



# Sexual Violence in Ramsey County and SOS Sexual Violence Services

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April 2019

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# INTRODUCTION

Sexual violence is sexual activity when consent is not obtained or not freely given. It is a serious public health problem in the United States. Sexual violence impacts every community and affects people of all genders, sexual orientations, and ages—anyone can experience or perpetrate sexual violence. The perpetrator of sexual violence is usually someone known to the victim, such as a friend, current or former intimate partner, coworker, neighbor, or family member.

Sexual violence is associated with several risk and protective factors. It is connected to other forms of violence, and causes serious health and economic consequences.

Sexual violence has a profound impact, both short and long term on its victims and survivors as well as its offenders, and the community. By using a public health approach that addresses risk and protective factors for multiple types of violence, sexual violence and other forms of violence can be prevented.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- o **Sexual violence is common.** 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetimes. Nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 38 men have experienced completed or attempted rape and 1 in 14 men was made to penetrate someone (completed or attempted) during his lifetime.

- o **Sexual violence starts early.** 1 in 3 female rape victims experienced it for the first time between 11-17 years old and 1 in 8 reported that it occurred before age 10. Nearly 1 in 4 male rape victims experienced it for the first time between 11-17 years old and about 1 in 4 reported that it occurred before age 10.

- o **Sexual violence is costly.** Recent estimates put the cost of rape at \$122,461 per victim, including medical costs, lost productivity, criminal justice activities, and other costs.

This report describes the burden of sexual violence in Ramsey County by looking at the most recent publicly available data and then describes Ramsey County's SOS Sexual Violence program which is part of Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health.

With no one complete data source, Part 1 of this report includes information from police crime reports, survey responses, and emergency department and hospital discharge data to help understand the burden of sexual violence across Ramsey County.

Each of the sources defines sexual violence differently; thus data and trend analysis is complex. It is important to consider each data source individually because victims differentially seek medical care, report to law enforcement, or respond to surveys. Because of differing definitions and responses, data from one source cannot be compared to another, however when viewed together, the data may offer important insight in understanding sexual violence in Ramsey County.

While Part 1 of this report provides only a snapshot of sexual violence in the county, it does underline the importance of filling those gaps in data collection around sexual assault victims and survivors. Preventing sexual violence and assault means first understanding the extent of the problem. We can't prevent what we can't count.

Part 2 of the report describes the clients and services of Ramsey County's SOS Sexual Violence Services program.

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April 2019

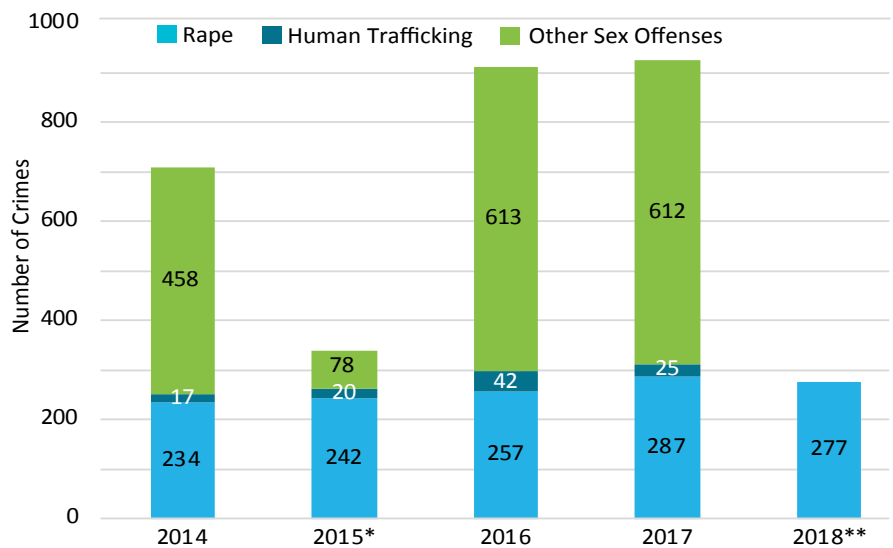
# Part 1: Need for Services

## Reportable Crimes

In Minnesota, police and sheriff departments report crimes to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety including three categories of sexual violence: rape, human trafficking and other sex offenses (offenses that do not fall under the definitions of rape or human trafficking). The number of crimes are reported, not number of victims. There could be one or several victims for each reportable offense.

Sexual violence crimes reported by Ramsey County law enforcement agencies increased during 2014-2017 except in the "other sex offenses" Figure 1 below only includes reports from the Saint Paul Police Department (SPPD) during 2018.

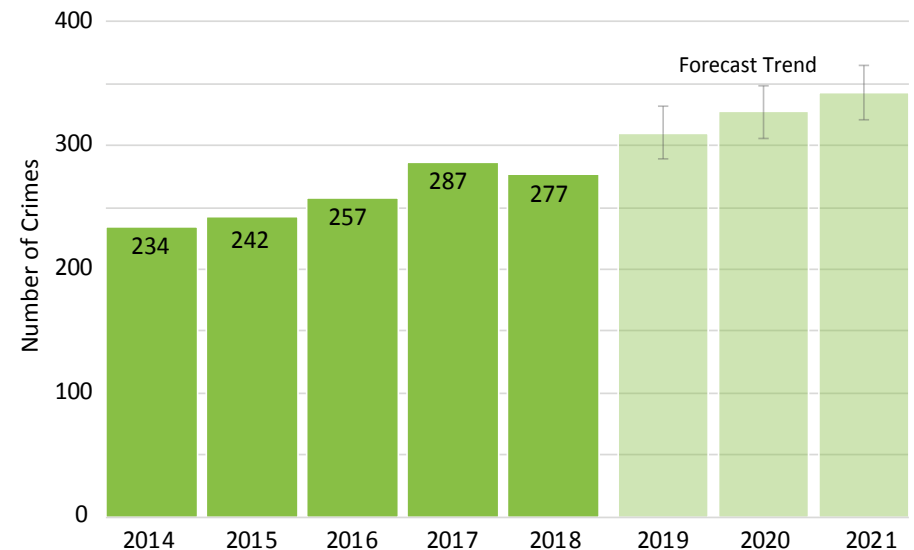
Figure 1: Sexual Violence Crime, Ramsey County, 2014-2018



Source: Minnesota Uniform Crime Reports  
 \* SPPD Other Sex Offenses data unavailable  
 \*\* SPPD only

Rapes in Ramsey County increased almost 20 percent during 2014-2018. If this trend continues, it is likely to increase another 25 percent by the year 2021.

Figure 2: Rape Offenses, Ramsey County, 2014-2018



Source: Minnesota Uniform Crime Reports

Figure 3 displays the number of sexual violence crimes reported by the eight law enforcement agencies in Ramsey County. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Department reports crimes for the cities of Arden Hills, Gem Lake, Little Canada, North Oaks, Shoreview and White Bear Township.

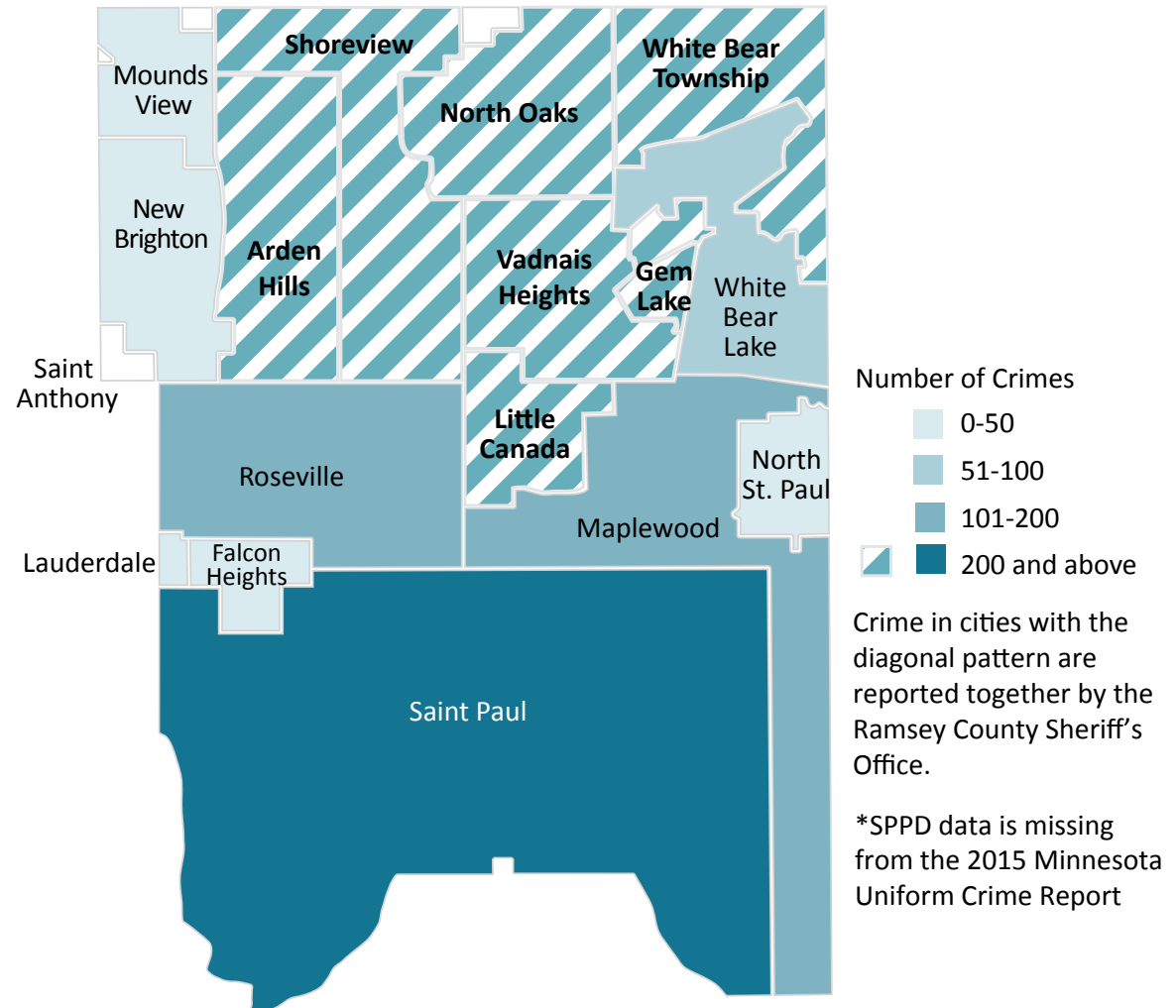
During 2014-2017, there were 2,711 reported crimes that involved rape, human trafficking or other sexual offenses. Seventy-five percent occurred in Saint Paul, which had 2,032 reported crimes\*. Most of these were categorized as "other sex offenses" (1,370).

Following Saint Paul, Roseville (161) and Maplewood (159) reported the greatest number of sex crimes.

In 2018, the Ramsey County Attorney's Office published a sexual assault systems review. They asked Ramsey County law enforcement agencies the number of sexual conduct cases that were investigated in 2016 and 2017, other than those referred by child protection.

Number of criminal sexual conduct cases investigated in 2016/2017 other than those referred from child protection		
	2016	2017
Maplewood Police	47	47
Ramsey County Sheriff	51	71
Roseville Police	77 total	
Saint Paul Police	1746	1752

Figure 3: Sexual Violence Crimes by Law Enforcement Agency, Ramsey County, 2014- 2017\*

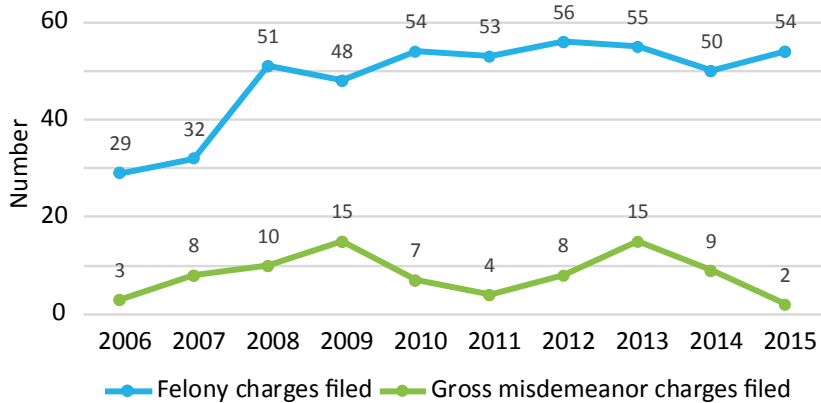


Source: Minnesota Uniform Crime Reports

In 2018, the Ramsey County Attorney's Office conducted a systems review of 646 police reports during 2013-2016. Of those reports, only 29.7 percent (192) of the cases were referred to the Ramsey County Attorney's Office for a charging decision; 37 percent of those referred (74) were criminally charged; and 60.4 percent were declined. About 2.6 percent of those referred had some other result, such as requesting further investigation.

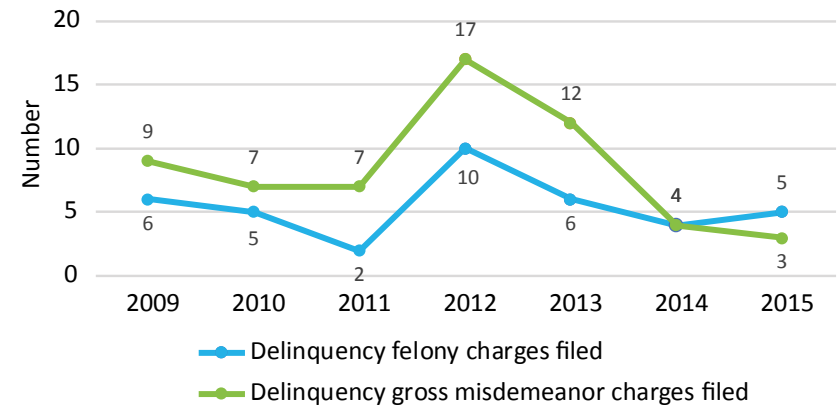
The Minnesota Department of Public Safety maintains a dashboard of statistics regarding the number of charges filed against both adults and youth for criminal sexual conduct. Felony charges filed in Ramsey County against adults increased 86 percent between 2006 and 2015.

Figure 4: Adult Criminal Sexual Conduct Charges by Year, Ramsey County, 2006-2015



Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety

Figure 5: Youth Criminal Sexual Conduct Charges by Year, Ramsey County, 2009-2015

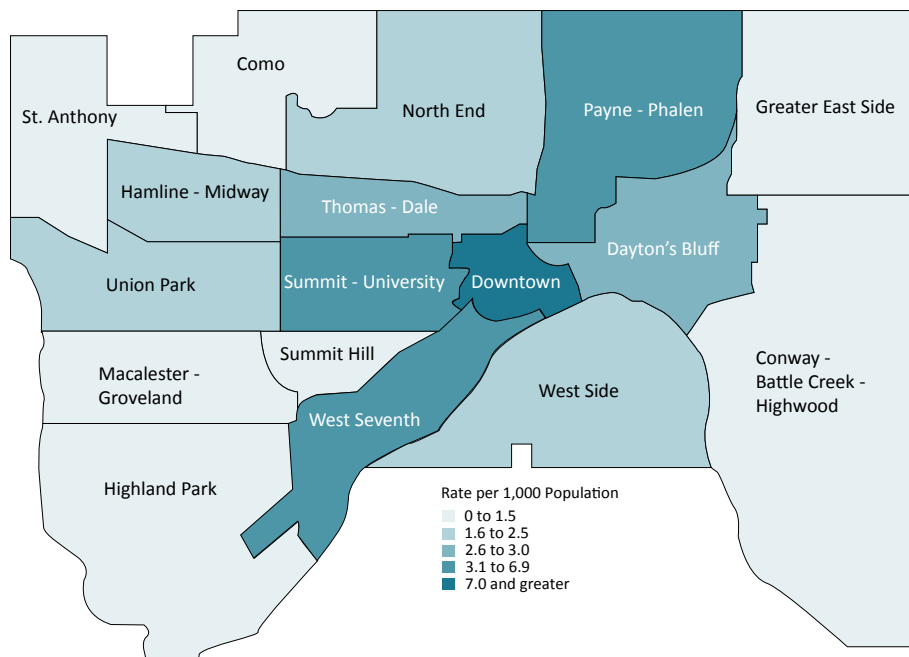


Source: Minnesota Department of Public Safety

## A Closer Look at Saint Paul

In Saint Paul, the number of reported sexual assaults increased 28 percent between 2015 and 2018 (145 to 186 reports). Rape made up the majority of reports, increasing 17 percent from 126 to 147 during the same time period.

Figure 6: Rate of Reported Sexual Violence per 1,000 Population, Saint Paul, 2014- 2018



Source: Minnesota Uniform Crime Reports

Figure 7: Rape and Attempted Rape by Neighborhood, Saint Paul, 2014- 2018

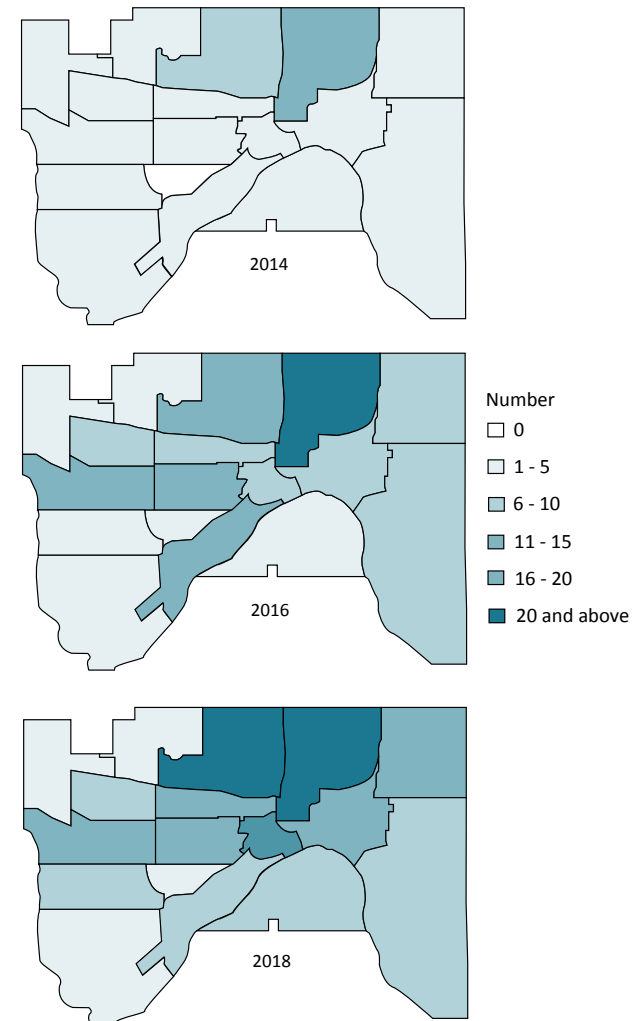


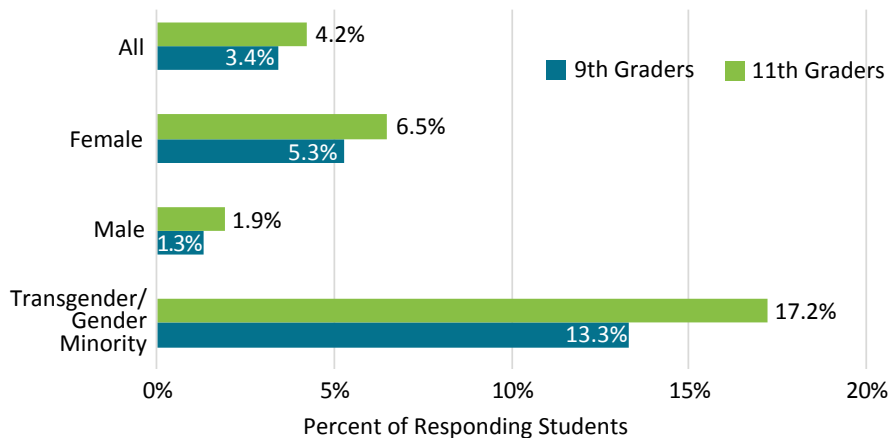
Figure 7 maps display the number of reported and attempted rapes in Saint Paul by neighborhood over time. The neighborhoods in and around Downtown, Payne-Phalen and North End had the highest number.

## Sexual Violence Reported by Youth

Since 1989, the Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) has been administered statewide every three years to students in public, charter, and tribal schools.

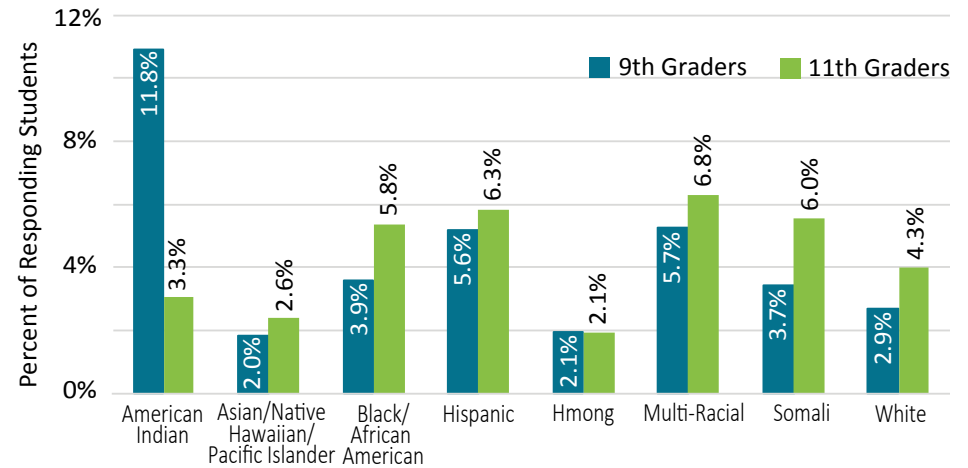
The survey asks students about many of their activities, opinions, behaviors and experiences. Students respond to questions on school climate, bullying, out-of-school activities, health and nutrition, emotional and mental health, relationships, substance use and more. Questions about sexual behaviors are asked of ninth and 11th-grade students. All responses are anonymous.

Figure 8: Students who Reported Experiencing Sexual Abuse from an Adult Outside the Family, Ramsey County, 2016



Source: Minnesota Student Survey 2016

Figure 9: Students who Reported Experiencing Sexual Abuse from an Adult Outside the Family by Race/Ethnicity, Ramsey County, 2016

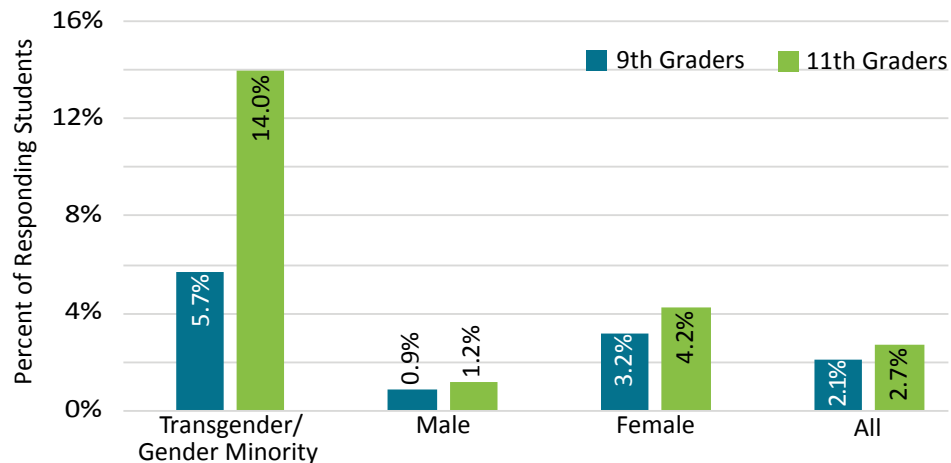


Source: Minnesota Student Survey 2016

Figures 8 and 9 display the percentage of Ramsey County 9th and 11th graders reporting sexual abuse by an adult outside of their family. Females reported abuse from a non-related adult three times more than males. Transgender and gender minority students reported far higher rates with just over 13 percent of 9th graders and 17 percent of 11th graders experiencing sexual abuse.

American Indian students reported sexual abuse by a non-related adult two times more than other racial/ethnic populations.

Figure 10: Students who Reported Experiencing Sexual Abuse by a Family Member, 2016

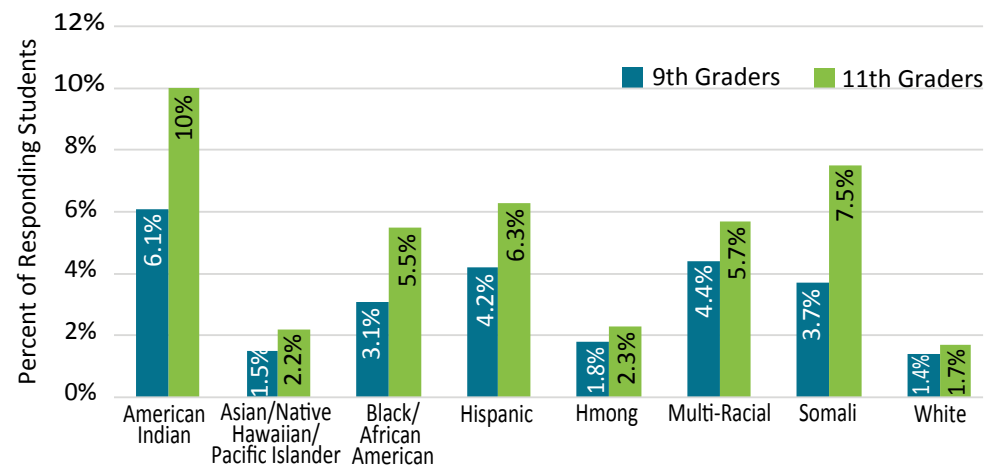


Source: Minnesota Student Survey 2016

There are similar patterns of students reporting family sexual abuse as displayed in Figure 10. Again, responses from females in both grades are more than three times that of males. Transgender and gender minority students reported the most sexual abuse-14 percent of 11th grade students reported abuse from a family member. Between 9th and 11th grade, student reports of family sexual abuse increase dramatically; more than doubling between these grades.

When race is considered (Figure 11), 11th grade American Indian students reported the highest percentage of abuse by a family member, followed by 11th grade students identifying as Somali.

Figure 11: Students who Reported Experiencing Sexual Abuse by a Family Member by Race/Ethnicity, 2016

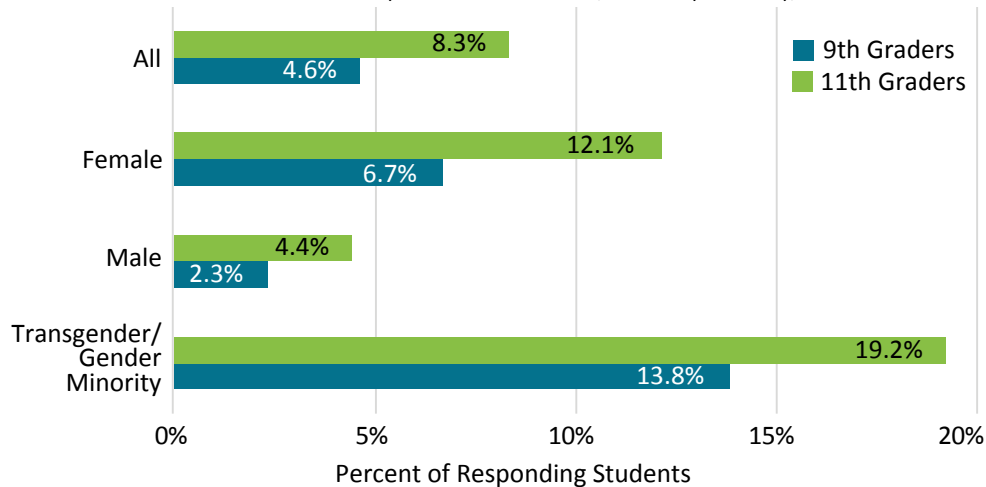


Source: Minnesota Student Survey 2016

The Minnesota Student Survey also asks students about sexual abuse by their partner. In Figure 12 displays the percentage of students who answered "yes" to the following question; "Have you ever had a boyfriend or girlfriend in a dating or serious relationship who pressured you into having sex when you did not want to?"

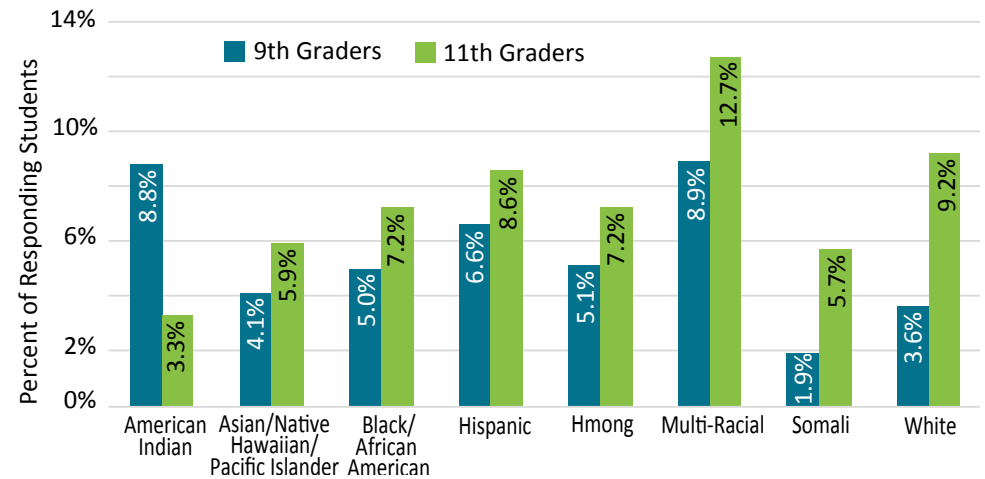
About one in five 11th grade students identifying as transgender reported experiencing sexual pressure and coercion from a partner. Females also reported high rates- just over 12 percent.

Figure 12: Students who Reported a Girlfriend or Boyfriend Pressured Them into Sex When They Did Not Want To, Ramsey County, 2016



Source: Minnesota Student Survey 2016

Figure 13: Students who Reported a Girlfriend or Boyfriend Pressured Them into Sex When They Did Not Want To by Race/Ethnicity, Ramsey County, 2016

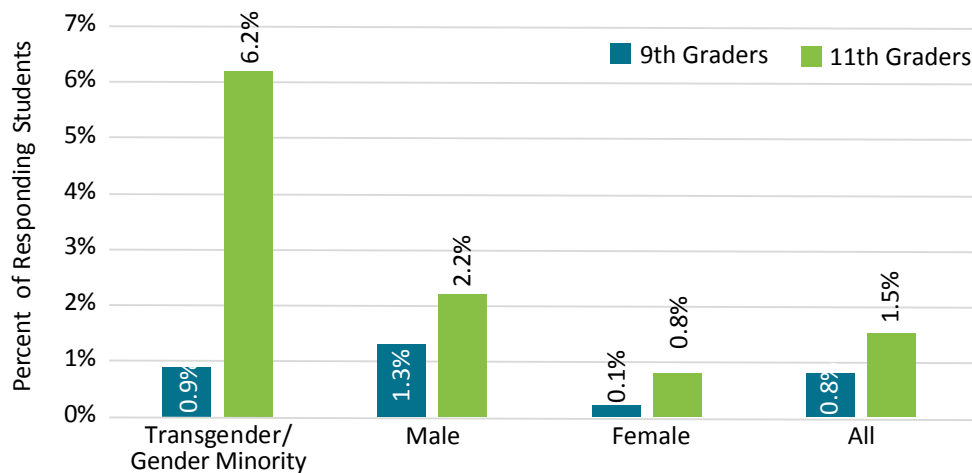


Reports of sexual pressure from partners is greatest among Hispanic, white and multi-racial students. American Indian students reported the highest rates among 9th graders.

When students were asked about their own behavior towards their partners, 9th grade males disclosed that they had engaged in sexually-persuading behavior towards their partner slightly more than their female counterparts. This gap was slightly larger among 11th graders.

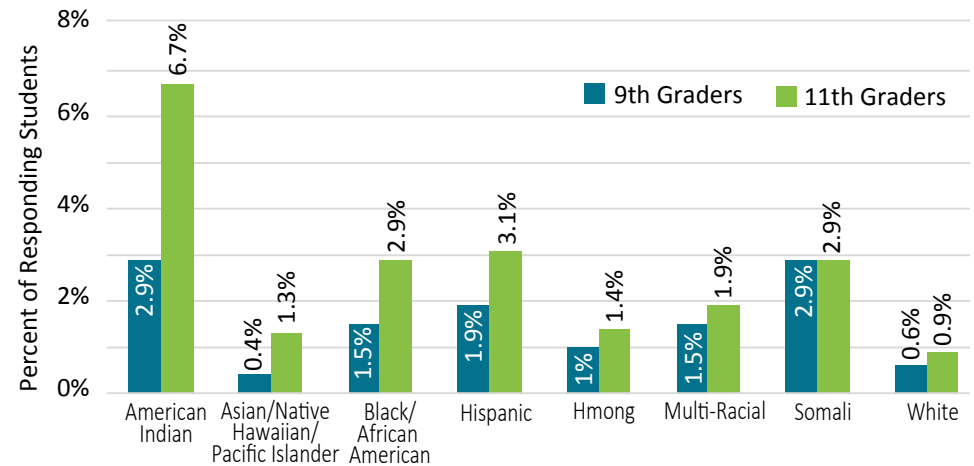
Transgender and gender minority 11th graders reported the highest percentage of engaging in sexual pressure/coercion toward a partner (6.2 percent).

Figure 14: Students who Reported They Pressured a Girlfriend/Boyfriend into Sex Against Their Will, Ramsey County, 2016



Source: Minnesota Student Survey 2016

Figure 15: Students who Reported They Pressured a Girlfriend/Boyfriend into Sex Against Their Will by Race/Ethnicity, Ramsey County, 2016



Seven percent of American Indian 11th graders reported pressuring someone into sex, more than double the second highest group at 3.1 percent.

## Minnesota Crime Victimization Survey

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Program's most recent statewide crime victimization survey was completed in 2016.

Respondents were asked about sexual violence victimization that did and did not involve penetration. A little more than 1 percent of survey respondents reported that they were sexually assaulted without penetration within the previous year, which is about the same rate found in the 2010 crime victim survey. Three quarters of the 2016 victims reported that this happened more than once.

Less than 10 percent of these sexual assault victims reported the most recent instance of sexual violence to the police. Most of these assaults were perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner (66.3 percent). A little more than 1 percent (1.2 percent) of these assaults were committed by a friend or casual acquaintance and less than 1 percent (0.4 percent) were committed by a stranger. Sexual violence that included penetration was less prevalent in this sample.

The rate of rape in the current survey is slightly lower than what was reported in the 2010 survey, which was 0.3 percent. However, it is important to note that the 2010 survey included attempted rape, while the current survey did not. According to official Minnesota statistics, between 2010 and 2016, the number of reported and known rapes increased by 4 percent.

The National Crime Victim Survey (NCVS) reports rape and sexual assault in one combined estimate. The 2015 NCVS found that about 0.2 percent of respondents were the victims of sexual assault and/or rape within the previous year. A majority of those victimization events consisted of attempted or threatened rape or other forms of sexual assault that did not involve penetration.

About 1.4 percent of 2016 Minnesota Crime Victimization Survey respondents reported a sexual assault without penetration and/or with penetration. Notably, the Minnesota rate is higher than the national rate; however, caution should be used when comparing these estimates given differences in methodology between the two surveys.

## Emergency Department and Hospital Visits

Emergency department and hospital discharge data show that sexual violence visits and admissions increased 27 percent among Ramsey County residents during 2010-2016 with rates much higher than the state as a whole.

Sexual assault emergency department visits and hospital admissions among Ramsey County residents made up between 15 and 17 percent of all sexual assault visits made by Minnesotans each year 2010-2016. Historically, only one-quarter of sexual violence victims and survivors report receiving hospital care.

Hospital Visits and Admissions for Sexual Violence Among Ramsey County Residents, 2010-2016							
	Year						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
# of visits/admissions	246	244	243	224	250	262	298
% of statewide visits/admissions	16%	17%	16%	15%	17%	15%	17%

This data set includes sexual violence-related injuries treated at hospitals in Minnesota and bordering facilities; representing approximately 95% of all patient discharge data for injuries in Minnesota.

## Part 2: SOS Clients and Services

## SOS Sexual Violence Services Overview

SOS Sexual Violence Services (SOS) offers a range of services to victims, survivors, and their families, friends and other concerned persons all free of charge.

SOS provides victim-centered advocacy to anyone who has experienced:

- Sexual violence, with or without penetration, including attempted sexual contact
- Sexual harassment, including unwanted attention, exposing, sexting
- Sexual exploitation, including sex trafficking, survival sex, forced or coerced pornography
- Any sexual activity (both physical and non-physical) with someone who does not or cannot consent
- Non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images



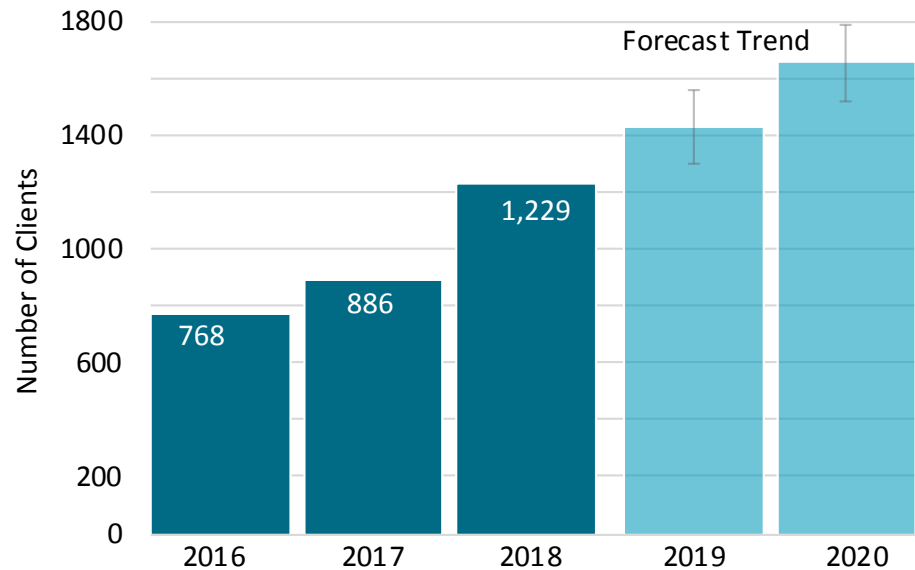
## SOS Clients

The SOS Program identifies clients in three categories:

1. Primary victims of sexual violence
2. Secondary victims-friends or family of a primary victim
3. Consultation clients-individuals who contact SOS for advice or information not related to a primary victim

In 2016, SOS served 768 unique individuals-primary and secondary victims as well as individuals contacting SOS for consultation. The number of clients increased by 60 percent (1,229 clients) in 2018. If current trends continue, clients are expected to increase another 34 percent by 2020.

Figure 16: SOS Clients (unduplicated) by Year



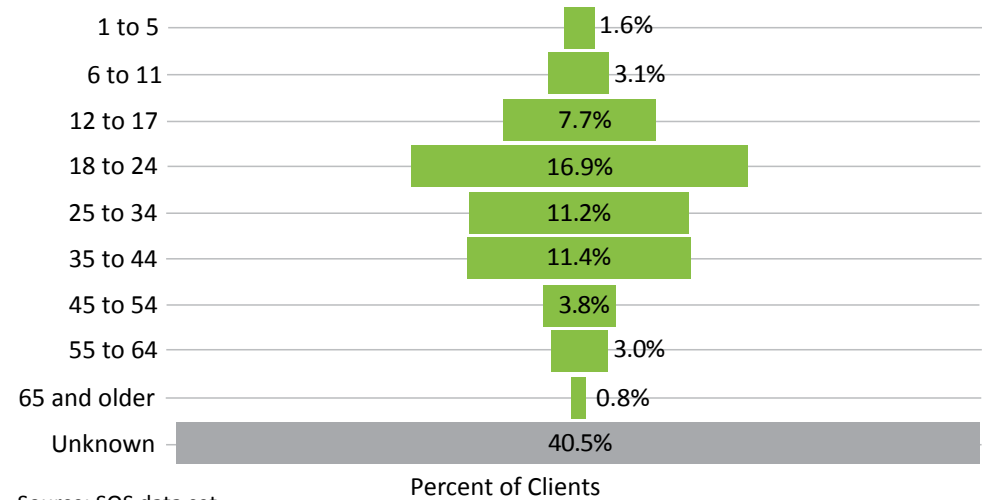
Source: SOS data set

\*Includes all clients and consultations

Nationally, 41.4 percent of reported sex offense crime victims were adults 18 years and older. Almost 30 percent of U.S. sex offense crime victims were youth ages 11-15.

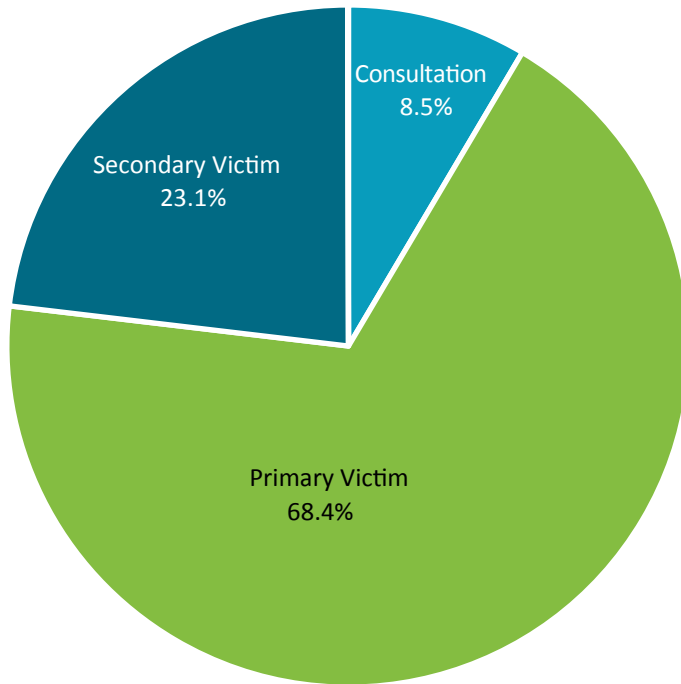
During 2016-2018, 41 percent of SOS clients did not share or declined to share their age. Of those who did, just over 40 percent were under 35 years old, and 30 percent were under the age of 25. Increasing the collection of client age is an SOS data collection goal.

Figure 17: SOS Clients by Age Group in Years, 2016-2018



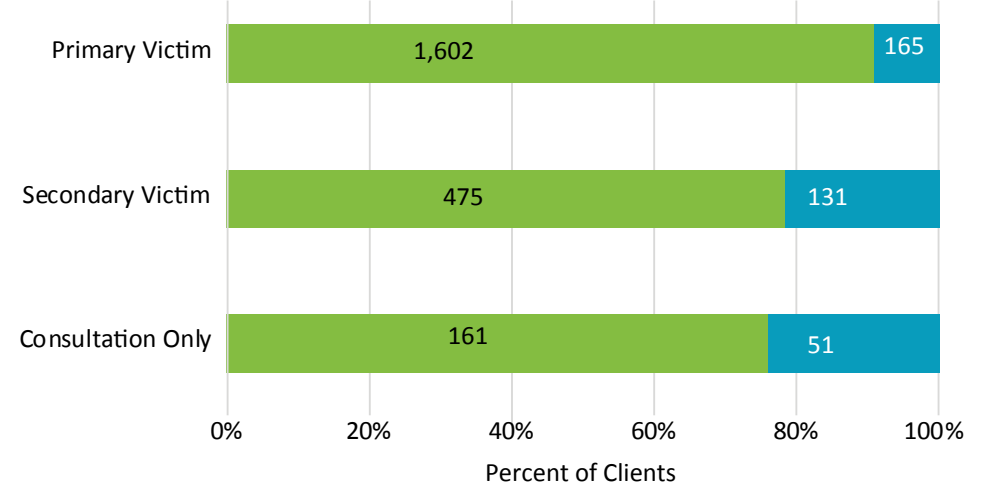
Source: SOS data set

Figure 18: SOS Clients by Type, 2016-2018



Source: SOS data set

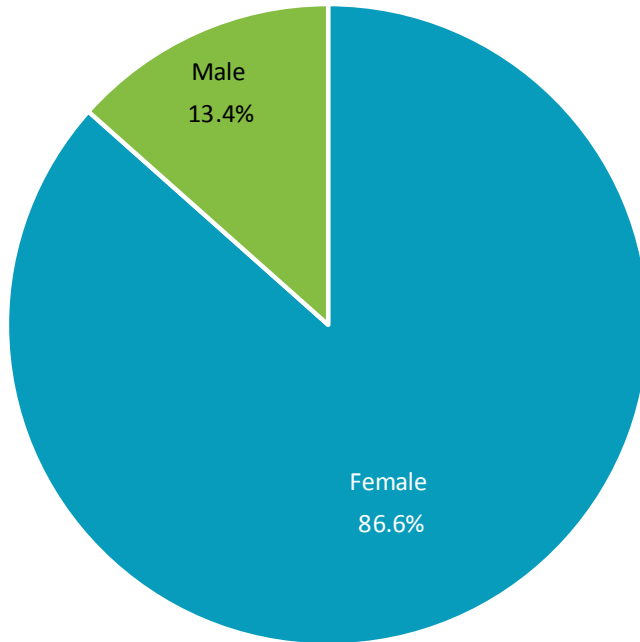
Figure 19: SOS Client Type by Sex, 2016-2018



Source: SOS data set

Female Male

Figure 20: SOS Clients by Sex, 2016-2018



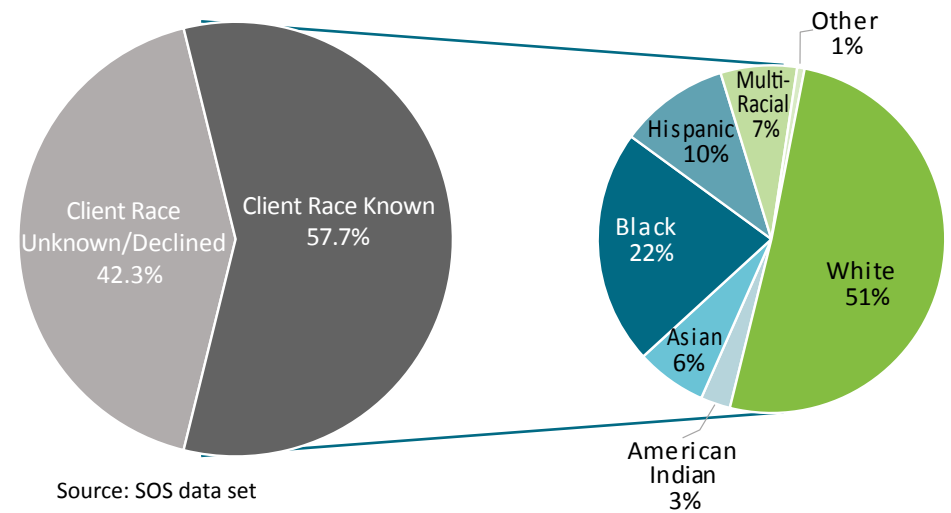
Source: SOS data set

The majority of SOS clients self-reported their sex as female—just over 86 percent. It was not possible to account for gender identification during 2016-2018 due to lack of data. The inclusion of gender is an SOS data collection goal.

Nationally, 86 percent of reported sex offense crime victims were female in 2017, 13.8 percent were male.

Forty-two percent of SOS clients in 2016-2018 did not identify their race/ethnicity. But of those who did about half were white and half self-identified as a person of the global majority or American Indian.

Figure 21: SOS Clients by Race/Ethnicity, 2016-2018



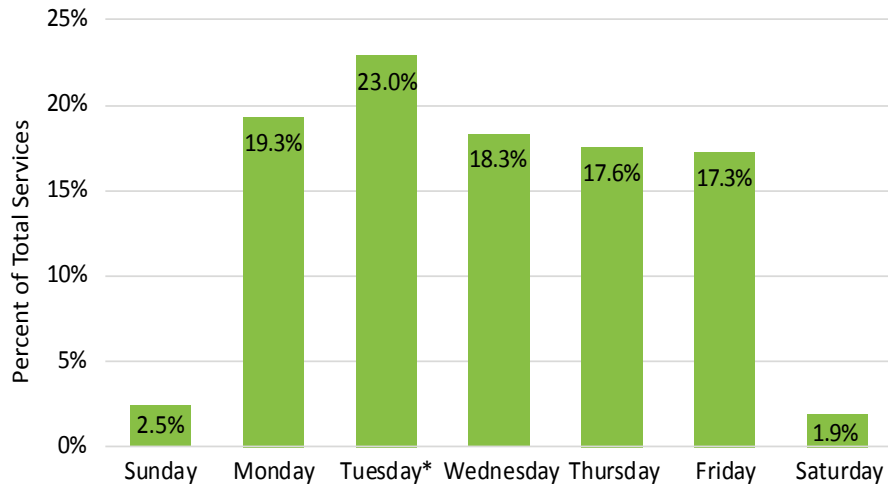
Source: SOS data set

Even though SOS provides services to individuals regardless of the crime being reported to law enforcement, it is interesting to note that nationally in 2017, 75 percent of sex offense victims were white.

## SOS Services

SOS provides victims and survivors of sexual violence guidance and support in the legal reporting process, counseling, medical advocacy, and more. The number of services provided by SOS increased between 2017-2018. Informing victims of their legal rights, how to obtain legal notifications, and other related informational services increased about 167 percent between 2017 and 2018 (526 to 1,405).

Figure 22: SOS Services by Day of Week, 2016-2018



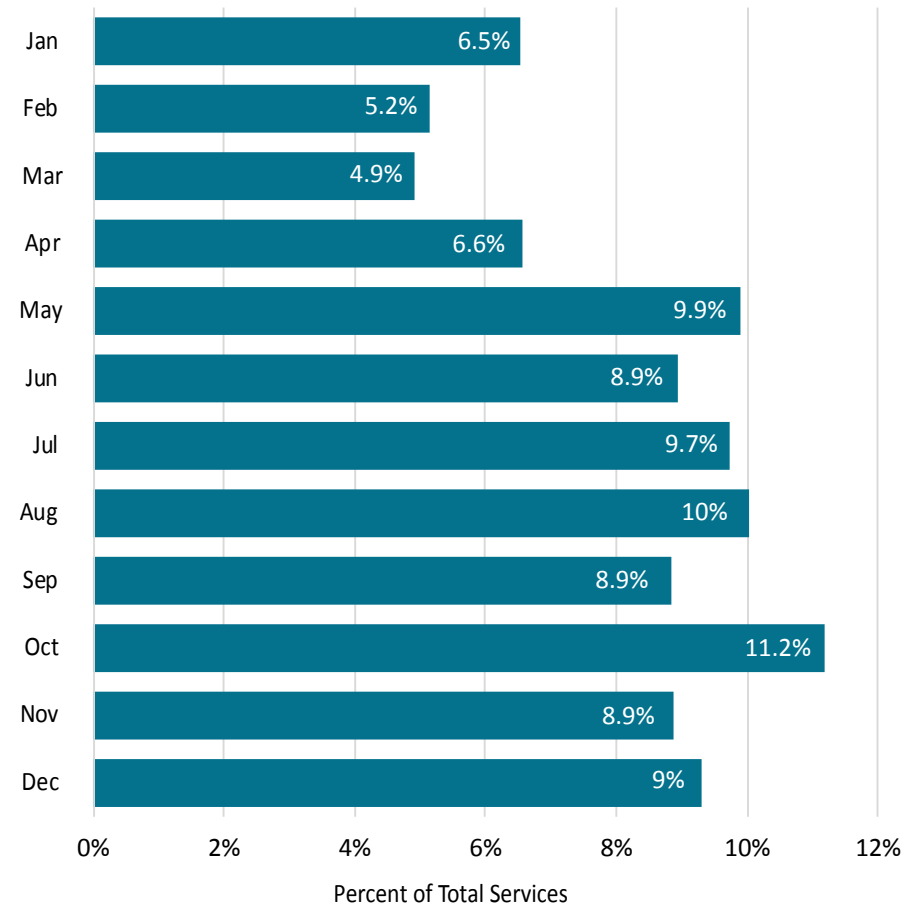
Source: SOS data set

\* Tuesday services include the weekly support groups

Most SOS services were provided on Tuesdays, in part because support groups are held on Tuesday evenings. On Saturdays, Sundays, weekday evenings and overnights services are provided by pairs of volunteer advocates with SOS staff back up also on call. Nationally, most reported sex offense crimes occurred between midnight and 1 a.m. in 2017.

October was the busiest month for SOS during 2016-2018, followed by August and May.

Figure 23: SOS Services by Month, 2016-2018



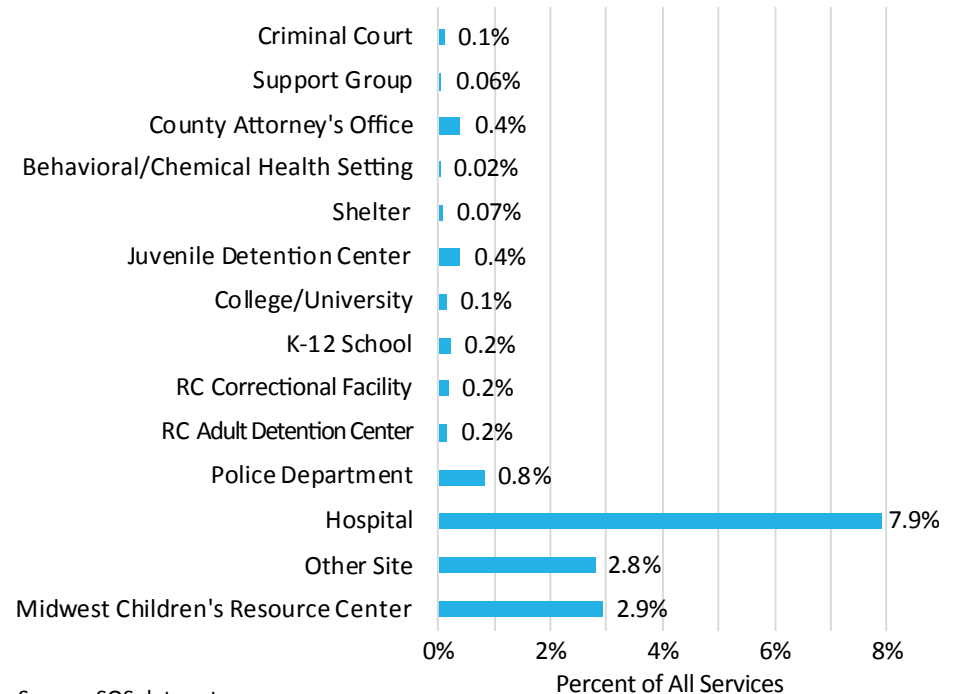
Source: SOS data set

Most services to clients (80 percent) are delivered in the SOS offices but staff also provide services in many other settings. Figure 24 displays the locations other than the SOS offices where services were provided during 2016-2018.

SOS Sexual Violence Services reaches out to many victims/survivors who get medical attention. For those who go to Regions, St. Joseph's, and St. John's Hospitals in Saint Paul, the hospital contacts SOS and a volunteer automatically responds at any time, any day of the year. At United Hospital, SOS responds during daytime hours.

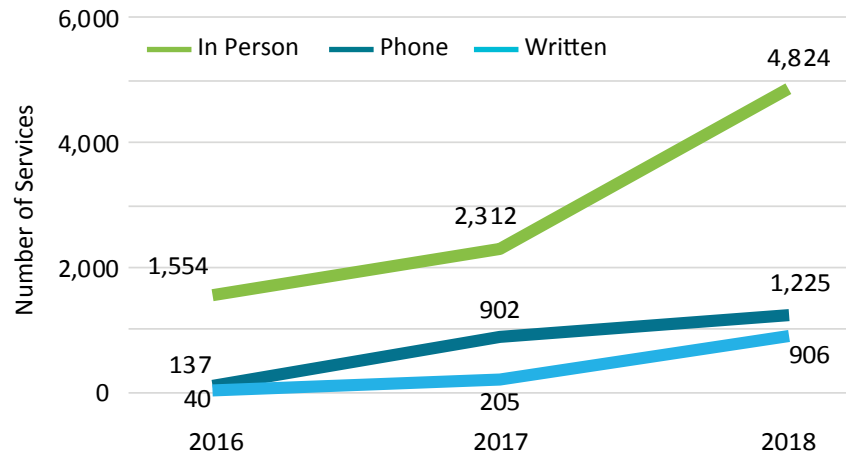
The hospital staff proactively calls SOS to respond, and the victim/survivor is free to accept or decline advocacy services. Advocacy services help each person feel she or he is not alone during the process, provides answers to questions, quells unrealistic fears, and assists the victim/survivor in deciding what is right for her or him based on reliable information.

Figure 24: Services by Location Outside of the SOS Office, 2016-2018



SOS utilizes three forms of contact to provide services; in person, on the phone and in writing. Most services are provided by phone-69.4 percent of all services in 2018. Services provided in-person are the second most common (Figure 25).

Figure 25: SOS Services by Method of Communication, 2016-2018

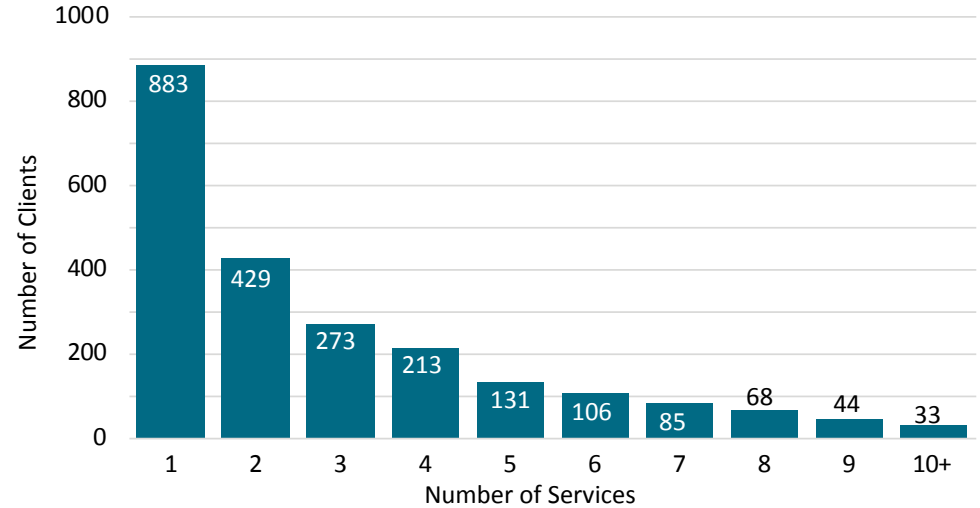


Source: SOS data set

Figure 26 clearly displays that short-term advocacy (vs. longer term case management) involving three or less contacts is what SOS staff and volunteers provide.

The majority of SOS clients (883) received only one service during 2016-2018. Thirty-three clients received ten or more services- only 1 percent of all clients. Seventy percent of SOS clients in 2016-2018 received three services or less.

Figure 26: SOS Service Intensity, 2016-2018



Source: SOS data set

## Justice System Services

An important aspect of SOS client advocacy involves guidance and support during justice system processes. This may include assistance in filing a police report, providing information and education, or accompanying the client in meetings and in court. Justice system services provided by SOS staff and volunteers more than tripled during 2016-2018.

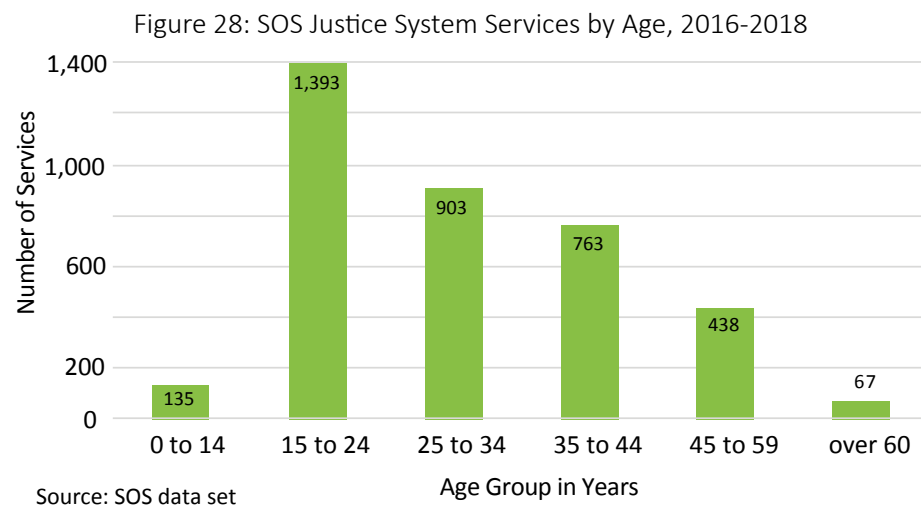
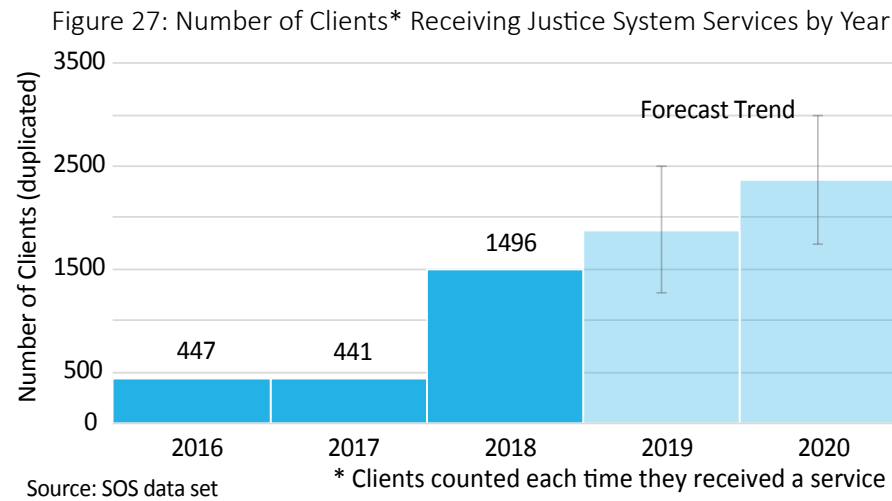
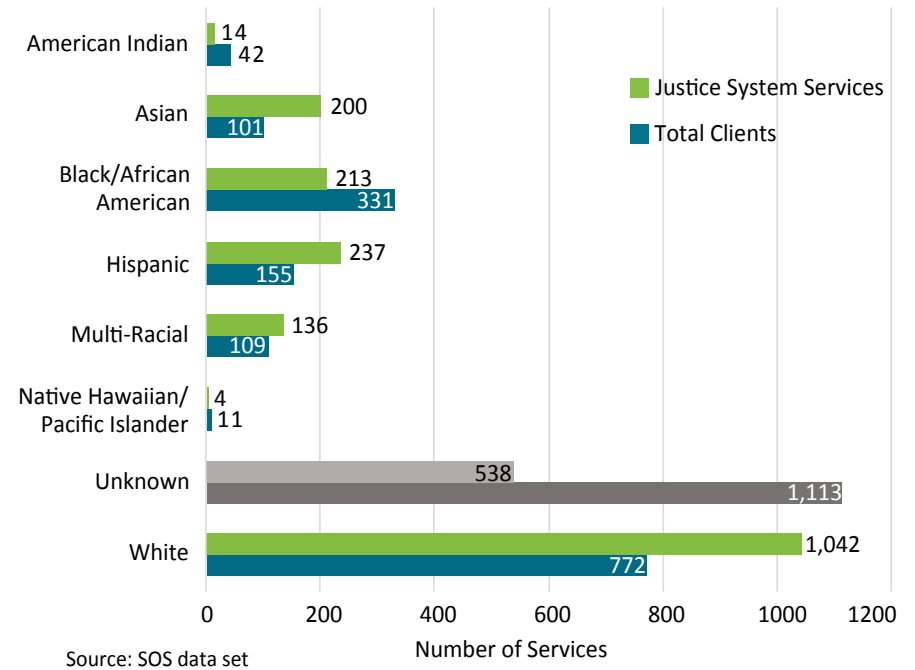


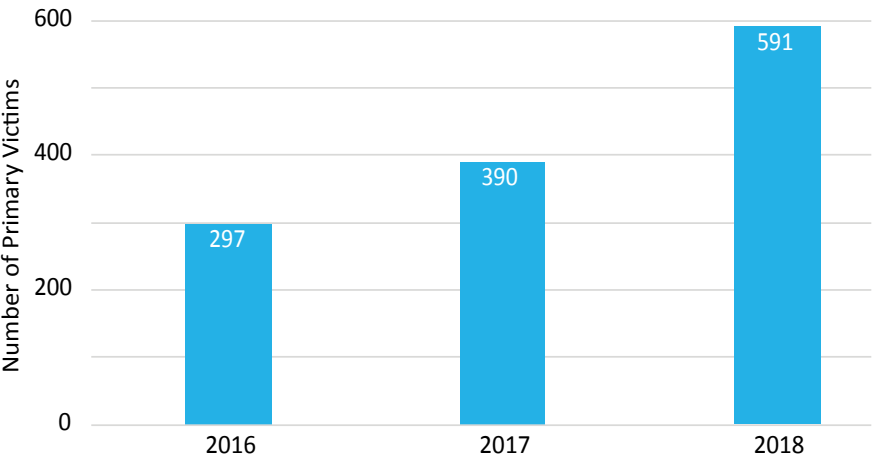
Figure 29: SOS Justice System Services by Race, 2016-2018



Only 60 percent of SOS clients had race/ethnicity identified. Of those, 51 percent were white, receiving about 56 percent of all services in 2016-2018.

The client population of SOS is categorized in three ways-primary victims, secondary victims and consultation clients, as described previously. Shown on this page are the distributions of these justice system services among service populations.

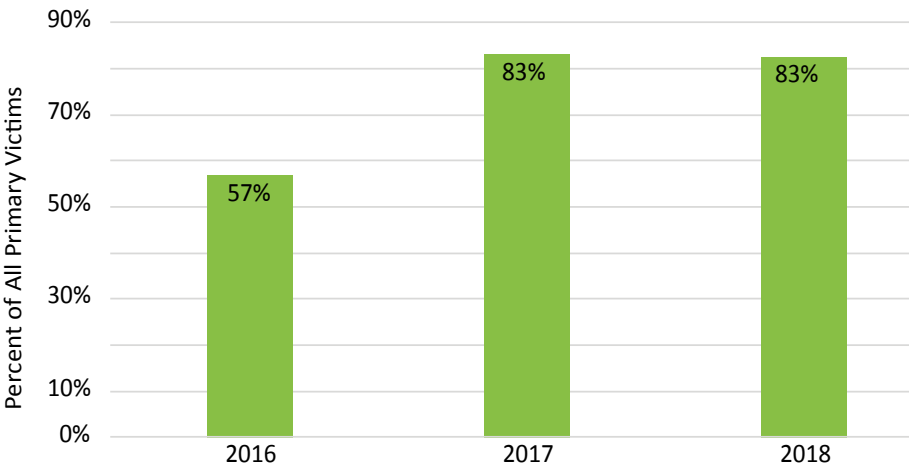
Figure 30: Primary Victims (unduplicated) Receiving Justice System Services, 2016-2018



Source: SOS data set

Figures 30 and 31 display both the total number of primary victims as well as the percentage of all primary victims that received justice system services from SOS during 2016-2018.

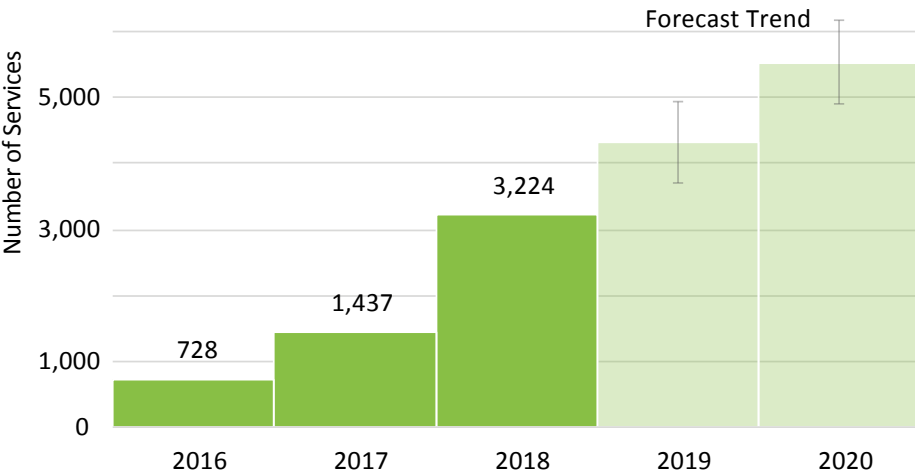
Figure 31: Percentage of Primary Victims Receiving Justice System Services, 2016-2018



Source: SOS data set

The number of justice system services provided by SOS increased almost 350 percent between 2016 and 2018.

Figure 32: Number of Justice System Services Provided by Year



Source: SOS Database

# Data Sources

- Uniform Crime Report. Saint Paul Police Department. (2014 – 2018). Accessed March 2019 from <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/police/crime-statistics/annual-and-crime-reports>
- Uniform Crime Report. State of Minnesota (2014 – 2018). Accessed March 2019 from <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/mnjis/Pages/uniform-crime-reports.aspx>
- Minnesota Student Survey. Minnesota Department of Education (2013 – 2016). Accessed April 2019 from <http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/DataTopic.jsp?TOPICID=242>
- National Crime Victimization Survey. (2015) Accessed April 2019 from <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245>.
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- Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Injury Data Access System (MIDAS)-Violence. Accessed April 2019 from <https://midas.web.health.state.mn.us/violence/index.cfm>
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