

What percentage of the South African female and child population is being murdered, raped and violently abused?

According to the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) [the female population of South Africa in 2019 stood at 30 092 678; total male South Africans were counted at 29 216 012.](#)

In the same ISS report they state the SA Police Services (SAPS) category of “sex crimes”. Let us assume that this is taken to indicate roughly the numbers of women who have been raped, battered and killed by men. ISS statistics for the year 2016/2017 show that in that year 18 per cent of a total of 19 016 murders were of women. Assuming that all the children were female (not a given conclusion) that translates into ,0114 per cent of the female population murder rate. Conversely, 0,05 per cent of the male population were murdered, i.e. there 4,4 times **more** men than women murdered.

The SAPS reports also show that some 34 468 women were assaulted during the first three months of 2016/17 – extrapolating that to 12 months, equals 137 872 for that year. This translates into a 0,46 per cent of the female population assault rate.

The Reports show that some 16 922 children were assaulted in the same period - extrapolating that to 12 months equals 67 688 for that year. The under-15 years-of-age population in 2019 was estimated as 17 081 568. If we regard these as the category of “children” then 0,40 per cent of the “children” of South Africa were assaulted in that year.

A [Guardian report](#) notes that the cases of rape are likely to be unreported, by as much as 25 to 1. Taking rape and sexual assault as a single category (not a given conclusion) and assuming that for every one case 24 more are unreported, there would be 3 308 928 women assaulted in 2016/17. This translates into 11 per cent of the female population.

What the above figures indicate is that a relatively small percentage (,0114 per cent) of women are being murdered, and a higher percentage of children (0,40) are being assaulted, by men. Assuming significant underreporting of assault on women, there could have been as many as 11 per cent of the female population assaulted in 2016/17.

ISS also reports that [the greatest impact of violence is on people who are black and poor. And that young black men have the highest chance of being murdered.](#)