

Long-term trends in non-intimate-partner-related violence against women

Keouna Pather, MD, and Marie Crandall, MD, MPH, FACS

From the Department of Surgery, University of Florida College of Medicine-Jacksonville, Jacksonville, Florida, USA

Background: Violence against women is a global and public health issue that affects women worldwide. While intimate partner violence against women is widely described in the literature, there is comparatively less data on non-intimate-partner-related violence against women (NIPV). The aim of this study was to determine long-term trends in NIPV against women (NIPVAW) as compared to men.

Methods: Crime data were obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting program. National violent crime rates were abstracted from the FBI summary reporting system available from 1979 to 2018, which included aggregates and estimates from underreporting agencies. The FBI national incident-based reporting system (NIBRS) provided sex, age, race, ethnicity, and offender to victim relationship details from 1991 to 2018. NIPVAW excluded relationships between offender and victim of boyfriend/girlfriend, (common-law) spouse, homosexual relationship, or ex-spouse/relationship. NIBRS rates were adjusted by percent of population covered by submitting agencies. All crime rates were reported per 100,000 people.

Results: From 1979, violent crime declined with the lowest reported rate in 2014 (548.9 to 361.6 per 100,000 people, -34.1%) and a subsequent rise from 2016 to 397.5 (+9.9%; **Figure 1A**). Notably, rape was the only violent offense type that considerably increased since 2013 (25.9 to 30.0, +15.8%). Incident-based data demonstrated the number of NIPV female victims paralleled male victims in 2010 (615.9 versus 609.5) and further surpassed male victims in 2018 (493.4 versus 463.9; **Figure 1B**). The rates of NIPV among Hispanic/Latino populations have increased over time with a large rise from 2016 to 2018 in both females (31.4 to 43.8, +39.5%) and males (35.5 to 46.2, +30.1%; **Figure 2A**). Similarly, NIPV rates in Asian/Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander females (0.6 to 6.0, +900%) and males (0.8 to 7.6, +850%) have trended upwards since 1991. Contrastingly, NIPV rates in white females (430.2 to 313.1, -27.2%) and males (477.7 to 316.4, -33.8%) decreased from 2007 to 2018. NIPV in Black/African-American females (218.0 to 154.9, -28.9%) was higher compared to Black/African-American males (216.8 to 121.6, -43.9%) since 1992 continuing to 2018 (**Figure 2B**). Similarly, NIPV against American Indian/Alaska Native females exceeded American Indian/Alaska Native male victims in 2006 (3.4 versus 3.2) and has since been increasing (3.4 to 4.5, +32.4%). Notably, from 2016, NIPV crime rates trended upward in all races in both females (431.2 to 493.4, +14.4%) and males (430.6 to 463.9, +7.7%).

Conclusion: All violent crimes have trended downward since 1979. Female victims of NIPV have increased as compared to male victims over time. NIPV against minority ethnic and racial groups have steadily increased over the last 28 years, particularly against females compared to males of the same minority population. Notably, there was an upward trend from 2016 in NIPV in both males and females across all races. Efforts to explore and address trends in societal and community risk factors may be needed to reduce violent crimes, particularly against women and minority groups.

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