily limit an individual from purchasing or possessing firearms (2026).[23]

As of 2026, no state law addresses the "boyfriend loophole" in IPV-related firearm restriction/relinquishment (i.e., dating partners may be excluded from enforcement).[23]

Rape Kit Policy

State policy requires existence of a Rape Kit Tracking System (2026).[24]

State policy establishes or encourages some guidelines regarding submission or 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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