

# TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DATA BRIEF



## SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN TARRANT COUNTY

**Sexual Violence (SV):** 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 can occur in-person and online (posting/sharing sexual content without consent). It impacts people from all backgrounds and communities. Anyone can perpetrate or experience SV. 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. 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 information about sexual violence between intimate partners or teens, sex trafficking, and child/elder abuse: [\[click here\]](#).

Figure 1. Rape\* crime rates by geographic location, 2018-2022

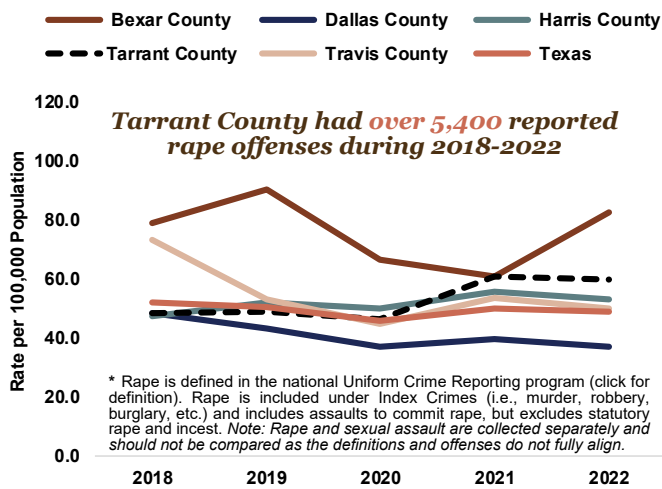
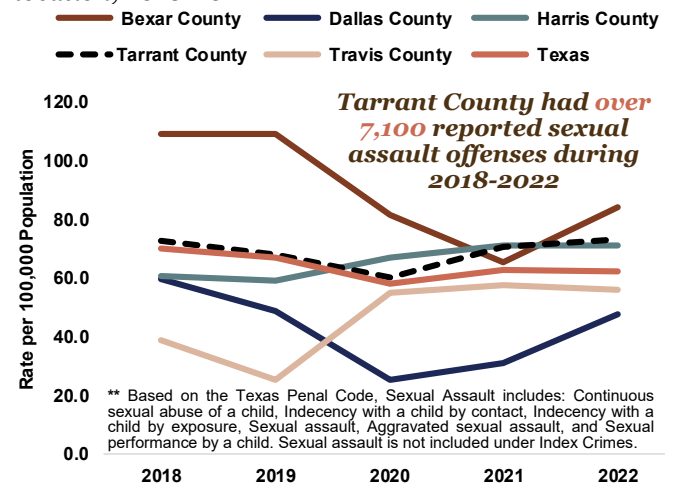


Figure 2. Sexual assault\*\* crime rates by geographic location, 2018-2022



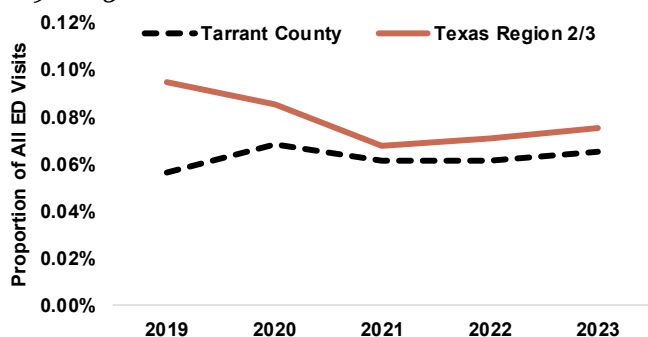
In 2022, Tarrant County's rape crime rates were significantly higher than Texas and Dallas, Harris, and Travis Counties.

- Rape crime rates increased significantly in:
- Harris and Tarrant Counties from 2018 to 2022
  - Texas and Bexar and Tarrant Counties from 2020 to 2022

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Figure 3. Sexual violence-related emergency department (ED) visits<sup>†</sup>, Tarrant County and Texas Region 2/3<sup>‡</sup>, 2019-2023

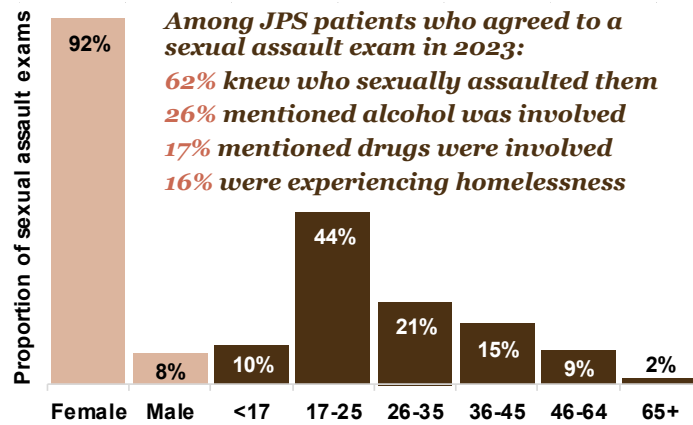


<sup>†</sup> ED visits determined with the 'CDC Sexual Violence v3' Syndromic Surveillance definition in ESSENCE (click for definition); <sup>‡</sup> Texas Region 2/3 = Texas Department of State Health Services public health region consisting of 49 counties in North Texas (click for exact coverage)



From 2019-2023, there were over 3,200 sexual violence-related ED visits among Tarrant County residents which were predominately female (90%) and aged <25 years (60%)

Figure 4. JPS Health Network patients who agreed to a sexual assault exam, by gender and age group (in years), Tarrant County, 2023 (n= 480)



Among JPS patients who agreed to a sexual assault exam in 2023:  
 62% knew who sexually assaulted them  
 26% mentioned alcohol was involved  
 17% mentioned drugs were involved  
 16% were experiencing homelessness

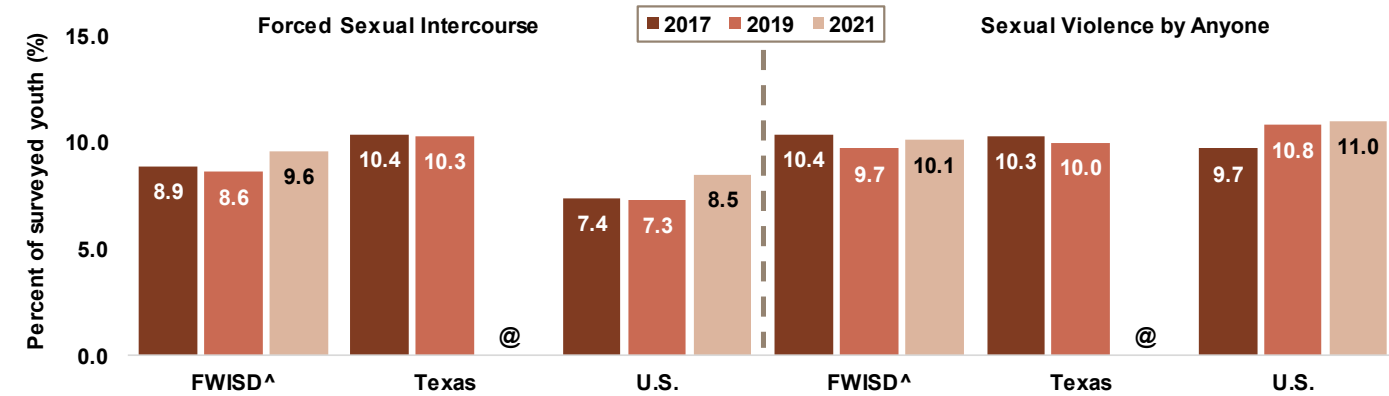
JPS patients who agreed to a sexual assault exam in 2023 were most frequently female (92%) and aged 17-25 years (44%)

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.

During this same time period, the Women's Center of Tarrant County was called to hospitals 1,354 times and assisted patients (aged 18 years+) who experienced sexual violence.

- In 2023, the Women's Center of Tarrant County:
- Trained 4,760 adults on sexual assault prevention
  - Trained 4,109 professionals on sexual assault and child abuse issues
  - Assisted 2,023 hotline callers
  - Counseled 1,103 survivors at rape exam sites

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<sup>s</sup>



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. (Figure 5)

Education and Prevention

- [\[cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/index.html\]](https://cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/index.html)
- [\[vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/main/prevention-information/25\]](https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/main/prevention-information/25)
- [\[nsvrc.org\]](https://nsvrc.org)
- [\[rainn.org/types-sexual-violence\]](https://rainn.org/types-sexual-violence)
- [\[dshs.texas.gov/maternal-child-health/adolescent-health/sexual-violence-prevention\]](https://dshs.texas.gov/maternal-child-health/adolescent-health/sexual-violence-prevention)
- [\[gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/sastf\]](https://gov.texas.gov/organization/cjd/sastf)
- [\[sites.utexas.edu/idvsa/research/sexual-assault/compendium-of-resources-on-sexual-assault-corsa-ii-2020/\]](https://sites.utexas.edu/idvsa/research/sexual-assault/compendium-of-resources-on-sexual-assault-corsa-ii-2020/)

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]
- JPS Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program [jpshealthnet.org/get-care/services/sane-program]
- SafeHaven of Tarrant County Call 1-877-701-7233 [safehaventc.org]
- One Safe Place Call 817-916-4323 [onesafeplace.org]
- ACH Child and Family Services - Crisis Hotline (24/7) Call 817-335-4673 [achservices.org/programs/airs/]
- Alliance for Children [allianceforchildren.org]
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault [taasa.org/help/]
- Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force [gov.texas.gov/apps/sastf/]

<sup>s</sup> 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, Tarrant County Adult Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) 2023 Report, The Women's Center; Data Brief provided by: Office of Data & Informatics