



MEASURING
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:
A STATUS REPORT (Part 2)

A REPORT COMPILED & PREPARED BY EQUITY FOUNDATION
2016



NATIONAL SCENARIO

Crimes against women reported every two minutes in India

As many as 2.24 million such crimes were reported over the past decade.

Marital and other rapes grossly under-reported

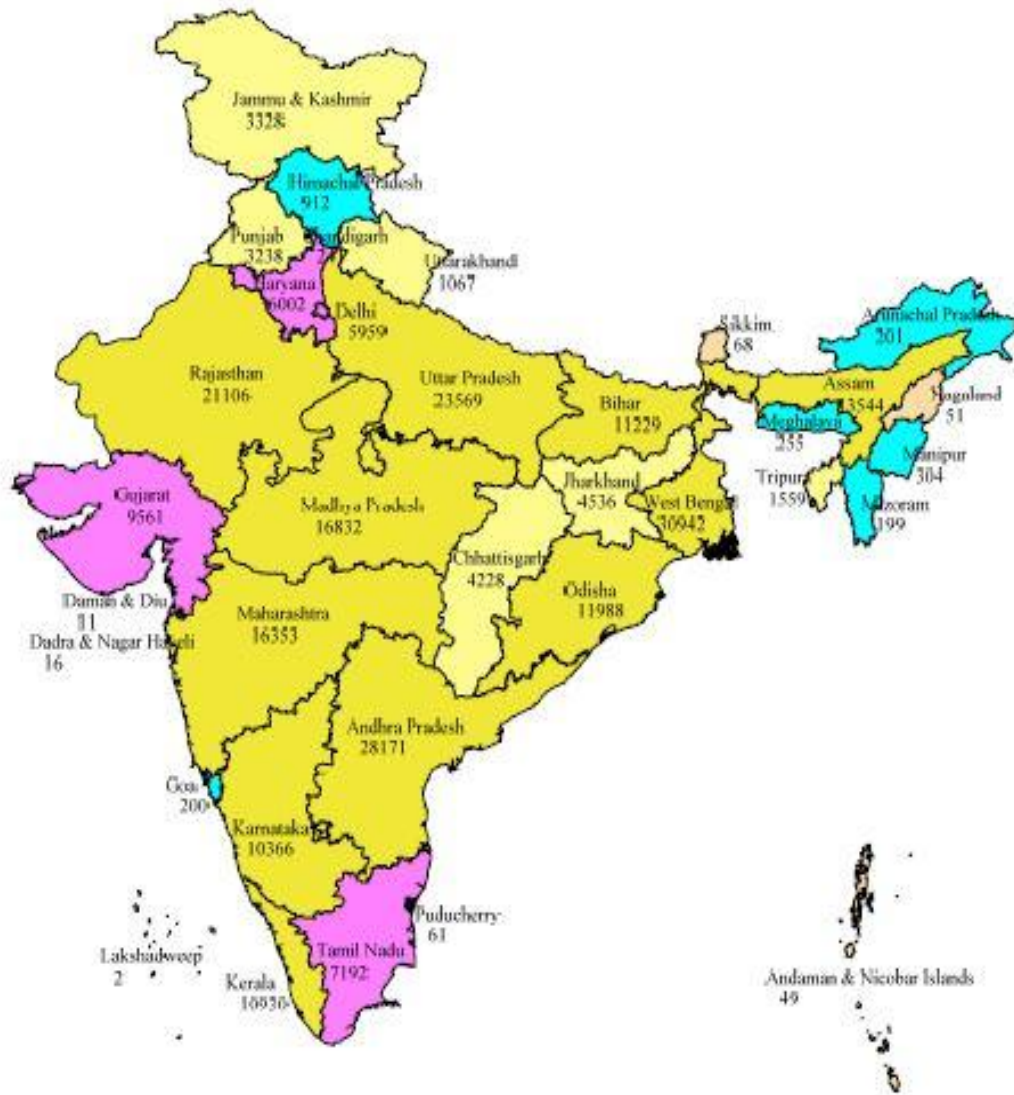
157 per 1,00,000 women reported to NFHS that they had experienced rape by men other than their husbands in the past 12 months, 6,590 said their husbands had physically forced them to have sexual intercourse against their will.

848 Indian Women Are Harassed, Raped, Killed Every Day

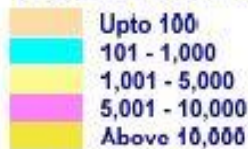
- ‡ By 2013, the number of cases of violent abuse has increased by over 50 percent. That's over 848 women who are harassed, raped or killed after abduction every single day. Some are sold off to traffickers.
- ‡ In 2013, over three lakh women were kidnapped, raped, molested—and in some extreme cases, killed—by men across the country. That's almost a 27 percent increase since 2012
- ‡ In 2013, almost 34,000 women were raped. That's a 35.2 percent rise from 2012, with the highest rate of increase in Delhi.
- ‡ A sizeable portion of the rape survivors—over 13 percent—are under the age of 14 years. If you count all the women who are raped by the time they turn 18, that's almost 40 percent of the entire demographic of women rape survivors. Worse, almost all of these women are raped by their neighbours, parents, a close family member or other relatives. Rapes in 15 out of India's 35 states and Union Territories are only committed by people known to the survivor. *Delhi in the north, Assam and Tripura in the northeast, and Rajasthan in the west are the most unsafe states for women in India.*

INCIDENCE OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN DURING 2012

(All India 2,44,270)



Incidence (No. of Cases)



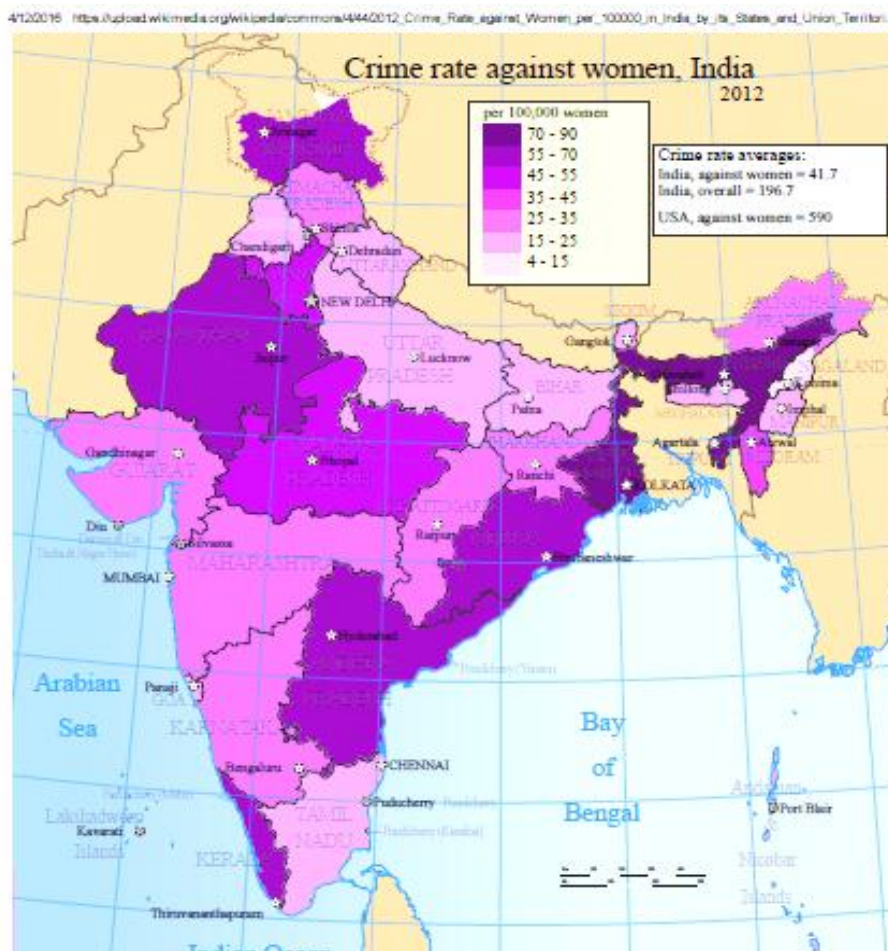
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INCIDENCE OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

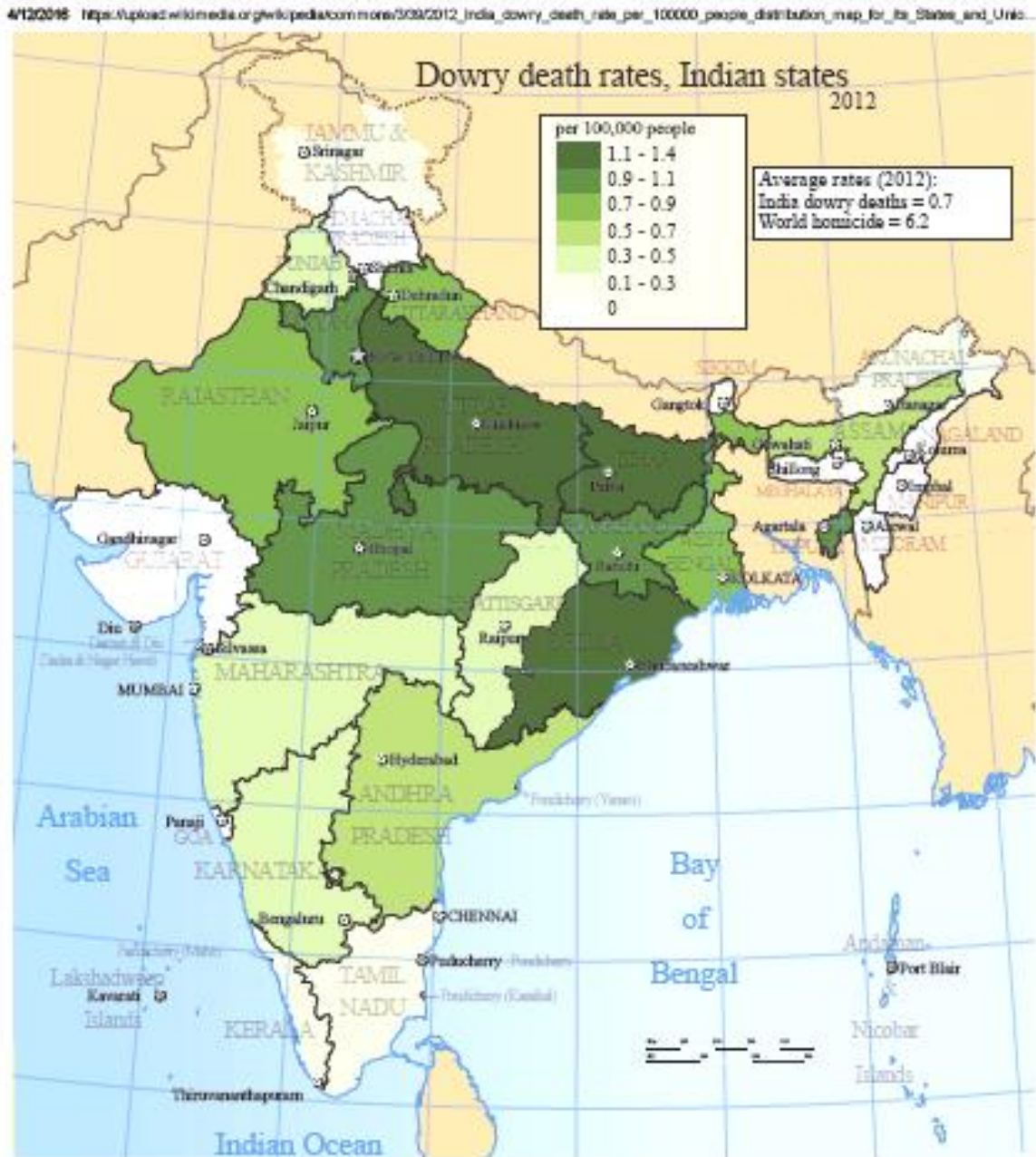
SI No.	Crime Head	Year 2006	Year 2007	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Percentage Variation in 2012 over 2011
1	Rape (Sec. 376 IPC)	19,348	20,737	21,467	21,397	22,172	24,206	24,923	3.0
2	Kidnapping & Abduction (Sec. 363 to 373 IPC)	17,414	20,416	22,939	25,741	29,795	35,565	38,262	7.6
3	Dowry Death (Sec 302/304 IPC)	7,618	8,093	8,172	8,383	8,391	8,618	8,233	-4.5
4	Torture (Sec. 498-A IPC)	63,128	75,930	81,344	89,546	94,041	99,135	1,06,527	7.5
5	Molestation (Sec. 354 IPC)	36,617	38,734	40,413	38,711	40,613	42,968	45,351	5.5
6	Sexual Harassment (Sec. 509 IPC)	9,966	10,950	12,214	11,009	9,961	8,570	9,173	7.0
7	Importation of Girls (Sec. 366-B IPC)	67	61	67	48	36	80	59	-26.3
8	Sati Prevention Act, 1987	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	-100.0
9	Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956	4,541	3,568	2,659	2,474	2,499	2,435	2,563	5.3
10	Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986	1,562	1,200	1,025	845	895	453	141	-68.9
11	Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961	4,504	5,623	5,555	5,650	5,182	6,619	9,038	36.5
	Total	1,64,765	1,85,312	1,95,856	2,03,804	2,13,585	2,28,650	2,44,270	6.8

A map of the reported comparative rate of violence against women in Indian states and union territories in 2012, based on crimes reported to the police.

The map shows the comparative rate of violence against women in Indian states and union territories in 2012, based on crimes reported to the police. Crime rate data per 100,000 women in this map is the broadest definition of crime against women under Indian law. It includes rape, sexual assault, insult to modesty, kidnapping, abduction, cruelty by intimate partner or relatives, trafficking, persecution for dowry, dowry deaths, indecency, and all other crimes listed in Indian Penal Code. The map shows the comparative rate of violence against women in Indian states and union territories in 2012. Crime rate in this map is the broadest definition of crime against women under Indian law reported by the data source. It includes rape, sexual assault, harassment and insult to modesty, kidnapping, abduction, cruelty by intimate partner or relatives, importation or trafficking of girls, persecution for dowry, dowry deaths, indecency, and all other crimes listed in Indian Penal Code. Data Source: Crime in India 2012 Statistics, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India,



A map of the reported dowry deaths in India, per 100,000 people (2012)



The map shows the annual dowry death rate per 100,000 people for Indian states and UTs. Data Source: Crime in India 2012 Statistics, National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India (2013)

28.9 per cent of dowry cases were reported from Uttar Pradesh (2,335 cases) followed by Bihar (1,182 cases) accounting for 14.6 per cent of total cases.

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- The Gender Development Index, sponsored by the UN, paints a reprehensible image of India. In last five years that is from year 2000 to 2005 position of India dipped from 105 to 113.
- The child sex ratio in India continues to be alarmingly skewed with just 914 girls to 1000 boys. Female feticide and infanticide are rampant in India.
- Only 58% of childbirths in India are attended by a health specialist – rest are left in His hands. 28% of the girls who survive get married at a tender age of 15-19 years – and marriage for most implies punctuation to education or career.
- The girl child is looked upon as a burden by our society and people apply all possible methods to stop the birth of a girl child. The girl child is slaughtered mercilessly in the mother's womb and according to reports; around 50 million women are missing because of female foeticide in India.
- The gender pay differential in India, though shrinking, is still hovering in the teens (18% in 1983, 13% in 1999).
- India still has one of the lowest female literacy rates in Asia. Compared to boys, far fewer girls are enrolled in the schools, and many of them drop out.
- Reports of rape, dowry deaths, molestation, sexual harassment and other crimes against women in India rose by 6.4 percent in 2012 from the previous year, with the highest number of rapes recorded in the capital city.
- Statistics showed that 244,270 crimes against women were reported to the police in 2012 compared with 228,650 in 2011, according to the National Crimes Records Bureau (NCRB).
- 98 percent of those who reported rapes last year named parents, relatives and neighbours as the accused.
- Husbands commit a majority of acts of sexual violence in India, and just one per cent of marital rapes and six per cent of rapes by men other than husbands are reported to the police. Only 0.6 per cent of rapes by the husband were reported.
- More than half-a-billion Indians lack access to basic sanitation. Most of the cases of rape of women and girls in India occur when they go out to defecate in the open.
- India is at 123rd position when assessed on Economic Participation and Opportunity parameters. Share of women in non-agricultural wage employment is just 18%.
- Acid attacks also known as vitriolage is a violent attack especially on women. According to the report of NCRB for the year 2013, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal earned the dubious distinction of leading a list of states where crime against women in 2013 was highest. However considering the rate of crime

committed per lakh of female population, Assam and Tripura top the list followed by Rajasthan.

- Only 20 percent of the world's parliamentarians were women. Women make up only 10.8 percent of the Lok Sabha and 10.3 percent in the Rajya Sabha. Today women only constitute a meagre 12% of the parliament strength and hold only 11% of the ministerial berths.
- The gender profile in Indian Parliament is woefully lopsided with women constituting only around 11 percent of the total membership. Women generally don't prefer to enter into politics, as they think it is difficult to manage and present their opinion in a party meeting or in assembly where more than 90% members are male persons. Although the percentage of women parliamentarians has increased over the years, it is still lower in comparison to countries like Sweden, Argentina, the UK and the US.



Trust Law, a news service run by Thomson Reuters, has ranked India as the worst G20 country in which to be a woman.

New research by economists Siwan Anderson and Debraj Ray estimates that in India, more than 2 million women are missing in a given year. The economists found that roughly 12% of the missing women disappear at birth, 25% die in childhood, 18% at the reproductive ages, and 45% at older ages. They found that women died more from "injuries" in a given year than while giving birth injuries, they say, "appear to be indicator of violence against women". Deaths from fire related incidents, they say, is a major cause each year more than 100,000 women are killed by fires in India. The researchers say many cases could be linked to demands over a dowry leading to women being set on fire. Research also found a large number of women died of heart diseases. These findings point to lifelong neglect of women in India. It also proves that a strong preference for sons over daughters leading to sex selective abortions is just part of the story. Clearly, many Indian women face threats to life at every stage violence, inadequate healthcare, inequality, neglect, bad diet, lack of attention to personal health and wellbeing.



SHOCKING CASES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN INDIA

1. On most days, Indian newspapers report shocking new atrocities - a 10-month-old raped by a neighbour in Delhi; an 18-month-old raped and abandoned on the streets in Calcutta; a 14-year-old raped and murdered in a police station in Uttar Pradesh; a husband facilitating his own wife's gang rape in Howrah; a 65-year-old grandmother raped in Kharagpur.

But in a country where a rape is reported every 21 minutes, even these most horrific of crimes soon get forgotten - except by the victims and their families. They are left to fight their long lonely battles for justice which, more often than not, is denied to them. Violence against women is deeply entrenched in the feudal, patriarchal Indian society, where for the rapist, every woman is fair game.

1. One of the most painful and lingering cases is that of the **Mumbai nurse Aruna Shanbaug**. Brain dead by the attack and remains in a vegetative state. Sodomised by a cleaner in the hospital where she worked, the 25-year-old was strangled with metal chains and left to die by her attacker, Sohanlal Bharta Walmiki, on 27 November 1973. She was saved, but barely so. For the past 39 years she has been lying in a hospital bed in a vegetative state, brain dead, unable to recognise anyone, unable to speak, unable to perform even the most basic of tasks. She died last year. "He was not even charged for raping her," says journalist and author Pinki Virani, who wrote Aruna's Story, a book on the nurse's plight. So Walmiki was given a light seven-year-sentence for robbery and attempted murder. In what can be described as a real travesty of justice, while a brain dead Aruna remains confined to a hospital room, her attacker roams free - out of jail and able to rebuild his life.
2. In 2003, the country was shamed when a 28-year-old Swiss diplomat was forced into her own car by two men in south Delhi's posh Siri Fort area and raped by one of them. The rapist, whom she described as being fluent in English, spoke to her about Switzerland and is believed to have even lectured her on Indian culture.
3. In 2004 in Manipur, 32-year-old Manorama was taken away from home by the soldiers of Assam Rifles who accused her of helping insurgents. A few hours later, her **mutilated body was found by the roadside, her pelvis riddled with dozens of bullets.**
4. Last year, **14-year-old Sonam was raped and killed** inside a police station in Uttar Pradesh.
5. During the 2002 riots in Gujarat, a number of Muslim women were gang-raped, and campaign groups routinely accuse the security forces in Indian-administered Kashmir and the troubled north-east of using rape as a weapon to punish the entire community.

6. In May 2009, Indian-administered Kashmir witnessed **47 days of violent protests and strikes** after two young women were raped and murdered, allegedly by police, in Shopian town.
7. And in Chhattisgarh, Soni Sori has been in police custody since October 2011 when she was arrested on charges of being a courier for the Maoists. She has alleged in the Supreme Court that while in custody, she has been raped and stones have been shoved inside her vagina.

Most of these victims are still waiting for justice, sometimes years after the crimes have been committed.

9. The rapists sometimes escape with a light sentence because a judge accepts their argument that they committed the crime because they were drunk, or that they were living away from their family, or they had a family to look after, or that the accused was a high-caste man who could not rape a Dalit - low caste - woman in 1972 when Mathura, a 16-year-old tribal girl, was raped by two policemen inside a police station. The courts set free the accused - they said she did not raise an alarm, she was not injured, and since she was sexually active, she would have "voluntarily" consented to sex.

