

South Dakota Campus Safety Reports Summary 2024



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Updated May 2026

2024 South Dakota Sexual Violence



68% of SD rape victims are age 10-29 years⁷



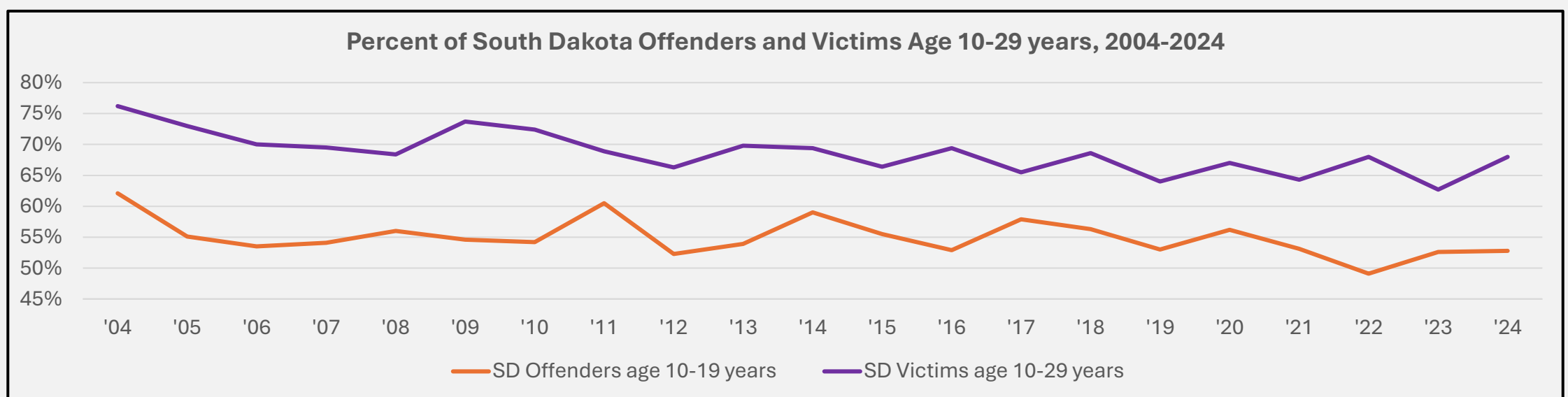
52.8% of SD rape offenders are age 10-29 years⁷



The 2024 SD rape rate was 51.5 per 100,000, the 11th highest state rape rate in the U.S.⁸



The 2024 United States rape rate was 37.5 per 100,000⁸



SD Post-Secondary Education Crime Statistics⁶

	On-Campus, Non-Campus, & Public Property						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Sex Offenses (Forcible)^a	35	32	15	20	29	41	33
Rape^b	24	16	6	9	20	25	19
Fondling^b	4	9	4	9	9	13	11
Total Sex Offenses (Non-Forcible)^c	0	3	0	0	0	2	3
Total Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Offenses^d	30	28	13	32	37	32	51
Stalking	13	16	8	21	21	16	32
Domestic Violence	1	4	2	9	4	3	12
Dating Violence	16	8	3	1	12	12	7

^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 2024 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 2024 but would be included in total VAWA Offenses.

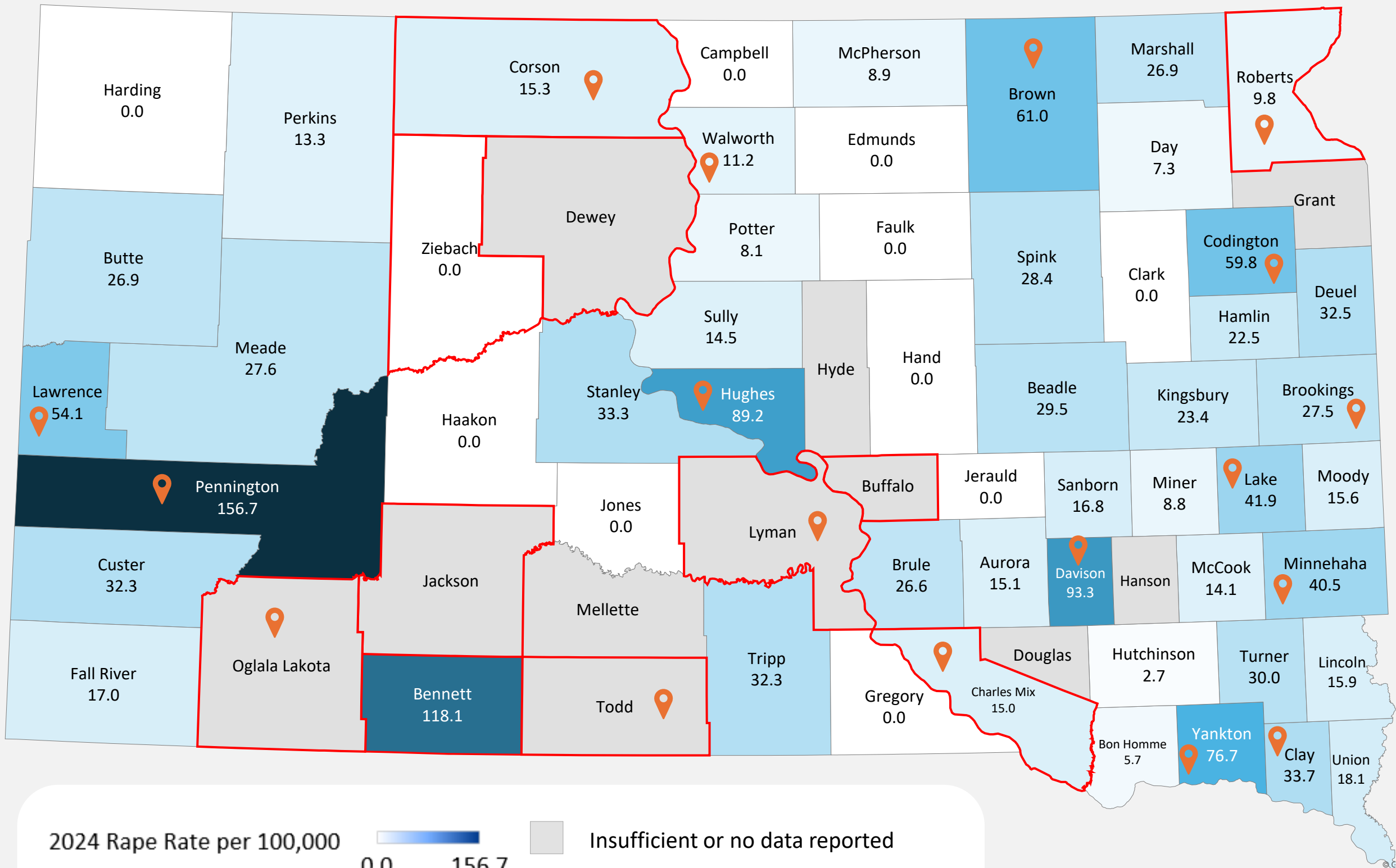
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Rape Rate per 100,000 by County (2020-2024)^{7,9}



2024 Rape Rate per 100,000 0.0 156.7

Insufficient or no data reported

More than 50% of county's land area is tribal land

At least one college/university campus, branch site, or higher education center located in county

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 2020-2024. 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 2024 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates.

In 2024, Pennington County had the highest rape rate in SD (156.7 per 100,000), followed by Bennett (118.1 per 100,000), Davison (93.3 per 100,000), Hughes (89.2 per 100,000), and Yankton (76.7 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.

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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. The Clery Act crime reporting includes events that occur on-campus, in non-campus buildings or properties, or public properties within or immediately adjacent to the campus (see terminology section on the next page).¹¹ Campus Safety Reports include incidents “that are reported to, or brought to the attentions of, campus security authorities or local police agencies.”¹²

South Dakota has 21 post-secondary institutions, including six public universities, five private schools, four technical colleges, and six tribal colleges, as well as three public higher education centers.^{1, 15} The three public higher education centers are considered non-campus buildings or properties 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. Another institution has moved completely online and no longer operates a physical campus in South Dakota. A total of 24 institutions were identified, but due to the outlined exceptions and no 2024 report provided by some institutions at the time of this summary, 15 Campus Safety reports were used for the compiled data.

Statewide rape statistics were compiled from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The FBI gathered violent crime statistics, including rape and sexual assault, from law enforcement agencies throughout the United States through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. Previously, the UCR Program collected crime data through four reporting systems: The Summary Reporting System (SRS), the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), the Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA), and the Hate Crime Statistics Program.¹ However, starting in January 2021, the UCR discontinued the use of the SRS.¹³ For the purposes of this report and reporting period (January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024), only data from the NIBRS data reporting system were included. Data collected through the NIBRS were compiled for the UCR Program and made available for public use through the FBI’s *Crime Data Explorer (CDE)* tool at <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/home> and through an annual summary report, *Crime in the United States*.

Participation by law enforcement agencies in the UCR Program was voluntary. Although the FBI does its best to ensure the validity of the data received, the accuracy of the statistics depends primarily on the adherence of each contributing law enforcement agency to the established standards of reporting. Each state UCR Program or individual contributing law enforcement agency was responsible to submit accurate monthly statistics or correct existing data that are in error. The 2024 crime data compiled numbers from 101 reporting agencies, covering 85.8% of the SD population.¹⁴

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.¹⁰ 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) refers to “any sexual act directed against another person, without consent of the victim, including instances where the victim was incapable of giving consent”.¹⁰ 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 is 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.¹⁰

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

Unfounded crimes are declared if “sworn or commissioned law enforcement personnel have fully investigated the reported crime and have made 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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