



SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION



APRIL 2018

Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in this community.

The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it.

Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm our community, and statistics show one in five women and one in 67 men will be raped at some point in their lives (Smith et al., 2017).

Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that one in six boys and one in four girls will experience sexual assault before age 18 (Dube et al., 2005).

On campus, one in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted during their time in college (Krebs, Lindquist, Warner, Fisher, & Martin, 2007).

The theme of this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign is "Embrace Your Voice". The campaign informs individuals on how they can use their words to stop sexual violence before it happens by promoting safety, respect, and equality.

Our words shape the world around us. Whether you speak out against locker room talk or help someone better understand these issues, your voice is powerful and necessary in this conversation.

Individuals can embrace their voices to show their support for survivors, stand up to victim blaming, shut down rape jokes, correct harmful misconceptions, promote everyday consent, and practice healthy communication with kids.

I join advocates and communities across the country in taking action to prevent sexual violence. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and each day of the year is an opportunity to create change for the future.

Name

Date

Dube, S. R., Anda, R. F., Whitfield, C. L., Brown, D. W., Felitti, V. J., Dong, M., & Giles, W. H. (2005). Long-term consequences of childhood sexual abuse by gender of victim. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 28, 430-438. doi:10.1016/j.amepre.2005.01.015

Krebs, C. P., Lindquist, C. H., Warner, T. D., Fisher, B. S., & Martin, S. L. (2007) *The Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study* (NCJ 221153). Retrieved from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/221153.pdf>

Smith, S. G., Chen, J., Basile, K. C., Gilbert, L. K., Merrick, M. T., Patel, N., ... Jain, A. (2017). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report*. Retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>