

The Economic Impacts of Rape

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Abstract

We estimate the economic impacts of rape using Finnish administrative data. Victims experience a 19% decline in employment, a 26% drop in earnings, and a 13% increase in antidepressant usage compared to otherwise observationally identical women in the five years post-assault. We find significant spillover effects to victims' social networks; female schoolmates suffer worsened mental health after a peer is assaulted, and parents experience significant employment declines. We find that higher clearance rates for rape cases mitigate the impact on victims, indicating potential for positive policy interventions.