



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics – April 2023

The following data is authorised for release by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and relates to the number of formal indictments (*Information*) filed in the High Courts of Fiji by the Director of Public Prosecutions throughout the month. This data is confined to incidents of serious sexual offences only.

There were 26 people charged with a total of 63 counts of sexual offences in April. The offences were rape (40), defilement (2) indecent assault (4) and sexual assault (17).

Of the 26 accused persons, three were juveniles and one was a police officer.

There were 24 victims of whom 12 victims were under the age of 18 years. There were 23 female victims and one male victim.

There were 12 incidents where the victims and the accused were related to one another.

A 45-year-old police officer was charged with the indecent assault of his 31-year-old wife.

A 14-year-old boy was charged with the rape of his 3-year-old cousin while in another incident, a 16-year-old boy was charged with three counts of rape of a 13-year boy from his school.

In another incident, a 17-year-old boy with a 22-year-old man were charged with the rape and indecent assault of a 12-year-old girl. The 17-year-old boy was the victim's uncle.

A 42-year-old man was charged with the sexual assault of his 14-year-old daughter while in another incident, a 62-year-old man was charged with three counts of rape of his 15-year-old stepdaughter.

In another incident, a 52-year-old man was charged with one representative count of rape, three counts of sexual assault and two counts of indecent assault of his 13-year-old stepdaughter.

There was one incident where a 20-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his 15-year-old cousin while in another incident, an 18-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 14-year-old cousin.

There was one incident where a an 18-year-old man was charged with the rape of his 13-year-old cousin while in another incident, a 44-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of his de facto partner.

A 23-year-old man was charged with four counts of rape and four counts of sexual assault of his sister-in-law.

There was one incident where a 61-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of a 22-year-old woman. The accused is a traditional healer who claimed to cure the victim of cancer when he allegedly committed the offence.

A 33-year-old man was charged with the rape of a 19-year-old woman while in another incident, a 25-year-old man was charged with the rape and assault causing actual bodily harm to an 18-year-old woman. **(NB: *The offence of assault causing actual bodily harm is recorded separately*).**

A 33-year-old man was charged with the rape and sexual assault of a 52-year-old woman while in another incident, a 34-year-old man was charged for allegedly raping a 27-year-old woman after a drinking party.

Four cases were withdrawn after discontinuances (*Nolle Prosequi*) were filed due to insufficient evidence and victims leaving the country and could not be contacted.

Refer to the table entitled *ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences April 2023* for a break-down of these statistics.



ODPP Rape and Sexual Offences Statistics April 2023

	Rape	Defilement	Indecent Assault	Sexual assault	Total
No. of Counts	40	2	4	17	63
Total No. of Victims	20	1	3	10	24*
No. of Victims under 18 years	9	1	2	5	12*
Total No. of Accused Persons	21	1	4	10	26*
No. of Accused Persons under 18 years	2	0	1	1	3*
No. of <i>Nolle Prosequi</i> filed	3	0	0	1	4
No. of incidents involving people in domestic relationships or relatives	8	0	2	5	12*
No. of False Complaints	0	0	0	0	0

Source: ODPP Fiji

*** Please note that a number of rape victims as well as victims under the age of 18 years and victims in domestic relationship were also victims of other serious sexual offences. Similarly, a number of accused persons were also charged with more than one offence.**

2 May 2023

-End-