

# The National Sexual Violence Resource Center

## *Leaders in Sexual Violence Prevention*

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) is the leading nonprofit in providing information and tools to prevent and respond to sexual violence. NSVRC translates research and trends in sexual assault prevention into best practices that help individuals, communities, and service providers achieve real and lasting change. The center also works with the media to promote informed reporting and leads a Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) prevention campaign each April.

### **Our Work Includes:**

- Connecting the public, health providers, law enforcement, policymakers, and local service providers with the information and expertise needed to effectively address and prevent sexual harassment, assault, and abuse in all communities.
- Providing information, resources, and training for journalists and the media to promote high-impact reporting and enhance public understanding of sexual harassment, assault, and abuse.
- Promoting awareness and prevention through educational campaigns, including the nationally observed Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) each April, which highlights a specific theme each year.
- Maintaining the world's largest specialized library collection on sexual violence that provides a comprehensive online catalog of relevant and timely resources, with free access upon request.

### **About Sexual Harassment, Abuse, and Assault**

Sexual harassment, abuse, and assault happen in every community and affect people of all genders and ages. Sexual violence is any type of unwanted sexual contact, including words and actions of a sexual nature against a person's will and without their consent. A person may use force, threats, manipulation, or coercion to commit these acts.

### **Stats at a Glance**

- One in five women in the United States experienced completed or attempted rape during their lifetime.<sup>1</sup> Nearly a quarter of men in the U.S. experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime. This includes rape, being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, or unwanted sexual contact.<sup>2</sup>
- Nationwide, 81% of women and 43% of men reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime.<sup>3</sup>
- Forty percent of rapes and sexual assaults were reported to police in 2017, but only about 25% were reported to police in 2018.<sup>4</sup>
- The 2019 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct found that, at 33 of the nation's major universities, almost one in four undergraduate women experienced sexual assault or misconduct.<sup>5</sup>
- The prevalence of false reporting for sexual assault crimes is low — between two percent and 10 percent.<sup>6</sup>

## Media Contacts

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## References

<sup>1</sup> Smith, S.G., Zhang, X., Basile, K.C., Merrick, M.T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M. & Chen, J. (2018). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2015 data brief — updated release*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/2015data-brief508.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Smith, S.G., Zhang, X., Basile, K.C., Merrick, M.T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M. & Chen, J. (2018). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2015 data brief — updated release*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/2015data-brief508.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Kearl, H. (2018). *The facts behind the #metoo movement: A national study on sexual harassment and assault*. Stop Street Harassment. <http://www.stopstreetharassment.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Full-Report-2018-National-Study-on-Sexual-Harassment-and-Assault.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Morgan, R. E., & Oudekerk, B. A. (2019). *Criminal victimization, 2018* (NCJ 253043). U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv18.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Cantor, D., Fisher, B., Chibnall, S., Harps, S., Townsend, R., Thomas, G., Lee, H., Kranz, V., Herbison, R., & Madden, K. (2019). *Report on the AAU Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct*. Association of American Universities. <https://www.aau.edu/key-issues/campus-climate-and-safety/aau-campus-climate-survey-2019>

<sup>6</sup> Lisak, D., Gardinier, L., Nicksa, S. C., & Cote, A. M. (2010). False allegations of sexual assault: An analysis of ten years of reported cases. *Violence Against Women, 16*, 1318-1334. [doi:10.1177/1077801210387747](https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801210387747)