

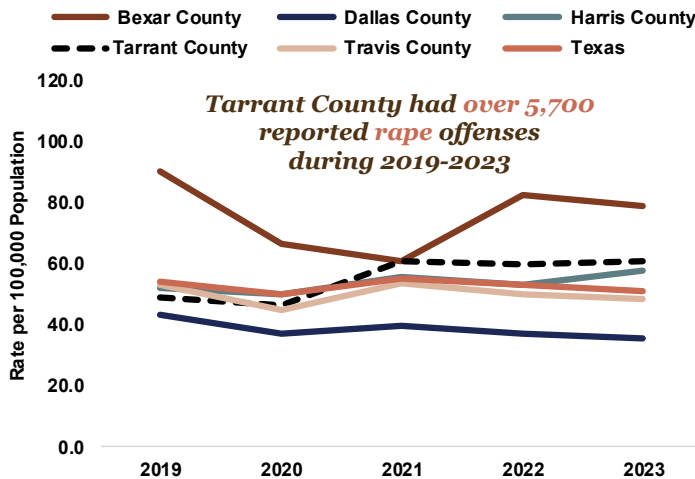
TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DATA BRIEF



SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN TARRANT COUNTY

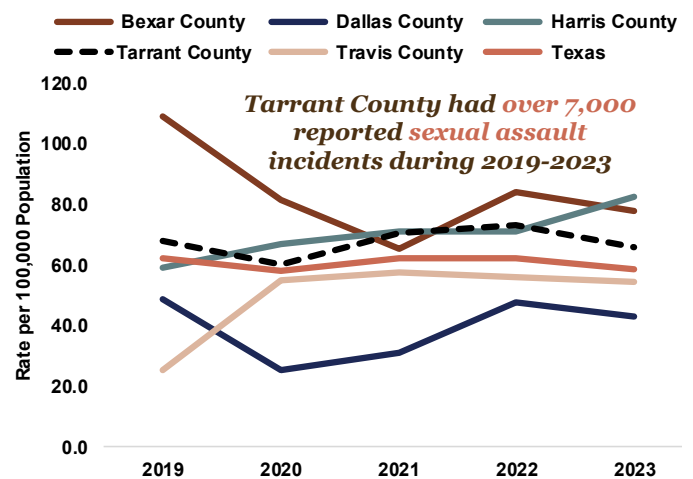
Sexual Violence (SV) is any type of unwanted sexual activity (including non-contact forms) when consent is not obtained or freely given (including when the person is incapable of giving consent because of their age or due to temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity). SV includes **rape*** and **sexual assault**** but there are many forms of SV [\[click here for SV types\]](#). SV can occur in-person and online (posting/sharing sexual content without consent). Anyone can experience SV or perpetrate it. Perpetrators are typically someone the survivor knows. Due to stigma, fear, shame, distrust, etc. survivors may not report SV or wait to do so; therefore, SV is often underreported. Other data limitations include, changes in reporting methods and laws. In Texas, collected evidence from a sexual assault forensic exam (“rape kit”) is stored up to five years in case survivors want to report the incident and release the evidence to law enforcement. For other Data Brief topics related to SV [\[click here\]](#).

Figure 1. Rape* crime rates by geographic location, 2019-2023



* Rape is defined in the Crime in Texas 2023 report ([click for definition](#); page 146). Rape is included under Index Crimes (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, and human trafficking). Rape and sexual assault are collected separately and should not be compared as the definitions and offenses do not fully align.

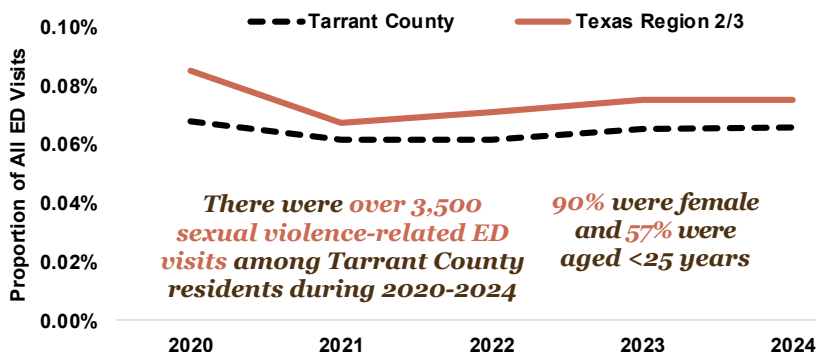
Figure 2. Sexual assault** crime rates by geographic location, 2019-2023



** Sexual assault includes several offenses ([click for included offenses](#); Crime in Texas 2023 report, page 67). Sexual assault incidents can have multiple offenses and victims. Sexual assault is not included under Index Crimes. Rape and sexual assault are collected separately and should not be compared as the definitions and offenses do not fully align.

From 2019 to 2023, Tarrant County’s rape crime rates increased significantly while sexual assault crime rates decreased but not significantly

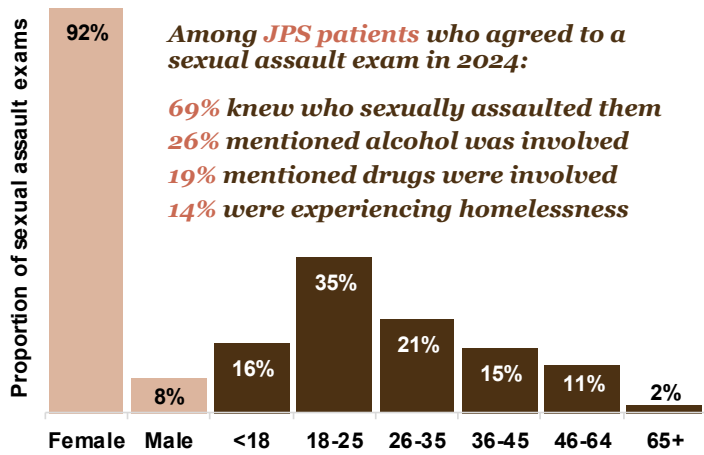
Figure 3. Sexual violence-related emergency department (ED) visits[†], Tarrant County and Texas Region 2/3[‡], 2020-2024



[†] ED visits determined with the ‘CDC Sexual Violence v3’ Syndromic Surveillance definition in ESSENCE ([click for definition](#)); [‡] Texas Region 2/3 = Texas Department of State Health Services public health region consisting of 49 counties in North Texas ([click for exact coverage](#)).

The Tarrant County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) reported that there were 1,758 reports of adult sexual assault crimes (aged 17 years+) received by various police departments in Tarrant County from October 2021 - September 2023

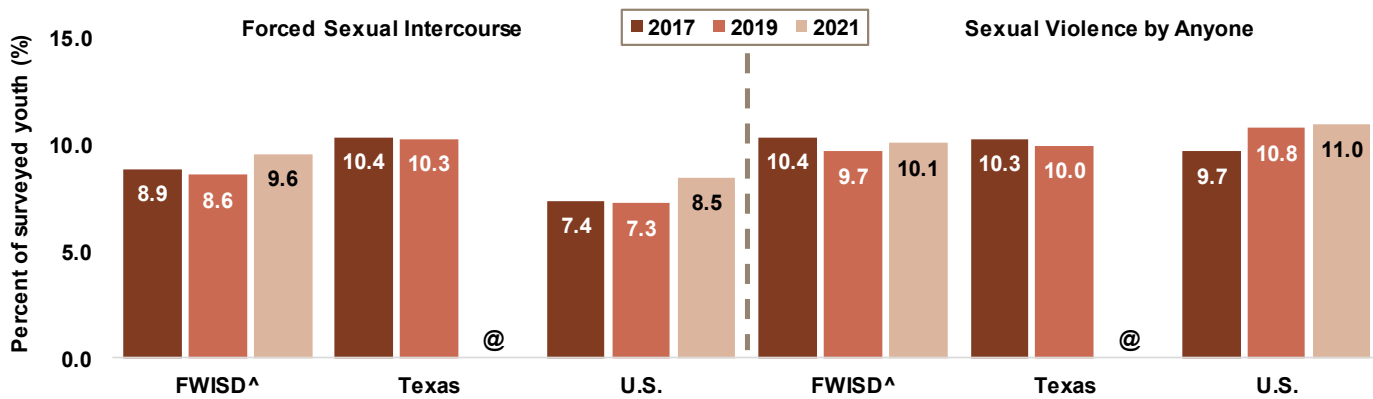
Figure 4. JPS Health Network patients who agreed to a sexual assault exam, by gender and age group (in years), Tarrant County, 2024 (n= 427)



From October 2023 - September 2024, the Women’s Center of Tarrant County:

- **Counseled 1,675 survivors at local rape exam sites**
- **Assisted 1,956 callers from the Rape Crisis and Victim Services Sexual Assault Hotline**
- **Trained 3,702 professionals on sexual assault and victimization issues**
- **Trained 5,632 adults on sexual assault prevention**

Figure 5. Sexual violence reported by high school students in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) by type of sexual violence and geographic location, 2017-2021[§]



Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Sexual Violence Questions

Among high school students:

- **Physically forced to have sexual intercourse** when they did not want to.
- **Being forced to do sexual things** (kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse) they did not want to do **by anyone** one or more times during the 12 months before the survey.

In 2017 and 2019, the percentage of high school students who reported forced sexual intercourse was significantly higher in Texas compared to the U.S.

Education and Prevention

- [allianceforchildren.org]
- [cdc.gov/sexual-violence/about/]
- [dps.texas.gov/section/crime-laboratory/sexual-assault-evidence-tracking-program]
- [dshs.texas.gov/maternal-child-health/adolescent-health/sexual-violence-prevention]
- [forensic-nursing.tamu.edu/map/index.html]
- [gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/sastf]
- [hhs.texas.gov/providers/health-care-facilities-regulation/information-survivors-sexual-assault]
- [jpshealthnet.org/get-care/services/sane-program]
- [nsvrc.org]
- [rainn.org/types-sexual-violence]
- [vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/main/prevention-information/sexual-violence/]

Resources and Support

- National Sexual Assault Hotline (24/7) Call **1-800-656-4673** [rainn.org]
- The Women’s Center of Tarrant County - Rape Crisis Hotline (24/7) Call **817-927-2737** [womenscentertc.org]
- One Safe Place Call **817-916-4323** [onesafeplace.org]
- SafeHaven of Tarrant County Call **1-877-701-7233** [safehaventc.org]
- Tarrant County Victim Services Call **817-884-2740** [tarrantcountytexas.gov/en/criminal-district-attorney/victim-services.html]
- Tarrant County Public Health - Disease Surveillance, Outreach, and Prevention [tarrantcountytexas.gov/en/public-health/clinical-services0/disease-surveillance-and-outreach-program.html?linklocation=wantto&linkname=Disease%20Surveillance,%20Outreach%20and%20Prevention]
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault [taasa.org/help/]
- Texas Sexual Assault Survivors’ Task Force [gov.texas.gov/apps/sastf/]

[§] YRBS data are collected every two years; ^ Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) is the only North Texas school district participating in the YRBS; @ data unavailable due to low response rate; All significant differences detected at the 95% confidence level; Data Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, JPS Health Network, The Women’s Center of Tarrant County; Data Brief provided by: Statistical Analysis Team