

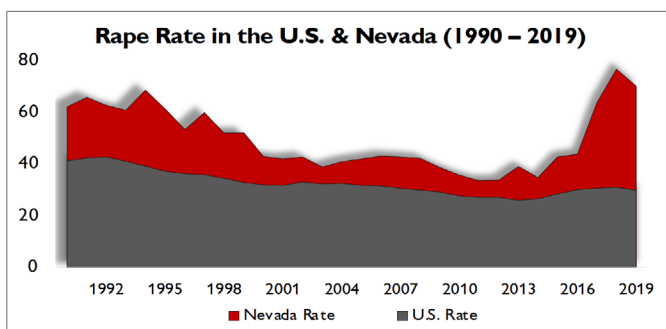
National and State Rape Trends (1990 - 2019)

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Rape is one of the highest impact crimes on American society. Its definition has changed over time and has recently become more inclusive (e.g., elimination of “forcible” from the definition, inclusion of males, etc.). This data summarizes rape rates over a 29-year period and potential factors associated with high and low rates.

Key Stats

1

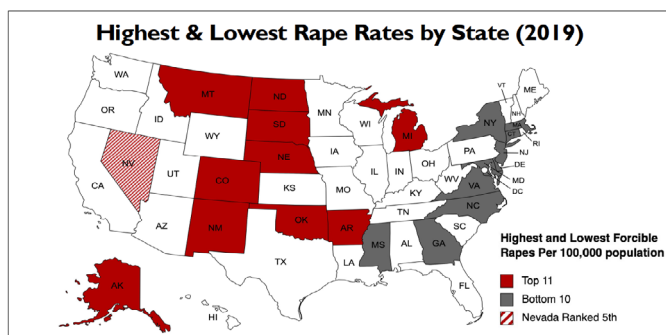


Source: Statista (2021)

Nevada’s rape rates are higher than the national rate, but both rates followed a similar trend over time.

Across all time periods Nevada has a higher rape rate than the national average. Generally, both rates have decreased overtime though they exhibited an increase from 2014 to 2017, then began to decrease again.

2

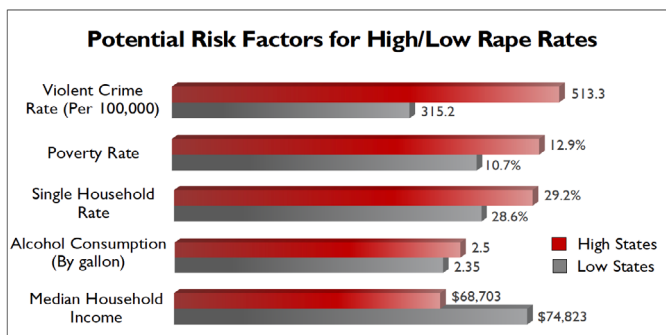


Source: Statista (2021)

Rape rates vary widely across the different regions of the country.

There is a clear pattern of higher rape rates in states within the U.S. central region. The eastern region had the highest concentration of low-rate states. Nevada was ranked 5th nationally.

3



Source: Statista (2020, 2021)

Higher rape rates are found in states with higher levels of other violent crimes and lower economic opportunities.

States with high rates of rape have higher rates of violent crime, poverty, single person households, alcohol consumption per capita, and have lower median household incomes.

Table 1

Table 1 data is based on the FBI's UCR program legacy definition of forcible rape. Included in this definition are attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force, however, excluded are statutory rapes (without force) and other sex offenses. To keep the presentation of data consistent, rates (per 1000,000) under the legacy definition were used since the official definition of rape was only recently revised in 2013.

Table 2

Table 2 displays the highest and lowest forcible rape rates in the U.S. in 2019. The revised UCR definition of rape was used in the estimation of this data. This change also removed "forcible" from the offense title. Oklahoma and North Dakota were tied for the 10th highest, so both states were included.

Table 3

Displays differences in rates of potential risk factors for high rape rate states. Data for the U.S. Violent crime rate was provided by the FBI's crime reports. Data for the poverty rate, median household income, and single-person household rate was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau. Data estimates of alcohol consumption (in gallons) per capita by state were provided by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. More details about the data sources for Tables 1, 2, and 3 can be found in the reference links to these sources.

Limitations of Data

Limitations of data include (1) the use of the legacy definition of "forcible" rape in Table 1 that excludes sexual assaults involving male victims and (2) the restriction of these rape data to only offenses known to the police. If victims do not report sexual assaults to the police or these offenses are not observed by the police, they will not be included in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports.

Top 11 States		Bottom 10 States	
Alaska	148.7	New Jersey	17.2
Arkansas	77.2	Connecticut	21.6
South Dakota	72.6	Mississippi	25.1
Michigan	72.4	Georgia	27.5
Nevada	70.2	North Carolina	31
Colorado	67.2	Maryland	31.6
Nebraska	64.8	Delaware	31.8
New Mexico	61.4	Massachusetts	32
Montana	58.4	Virginia	33
Oklahoma	57.3	New York	33.8
North Dakota	57.3		

Data sources used in this Stat Sheet:

- Forcible Rape Rate in U.S. 1990-2019
- Forcible Rape Rate in Nevada, 1990-2019
- Forcible Rape Rate by state, 2019
- Poverty Rate by state, 2019
- Violent Crime Rate by state, 2019
- Alcohol Consumption by state, 2019
- Single-Person Household Rate by state, 2019
- Median Household Income by state, 2019
- Uniform Crime Reporting Program

For references in this Stat Sheet, see the CCJP website: www.unlv.edu/CCJP

Stat sheets are produced by the Center for Crime and Justice Policy at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The Center is housed in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. Stat Sheets provide summaries of various criminal justice practices in Nevada and other states.