

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2021: Community-Specific Facts and Statistics

INCLUSION STATEMENT

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) is about raising awareness, learning how to prevent and end sexual violence, and supporting victim-survivors. In keeping with this goal, we ask everyone participating in SAAM to remember that these statistics are one way we can seek to respect the whole person. We value emotional, social, and academic learning; developing connections among people with different views; creating a more participatory community; and recognizing all the expertise and insight in our diverse and global city. SAAM is an opportunity to occupy space and collaborate in equitable ways. It is about honoring all people and their ability to prevent and end gender-based violence, regardless of race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, genders, gender identity or expression, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, physical ability, citizen status, veteran status, marital status, or HIV status and valuing their story, knowledge, and worth.

GENERAL

- According to RAINN, every 73 seconds an American is sexually assaulted; every nine minutes a child is sexually assaulted; and only five of every 1,000 perpetrators will be incarcerated for committing sexual assault.
- According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 70% of child sex offenders have between one and nine victims, while 20% have 10 to 40 victims.
- According to the National Crime Victim Survey, administered by the Bureau of Justice, in 2019 only 33.9% of sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement.
- A survey of men whose self-reported sexual acts met legal definitions of rape or attempted rape, but whose actions went undetected by the criminal justice system, found over 60 percent where repeat offenders against multiple victims or the same victim.
- According to RAINN, 8 out of 10 sexual assaults are perpetrated by someone known to the victim-survivor. 39% are committed by an acquaintance; 33% were assaulted by a current or former intimate partner. 19.5% victim-survivors were assaulted by a stranger.

BLACK WOMEN

- According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among adult women, 22% of non-Hispanic Blacks and 35.5% of women of multiple races experienced an attempted or completed rape at some time in their lives.
- According to the Women of Color Network, approximately 40% of Black women report coercive contact of a sexual nature by age 18; and the National Violence Against Women Survey found that 18.8% of African American women reported rape in their lifetime.
- According to APA, for every Black woman who reports rape, at least 15 Black women do not.
- As many as sixty percent of Black women report being subjected to coercive sexual contact by age 18.
- African American women are 2.5 times more likely to experience physical or sexual violence from a partner or spouse, while being less likely to have access to mental health and physical services, according to a report by NOW.
- Studies report that African-American girls become trafficked at younger ages than their racial counterparts, according to a report on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Girls

ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER WOMEN

- According to a CDC report, 18% of Asian or Pacific Islander American women reported experiencing rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime in a national survey.
- According to the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence, 68% of Filipinas and 50% of Indian and Pakistani women had experienced sexual violence by an intimate partner.
- In a study of 27 U.S. universities, 13% of Asian females reported experiencing nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or incapacitation; compared to 3% of Asian males and 2% of Asian transgender, gender queer, gender non-conforming, questioning, or not identified individuals. 23% of American Indian/Alaska Native women, 18% of Black/African American women, 21% of Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander women, and 21% of White women indicated having experienced this.

- When asked about the main reasons for not disclosing their experience, the most common reasons among Asian survivors were that doing so would affect their reputation (67%) and their family's reputation (45%), that they were afraid of potential victim blaming (42%) and isolation from friends and society (37%), and that they were afraid of potential retaliation from the offender (33%).
- According to the National Organization of Asians and Pacific Islanders Ending Sexual Violence, "sexual assault is an issue that is discussed less by Asian Pacific Islanders since it is perceived to be connected to sexuality, a taboo subject, rather than a power issue." As such, estimates of rape among Asian and Pacific Islander women are likely too low as they are least likely to report sexual assault for reasons of "language, culture, and mistrust of law enforcement."

LATINX WOMEN

- According to the Women of Color Network, a U.S. study of violence between intimate partners found that Latinas report rape at a 2.2% higher level than white women; approximately 7.9% of Latinas will be raped by a spouse, boyfriend, or ex-boyfriend during their lifetime; and the National Violence Against Women Survey found that 11.9% of Hispanic white women reported rape in their lifetime.
- The Hispanic population is the fastest-growing population in the United States, consequently, according to OJP, victim service agencies across the nation have been unable to keep up with need and demand within the rapidly growing Latinx victim population, leaving many Spanish-speaking survivors of sexual violence unidentified and beyond the reach of victim advocates, social services, legal service providers, the criminal justice system, and others who could help them.
- According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among adult women, 14.6% of Hispanics experienced an attempt or completed rape at some time in their lives.
- In a survey of Latina victim-survivors, only about 21% of respondents sought one of more types of help or victim service.

INDIGENOUS WOMEN

- Native Americans are twice as likely to experience a rape/sexual assault compared to all races.
- According to RAINN, American Indians are twice as likely to experience a rape/sexual assault compared to all races; and 41% of sexual assaults against American Indians are committed by a stranger, 34% by an acquaintance, and 25% by an intimate or family member.
- According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among adult women, 26.9% of American Indian/Alaska Natives experienced an attempted or a completed rape at some time in their lives.
- In a 2006 study, 96% of American Indian respondents who had been a victim of rape or sexual assault had experienced other physical abuse as well.
- There is a scarcity of information and statistics about the sexual assault of Indigenous people, as they often face the highest barriers to reporting, resource access, and victim services. This scarcity in itself speaks to the lack of awareness and representation around the sexual assault of Native Americans.

IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

- According to Rape Response Services, married immigrant women experience higher levels of physical and sexual abuse than unmarried immigrant women, 59.5% compared to 49.8%, respectively.
- According to the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project, immigrant women are less likely to report their experiences of abuse than U.S. born women because language barriers between victims and police officers significantly affect the outcome of victims' interactions with police and deter many immigrant and limited English proficient (LEP) women from reporting abuse and one of the most significant factors affecting a woman's decision to report abuse is her immigration status.
- According to the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project, a study conducted among high school aged girls found immigrant girls are almost twice as likely as their non-immigrant peers to have experienced recurring incidents of sexual assault.

- Sexual violence and exploitation increase in situations of displacement. Displacement intensifies existing vulnerabilities to gender inequalities and deepens the lack of protective factors, making refugees more susceptible to assault or exploitation.

LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual)

- The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, administered by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found that 44% of lesbians and 61% of bisexual women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 35% of straight women.
- According to FORGE, multiple studies indicate that over 50% of transgender people have experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives. This rate is nearly double (1 in 3 cisgender women) or triple (1 in 6 cisgender men) the commonly reported rates of sexual abuse for cisgender people.
- Among people of color, American Indian (65%), multiracial (59%), Middle Eastern (58%) and Black (53%) transgender adults were most likely to have been sexually assaulted in their lifetime.
- The 2011 [Injustice at Every Turn report](#) found that 12% of transgender youth report being sexually assaulted in K–12 settings by peers or educational staff; 13% of African-American transgender people surveyed were sexually assaulted in the workplace; and 22% of homeless transgender individuals were assaulted while staying in shelters.
- According to the Human Rights Campaign, 44% of lesbians and 61% of bisexual women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 35% of heterosexual women; 26% of gay men and 37% of bisexual men experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 29% of heterosexual men; 46% of bisexual women have been raped, compared to 17% of heterosexual women and 13% of lesbians; 22% of bisexual women have been raped by an intimate partner, compared to 9% of heterosexual women; and 40% of gay men and 47% of bisexual men have experienced sexual violence other than rape, compared to 21% of heterosexual men.
- According to RAINN, 21% of TGQN (transgender, genderqueer, nonconforming) college students have been sexually assaulted, compared to 18% of non-TGQN females, and 4% of non-TGQN males.

- According to an [“Asexual Census Report,”](#) asexual people may be subject to assaults that are known as “corrective,” whereby an attacker seeks to “fix” someone’s asexuality by assaulting them in the hope that they will turn into people who desire sexual contact. 35.4% of asexual people surveyed reported having experienced sexual contact that they did not consent to.
- According to Rape Response Services, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs [NCAVP] reports that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer people were three times more likely to report sexual violence and/or harassment compared to heterosexual people; 85% of victim advocates surveyed by the NCAVP reported having worked with an LGBTQ survivor who was denied services because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

PEOPLE WITH DIFFERING ABILITIES

- According to DAWN, 80% of women with disabilities have been sexually assaulted.
- According to the Justice Department data on sex crimes, people with intellectual disabilities are the victims of sexual assault at rate more than seven times than those for people without disabilities.
- According to a report published by National Public Radio, people with intellectual disabilities are more than seven times more likely to be victim-survivors of sexual assault than those without an intellectual disability.
- Because people with disabilities are stereotyped as not being sexual, a survivor may face challenges in having their story taken seriously, along with other barriers to programs and services.
- According to National Council on Disability, a recent study surveying the rate of sexual assault amongst national universities indicated that 31.6% of female undergraduates with a disability were sexual assault victim-survivors while the correlating rate for undergraduate females without a disability was 18.4%.

According to the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs:

- 80% of women and 30% of men with intellectual disabilities have been sexually assaulted; and 50% of those women have been assaulted more than ten times.
- Only 3% of sexual abuse cases involving people with developmental disabilities are ever reported.

- 54% of boys who are Deaf have been sexually abused, compared to 10% of boys who are hearing; and 50% of girls who are Deaf have been sexually abused, compared to 25% of girls who are hearing.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- According to the National Center for Victims of Crime, 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys is a victim of child sexual abuse.
- According to RAINN, every 9 minutes, child protective services substantiates, or finds evidence for, a claim of child sexual abuse.
- Perpetrators of child sexual abuse are often related to the victim; in cases of child sexual abuse reported to law enforcement, 93% are known to the victim.
- According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among high school students, 12.5% of American Indian/Alaska Natives, 10.5% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students, 8.6% of Black students, 8.2% of Hispanic students, 7.4% of white students, and 13.5% of multiple-race students reported that they were forced to have sexual intercourse at some time in their lives.
- According to Rape Response Services, persons under 18 years of age account for 67% of all sexual assault victimizations reported to law enforcement agencies; children under twelve years old account for 34% of those cases; and children under six years old account for 14% of those cases.
- According to Rape Response Services, more than one-third of women who were raped as minors were also raped as adults, compared to 14% without an early rape history.
- According to Safe Shores, Only about 38% of child victims disclose the fact that they have been sexually abused
- According to the Crimes against Children Research Center, about 70% of all reported sexual assaults (including assaults on adults) occur to children aged 17 and under.

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

- According to World Without Exploitation, between 33% and 84% of victims of commercial sexual exploitation are survivors of childhood sexual abuse; and 87% of youth involved in commercial sexual exploitation with a history of sexual abuse are runaways.
- According to World Without Exploitation, the prevalence of childhood sexual abuse in samples of victims of commercial sexual exploitation is 3 times to 9 times higher than that of the general population.
- According to the Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 68% of adolescents that were victims of commercial sexual exploitation were sexually abused in childhood; and for girls in the sex trade, the average age of sexual victimization to begin was 7.8 years old.
- According to Shared Hope International, youth with a history of sexual abuse may have an increased risk of being trafficked.
- According to the FBI, almost 53% of all juvenile prostitution arrests involve Black children.
- According to the District of Columbia Statistical Analysis Center, in DC Black girls in their teens and 20s were the largest proportion of trafficking victims in 2016.
- According to the American Journal of Health Behavior, 44% of women engaged in street prostitution in DC reported unwanted sexual contact as children; and 44% of sex trade-involved women had been raped while in the sex trade, with 60% of those rapes by customers.

INCARCERATED

- According to the National Crime Victim Survey, administered by the Bureau of Justice, 80,600 inmates reported being sexually assaulted in a one-year study.
- According to the National Crime Victim Survey, administered by the Bureau of Justice, approximately 200,000 prisoners in the United States prisons and jails face sexual abuse annually.
- A 2016 study by the Vera Institute of Justice found that 86% of women in jail had experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.

- According to the Vera Institute of Justice, nearly 10 percent of young people are sexually abused within the first year of being detained; in some juvenile facilities, the prevalence rates reach 36 percent.

MILITARY

- According to a report published in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence, in U.S. Military academies approximately 60% of cadets and midshipmen experienced at least one type of sexual victimization; 86% of female cadets and midshipmen were sexually victimized; and 42% of male cadets and midshipmen were sexually victimized.
- The Department of Defense estimates about 20,500 service members experienced sexual assault during FY18. The DoD also estimates 6.2% of active duty women and 0.7% of active duty men experienced sexual assault in that year.
- The rate of sexual assault and rape jumped by almost 40% from 2016 to 2018, and for women veterans, the rate increased by over 50% to the highest level since 2006.
- Of women who reported a penetrative sexual assault, 59% were assaulted by someone with a higher rank than them, and 24% were assaulted by someone in their chain of command.
- Vast majority of cases go unreported. 76.1% of victims did not report the crime in 2018. 64% of women who reported a sexual assault face retaliation. A third of victims are discharged after reporting, typically within 7 months of making a report.

MEN

- According to RAINN, 1 out of every 10 rape victims are male; 1 in 6 men are sexually abused in their lifetime.
- Males ages 18-24 who are college students are approximately 5 times more likely than non-students of the same age to be a victim of rape or sexual assault, according to RAINN.
- Statistics available about the sexual assault of men are likely to be underestimates as men who have such experiences are less likely to disclose them than are women; only 16% of men with documented histories of sexual assault considered themselves to have been sexually assaulted, compared to 64% of women with documented histories in the same study.

COVID & SEXUAL ASSAULT

- Evidence shows that rates of sexual violence increase during states of emergency, including health crises. While many reports about rates of violence have yet to emerge, experts anticipate a spike in sexual assaults related to the emergence of life changes as a result of COVID-19.
- According to the [National Sexual Violence Resource Center \(NSVRC\)](#), “the reporting of sexual violence in disasters is often considered a ‘luxury issue—something that is further down on the hierarchy of needs’ for disaster victims.”
- Studies show that abusers are more likely to murder their partners in the wake of personal crises, including lost jobs or major financial setbacks. High rates of unemployment and other financial challenges as a result of the pandemic are expected to create an increase in rates of sexual violence.
- As reported by the New York Times, law enforcement estimates that offenses related to internet sex abuse more than doubled in 2020, due to more children being online during the coronavirus pandemic and vulnerable to solicitation from online predators.
- In the last year, 89% of programs nationally reported needing emergency stimulus to respond to increased requests for services.