Motivation
Around 15% of American women have survived a completed rape during their lifetime. I wondered about the long-term quantitative impacts of sexual assault for survivors, including impacts on lifetime earnings or hourly wages.

Method
Nearest-neighbor propensity score match and logistic regression on the matched data for double robustness

Data
National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (AddHealth) - Wave IV In-Home Questionnaire (2008), public use

Findings and Discussion
Based on this data and approach, sexual assault survivors do make lower wages than similarly situated female peers. This study finds approximately 24% lower hourly wages for sexual assault survivors. This was the first study of wages in this literature to use the matching technique. However, the indicator used for sexual assault in the AddHealth dataset may not capture all SA survivors. In addition, the propensity score match method led to a substantial reduction in sample size, and this model was unable to control for family-level effects.

Moving forward, additional controls such as parent’s socioeconomic status, career industry, or personality measures may increase R squared. Future research rests in several areas, like the impact of sexual assault on labor force participation rates and the role of diminished physical or mental health as a mechanism for the observed lower wages.

Question
Do female sexual assault survivors make lower hourly wages than their similarly situated female peers?

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The Impact of Sexual Assault on Hourly Wages
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References