Gender-Based Violence State Brief

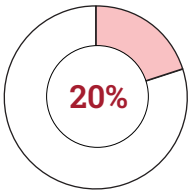
NEW JERSEY

September 2026

Know Your Numbers

Sexual Violence (SV)

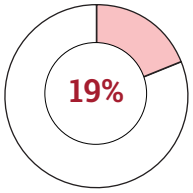
- **37%** of women have experienced rape, sexual coercion, or unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime. There are over 1.3 million survivors in New Jersey alone. Prevalence for men is not available in New Jersey (NISVS, 2023/2024).[1]
- **25%** of women first experienced sexual violence when they were under the age of 18. Prevalence for men is not available in New Jersey (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]



20% of women have experienced completed or attempted rape in their lifetime (NISVS, 2016/2017).[2]

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- **21%** of women have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. There are over 764,000 survivors of IPV in New Jersey alone. Prevalence for men is not available (NISVS, 2023/2024).[4]
- **13%** of women first experienced IPV when they were under the age of 18. Prevalence for men is not available for New Jersey (NISVS, 2016/2017).[2]
- **1.1%** of postpartum women experienced IPV in the 12 months before pregnancy. **1.0%** experienced IPV during their pregnancy (PRAMS, 2022).[5]
- **12%** of female high school students experienced physical dating violence in the past year (YRBS, 2023).[3]
- **16%** of gay, lesbian, or bisexual high school students experienced physical dating violence in the past year (YRBS, 2023).[3]



19% of women have experienced at least one IPV-related impact* in their lifetime. Prevalence for men is not available in New Jersey (NISVS, 2023/2024).[4]

Intimate Partner Homicide

Between 2019 and 2023, **111 New Jersey women** were killed by their intimate partners. The rate of intimate partner homicide was more than **2 times higher for Black women** (0.94 per 100,000 women) than white women (0.44 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.

Stalking

- Over **1 in 4 women** has experienced stalking in their lifetime (NISVS, 2016/2017).[2]

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 **354** 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 required, but is encouraged or made available by state policy (2019).[11]

State policy encourages DV training programs to be created by local government units.[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 mandates child sexual abuse (CSA) education to either some or all students or some or all staff (2025).[13]

Required for K-12 students and encouraged for K-12 staff, without requirement.[13]

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

- New Jersey has **37** 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]
- 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 801 unhoused IPV survivors counted in New Jersey (2025).[15]

Priority Area 3b: Economic Security

- As of 2023, the criminal definition of domestic violence includes elements of economic coercion or abuse.[18]
- State law 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-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 New Jersey are more likely to face economic insecurity than others.

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

- a white non-Hispanic woman makes **$0.78**
- a Black woman makes **$0.58**
- a Latina woman makes **$0.48**
- an Indigenous woman makes **$0.41**[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 the definition of CSAM (2025).[21]
- Additional state online safety laws prohibit invasions of privacy, including nonconsensual observation of sexual contact (including photography/recording) (2025).[20]
  As of 2026, all U.S. states have criminalized nonconsensual distribution of intimate images.[22]

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Priority Area 5: Legal and Justice Systems

- Survivors of GBV can file for protective orders against stalking (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

- 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

- 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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