

fact sheet

Assault in Colorado



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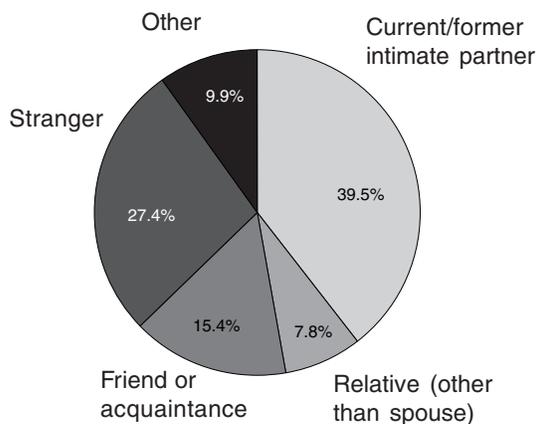
Three adults in Colorado are victims of homicide each week; many more are victims of non-fatal physical assault. In 1996, 1997, and 1998, questions were added to the Colorado Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to estimate the number of victims. The BRFSS is the largest ongoing telephone health survey in the world. It is conducted in all 50 states, 3 territories, and the District of Columbia. The Colorado BRFSS was initiated in 1990 and is a joint project of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Adults ages 18 and older are selected for interview using random digit dialing sampling techniques.

Among the findings from the study:

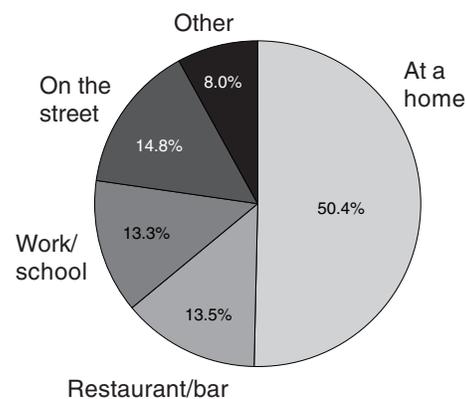
- Over 139,000 Colorado adults are assaulted each year¹
- Based on the most recent assault event experienced:
 - ➔ Over 60 percent of assault victims know their assailant
 - ➔ The majority of assaults occur in a home
 - ➔ 16 percent of assaults result in injuries requiring medical attention
- Over 200,000 Colorado adults are at increased risk for non-stranger violence each year¹

See the charts below and the table on the back for additional information.

Relationship between assault victim and offender: Colorado BRFSS, 1996-1998



Location of assaults: Colorado BRFSS, 1996-1998



Assault Victimization and Risk in Colorado: Colorado Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 1996-1998

| | Assaulted in past year ¹ | | | At increased risk for non-stranger violence ² | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|--|--------------------------------|-------|
| | Percent | 95 percent confidence interval | | Percent | 95 percent confidence interval | |
| Year³: | | | | | | |
| 1996 | 5.6% | 4.3% | 7.0% | 8.3% | 6.8% | 9.8% |
| 1997 | 4.0% | 3.0% | 5.0% | 6.7% | 5.3% | 8.0% |
| 1998 | 4.6% | 3.5% | 5.6% | 5.8% | 4.7% | 7.0% |
| 3-year average | 4.7% | 4.1% | 5.4% | 6.9% | 6.1% | 7.7% |
| Age: | | | | | | |
| 18-24 | 13.0% | 9.7% | 16.3% | 13.2% | 9.8% | 16.5% |
| 25-34 | 7.7% | 5.9% | 9.4% | 10.0% | 8.0% | 12.0% |
| 35-44 | 4.1% | 3.0% | 5.2% | 7.5% | 5.9% | 9.0% |
| 45-54 | 2.0% | 1.0% | 2.9% | 4.8% | 3.3% | 6.3% |
| 55-64 | 1.4% | 0.2% | 2.6% | 3.1% | 1.4% | 4.8% |
| 65+ | 0.5% | 0.0% | 1.0% | 1.8% | 0.7% | 2.9% |
| Sex: | | | | | | |
| Female | 4.2% | 3.4% | 4.9% | 7.9% | 6.8% | 9.0% |
| Male | 5.3% | 4.2% | 6.3% | 5.8% | 4.7% | 6.9% |
| Race/ethnicity: | | | | | | |
| Non-Hispanic white | 4.3% | 3.6% | 5.0% | 5.9% | 5.1% | 6.7% |
| Hispanic | 6.3% | 4.2% | 8.5% | 10.6% | 8.0% | 13.3% |
| Non-Hispanic other | 6.2% | 3.2% | 9.2% | 11.8% | 7.7% | 15.8% |
| Marital status: | | | | | | |
| Married | 2.2% | 1.6% | 2.8% | 3.6% | 2.8% | 4.3% |
| Divorced | 7.6% | 5.4% | 9.9% | 11.5% | 8.7% | 14.3% |
| Widowed | 2.7% | 0.4% | 5.1% | 6.4% | 3.0% | 9.9% |
| Separated | 21.5% | 12.1% | 30.8% | 35.9% | 25.5% | 46.3% |
| Never married | 9.4% | 7.1% | 11.7% | 11.2% | 8.8% | 13.6% |
| Unmarried couple | 10.3% | 5.6% | 15.0% | 15.2% | 9.3% | 21.1% |
| Education level: | | | | | | |
| Less than H.S. | 4.5% | 2.5% | 6.5% | 8.4% | 5.6% | 11.2% |
| H.S. grad | 5.7% | 4.3% | 7.1% | 8.8% | 7.1% | 10.5% |
| Some college | 6.1% | 4.7% | 7.5% | 7.4% | 5.9% | 8.9% |
| College graduate | 2.7% | 1.9% | 3.5% | 4.4% | 3.4% | 5.4% |
| Income: | | | | | | |
| <\$25,000 | 7.1% | 5.6% | 8.6% | 10.4% | 8.7% | 12.2% |
| \$25-\$49,999 | 4.8% | 3.7% | 5.9% | 6.8% | 5.4% | 8.1% |
| \$50,000+ | 2.9% | 1.9% | 3.9% | 3.8% | 2.7% | 4.9% |
| Region: | | | | | | |
| Urban | 4.6% | 3.9% | 5.3% | 7.2% | 6.3% | 8.1% |
| Rural | 5.3% | 3.6% | 7.0% | 5.6% | 4.0% | 7.2% |

¹Based on the question, "Within the past year, have you been hit, slapped, kicked, raped, or otherwise physically hurt by someone?"

²Increased risk is defined as answering yes to one or more of the following questions: "Thinking back again over the past year, on any occasion were you hit, slapped, kicked, raped, or otherwise physically hurt by a spouse, partner, ex-spouse or partner, boyfriend, girlfriend or date?", "Considering your current partners or friends, or any past partners or friends, is there anyone who is making you feel unsafe now?", "In the past year, have the police ever been called to your home because of a fight or argument, no matter who was fighting or who was at fault?"

³Statistically significant differences exist by year for both measures (chi-square p-value < .0001)

Reference

¹Based on 2002-based population estimates from the Demography Section, Colorado Division of Local Government.

Additional Information

For more information about physical assault in Colorado, consult the "Homicide and assault" chapter in the Injury in Colorado report at www.cdphe.state.co.us/pp/injepi/InjuryinColorado/injuryincolorado.html, or visit the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Injury Prevention Program Web site at www.cdphe.state.co.us/pp/injuryprevention/injuryprevhom.asp.

For more information about the Colorado BRFSS, visit the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Web site at www.cdphe.state.co.us and click on "Health and Disease Statistics", or contact the Health Statistics Section at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 303-692-2160.