



Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2022: Community-Specific Facts and Statistics

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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 Statistics

- According to the Women’s Center Youth & Family Services, another American is sexually assaulted every 2 minutes.
- 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 were repeat offenders against multiple victims or the same victim.
- According to the Department of Health and Human Services, there are over 60 million survivors of childhood sexual abuse in America—approximately 20% of the population.

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, administered by the Department of Justice:

- Only about 25% of rapes and sexual assaults were reported to the police in 2018. Only 33.9% of sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement in 2019.
- Approximately 2/3 of rapes were committed by someone known to the victim. 73% of sexual assaults were perpetrated by a non-stranger. 38% of rapists are a friend or acquaintance. 28% are an intimate partner.

According to the Central MN Sexual Assault Center:

- If a rape is reported, there is a 50.8% chance of an arrest. If an arrest is made, there is an 80% chance of prosecution. If there is a prosecution, there is a 58% chance of conviction. If there is a felony conviction, there is a 69% chance the convict will spend time in jail.
- Only about 6% of rapists ever spend a day in jail for these crimes.
- Victims of sexual assault are 3 times more likely to suffer from depression, 6 times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol, 26 times more likely to abuse drugs, and 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide.

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 the American Psychological Association, 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."

Latina Women

- 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.

- 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.
- 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 2.5 times as likely to experience a rape/sexual assault compared to all races.
- As reported by the New York Times, more than 80% of sex crimes on reservations are committed by non-Indian men, who are immune from prosecution by tribal courts.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.

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 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.
- 42% percent of LGBTQIA youth report being bullied or harassed online versus 15% of non-LGBTQIA peers.
- LGBTQIA adults are more likely to face harassment online. 51% of LGBTQIA adults have encountered severe online abuse, compared to 23% of straight adults. Half of LGBTQIA adults who have been harassed online say they think it occurred because of their sexual orientation.

Individuals with Disabilities and Deaf People

- 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 the National Association of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse, 90% of child sexual abuse victims know the perpetrator in some way; 68% are abused by family members.
- 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.
- 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 Safe Shores, only about 38% of child victims disclose the fact that they have been sexually abused.
- 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 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.

- More than one-third of women who were raped as minors were also raped as adults, compared to 14% without an early rape history.

Campus Sexual Assault

- 1 in 5 women has been sexually assaulted while in college.
- According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, almost one in four undergraduate women experienced sexual assault or misconduct at 33 of the nation's major universities.
- In a study by the National Institute of Justice, 19% of women reported experiencing completed or attempted sexual assault since entering college; 85% of victims were assaulted by someone they knew, usually a fellow student.
- According to Bureau of Justice Statistics, women with a history of rape or attempted rape during adolescence were almost twice as likely to experience a sexual assault during college.

According to [Rape and Sexual Assault: A Renewed Call to Action](#), a report by the White House Council on Women and Girls:

- Reporting rates for campus sexual assault are very low: on average only 12% of student victims report the assault to law enforcement.
- Perpetrators often prey on incapacitated women, and sometimes surreptitiously provide their victims with drugs or alcohol. 58% of incapacitated rapes and 28% of forced rapes took place at a party.
- 7% of college men admitted to committing rape or attempted rape, and 63% of these men admitted to committing multiple offenses, averaging six rapes each.

Sexual Abuse in Later Life

- Many victims of elder sexual abuse can have dementia or other conditions that render them vulnerable. They are unable to communicate that they have been sexually assaulted.
- A study by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Aging found that 3 common nursing home sexual abuse victim profiles include: 1) physically disabled older resident, 2) cognitively impaired nursing home resident, and 3) physically impaired younger resident.

According to the Nursing Home Abuse Guide:

- 70% of reported abuse occurs in nursing homes.
- Only 30% of victims of elder sexual abuse report it to authorities.
- The abuser is the primary caregiver 81% of the time.
- Elderly women are six times more likely than men to be sexually abused.

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.

Individuals who are Incarcerated

- 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.
- According to the American Civil Liberties Union, women are 6 times more likely to have been abused prior to incarceration than men.
- According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, of the inmates reporting sexual abuse, 31% were victimized 3 or more times.

A 2016 study by the Vera Institute of Justice found that:

- 86% of women in jail had experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.
- Nearly 10% of young people are sexually abused within the first year of being detained; in some juvenile facilities, the prevalence rates reach 36%.

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.
- In APY 2020-2021, the Department of Defense received a total of 161 reports of sexual assault that involved cadets/midshipmen/prep school students as victims and/or alleged perpetrators, an increase of 32 reports from the previous year.
- 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.
- The 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

- Statistics available about the sexual assault of men are likely to be underestimated 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.
- According to the Central MN Sexual Assault Center, about 3% of American men have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center:

- 24.8% of men in the U.S. experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime.
- About one in four male victims of completed or attempted rape first experienced it between the ages of 11 and 17.
- Over half (52.4%) of male victims report being raped by an acquaintance and 15.1% by a stranger.

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.”
- 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 2020, 89% of programs nationally reported needing emergency stimulus funding to respond to increased requests for services.

Sexual Harassment Online

- Women are more likely than men to report having been sexually harassed or stalked online.
- According to the Pew Research Center, 33% of women under 35 say they have been sexually harassed online, while 11% of men under 35 say the same.

According to the Women’s Media Center:

- Between 25% and 40% of American adult Internet users say they have been harassed online. 57% of people reporting harassment in the US are women.
- Social media users with feminine usernames are sent threatening and/or sexually explicit private messages 25 times more often than those with masculine or ambiguous usernames.
- 26% of people reporting abuse say they don’t know their harassers or their harassers’ real identities.
- 67% of people reporting abuse know their harassers. Among people under 35, that number rises to 71%.