

South Dakota Campus Safety Reports Summary 2023



SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Updated April 2025

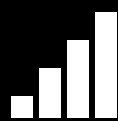
2023 South Dakota Sexual Violence



62.6% of SD rape
victims are age 10-29
years⁷



42.6% of SD rape
offenders are age 10-
29 years⁷



The 2023 SD rape rate
was 50.3 per 100,000, the
10th highest state rape
rate in the U.S.⁸



The 2023 United States
rape rate was 38.0 per
100,000⁸

SD Post-secondary Education Crime Statistics⁶

	On-Campus, Non-Campus, & Public Property			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Sex Offenses (Forcible) ^a	15	20	29	41
Rape ^b	6	9	20	25
Fondling ^b	4	9	9	13
Total Sex Offenses (Non-Forcible) ^c	0	0	0	2
Total Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Offenses ^d	13	32	37	32
Stalking	8	21	21	16
Domestic Violence	2	9	4	3
Dating Violence	3	1	12	12

^a Total sex offense (forcible) are the combined number of rape and fondling offenses.

^b Rape and fondling were not reported separately at three institutions in 2023 but would be included in the total sex offenses (forcible).

^c Total sex offenses (non-forcible) are the combined number of incest and statutory rape offenses.

^d Stalking, domestic violence, and dating violence were not reported separately at one institution in 2023 but would be included in total VAWA Offenses.

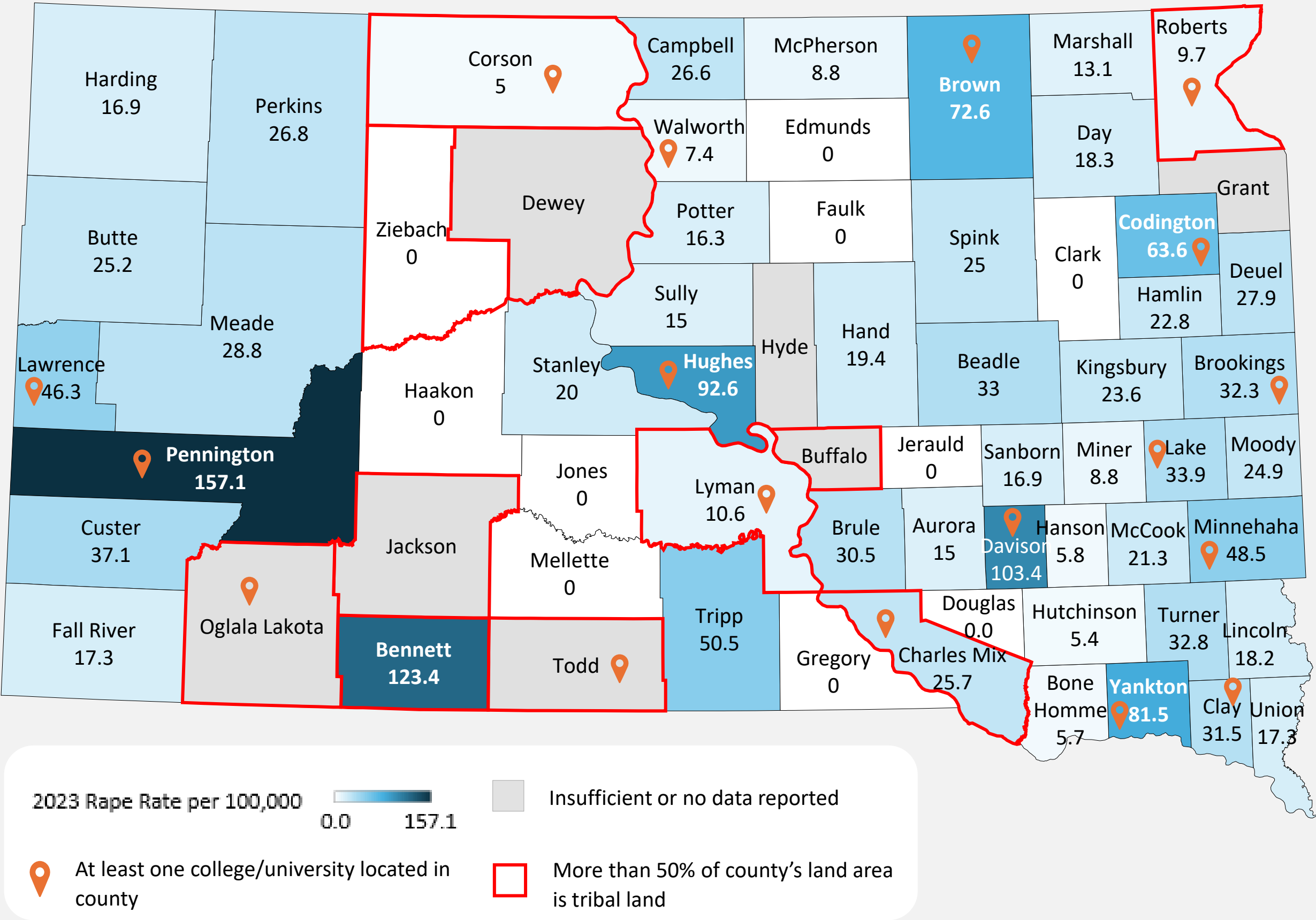
South Dakota Sexual Violence Data Summary 2023



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Rape Rate per 100,000 by County (2019-2023)^{2,13}



Due to the small population size of many SD counties and the limited number of offenses reported annually, rape rates were calculated for county-level data by aggregating offenses reported over a five-year period from 2019-2023. Additionally, those counties with two or fewer years of reported data in the five-year period were excluded. The population estimates used for each county were derived from the Census Bureau's 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates.

In 2023, Pennington County had the highest rape rate in SD (157.1 per 100,000), followed by Bennett (123.4 per 100,000), Davison (103.4 per 100,000), Hughes (92.6 per 100,000), and Yankton (81.5 per 100,000).

Note: Caution should be exercised when considering data from counties where more than 50% of the land area is tribal land, as crimes committed within tribal areas may fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of tribal agencies. A more comprehensive estimate of reported rapes on and off-reservation tribal trust lands can be found on the next page.

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Data Description

This summary is a compilation of the available data on campus crimes at South Dakota colleges and universities. All data were collected from Campus Safety Reports that are publicly available on college and university websites. Campus Safety Reports are a required reporting system for colleges and universities that receive federal funding, per the Clery Act.

South Dakota has 21 post-secondary institutions, including six public universities, five private schools, four technical colleges, six tribal colleges, and three public higher education centers.¹ The three public higher education centers are considered non-campus buildings or properties (see definitions under terminology section) for multiple institutions utilizing space at those sites. Therefore, the public higher education centers do not submit individual safety reports. Crime offenses associated at these sites would be included in parent institutions' reports. Additionally, one institution reports their crime statistics as part of a larger, affiliated institution. A total of 23 institutions were identified, but due to the outlined exceptions and no 2023 report provided by some institutions at the time of this summary, 17 Campus Safety reports were used for the compiled data.

Considerations and Limitations

Campus Safety Report data is typically used to monitor crime data specific to higher education institutions. However, various data limitations existed for the post-secondary institution safety reports. First, if multiple offenses occur to one victim, those offenses are counted as one offense.² For example, if an individual reports multiple fondling occurrences by the same perpetrator over a period of time, the offense was only counted once in the report.

Inconsistencies in dissemination of reports (e.g., not easily found on the institution's website or other publicly available sources) prevented the inclusion of some institution's crime statistics in this report. Inconsistencies with data descriptions and explanations between reports also posed a limitation, as some institutions clearly identify and explain data discrepancies, while others do not. For example, an institution states an unfounded crime was included in the data but does not specify the offense type of the unfounded data. Additionally, reports of crime offenses may not be included in the statistics for the year they occurred. If the year the offense occurred was specified, that data was included in the specified year's total. An example of this might include a rape that occurred in 2018 but was not reported until 2020. The offense would then be included in the 2018 data. However, not all institutions specified if an offense occurred in a different year than was reported. Along with the limitations noted, underreporting and jurisdictional limitations might have prevented accurate crime statistics reporting for higher education institutions.

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Terminology

Sexual Assault (sex offenses)

“any sexual act directed against another person, without consent of the victim, including instances where the victim was incapable of giving consent”.² Sex offenses are then further classified into two sub-categories, forcible and non-forcible. **Forcible sex offenses** include rape and fondling. **Non-forcible sex offenses** include incest and statutory rape.

On-campus refers to “any building or property owned or controlled by an institution within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area and used by the institution in direct support of, or in a manner related to, the institution’s educational purposes, including residence halls; and ... that is owned by the institution but controlled by another person, is frequently used by students, and supports institutional purposes (such as a food or other retail vendor)”.²

Public property was defined as “all public property, including thoroughfares, streets, sidewalks, and parking facilities, that is within the campus, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus,” however private homes and businesses are not included in this definition.²

Non-campus buildings or properties refer to “any building or property owned or controlled by a student organization that was officially recognized by the institution; or any building or property owned or controlled by an institution that was used in direct support of, or in relation to, the institution’s educational purposes, was frequently used by students, and was not within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area of the institution.”²

Unfounded crimes are declared if “sworn or commissioned law enforcement personnel make a formal determination that the report is false or baseless.”² For the purposes of this report, if an unfounded offense was declared in the reported information under a specific offense type, it was excluded from this report.

Federal Responses to Campus Sexual Assaults

Title IX is a federal civil rights law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in schools or any other education program that receives funding from the federal government. Sexual harassment and sexual violence are included under sex discrimination, as they create an educational environment that is hostile.³

Clery Act requires colleges and universities that receive federal funding to disseminate a public annual security report (ASR) to employees and students every October 1st. This ASR must include statistics of campus crime for the preceding three calendar years, plus details about efforts taken to improve campus safety.⁴

Under the **CampusSaVE** (Sexual Violence Elimination) Act, an amendment to the Clery Act, institutions must maintain statistics on dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking incidents. Each institution is also required to provide an explanation of their anti-sexual violence policies and procedures.⁵

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Sources

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