

Creating Safer Campuses



Sexual violence on campus has lasting effects on individuals and the campus community. When someone experiences sexual violence, it can affect their ability to concentrate on their schoolwork, their job, and their relationships. Sexual violence can also damage a campus community's sense of safety and togetherness. Schools demonstrate their commitment to fostering a safe and healthy learning environment by investing in proactive and intentional efforts to address violence.

WHAT IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

Sexual violence is any type of unwanted sexual interaction, ranging from personal attitudes and comments to sexual assault. A person can use force, threats, manipulation, or coercion to commit sexual violence. Sexual violence can happen to anyone regardless of age, race, ethnicity, religion, geography, ability, appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS

It is estimated that around **26 percent of college women, 23 percent of transgender, genderqueer, and nonconforming college students, and 7 percent of college men experience sexual violence** over the course of their college career.¹ In most of these instances (nearly 80 percent), the individual knows the person who harmed them.² People who sexually assault others often select someone within their social network and build trust, and might use manipulation, alcohol, and/or drugs to commit an assault.

campus connectedness: every campus community has the ability to create positive change and address harmful norms that support sexual violence.



26% of college women experience sexual violence



23% of trans, genderqueer, and nonconforming college students experience sexual violence

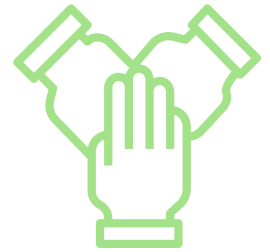


7% of college men experience sexual violence

CREATING SAFER CAMPUS COMMUNITIES

Reducing the rates and eventually preventing the perpetration of sexual violence involves changing attitudes and social patterns. This long-term process includes informing people about the problem, helping everyone practice new skills and behaviors, and developing thoughtful policies. **Campus communities have strengths and values that support effective interventions.** Lasting campus change is a multifaceted effort that includes:

- **Comprehensive prevention strategies** that encourage full participation in changing norms, behaviors, and expectations. For example, asking students, faculty, and staff about the campus climate and then developing programs based on responses and needs.^{3,4}
- **Trauma-sensitive policies** and practices to ensure that reporting procedures, investigations, and misconduct processes take into account the realities of sexual violence. This means learning about the effects of trauma and how these factors could impact a survivor's behavior.
- **Clear communication of the policies** and resources in place to support survivors and address harmful behaviors.
- **Meaningful collaboration** between campus administration, staff, students, and local community-based organizations that promotes the sharing of expertise and resources and provides a network of support for survivors, their families and friends, and the campus community as a whole.



LEARN MORE, CREATE CHANGE

Know Your IX is a campaign that aims to educate all college students in the U.S. about their rights under Title IX. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes sexual violence. Learn more at www.advocatesforyouth.org/campaigns/know-your-ix.

End Rape on Campus works to end campus sexual violence through direct support for survivors and their communities, prevention through education, and policy reform at the campus, local, state, and federal levels. Learn more at www.endrapeoncampus.org.

New Jersey's College Consortium is a group of committed professionals from colleges across the state trying to identify best practices, respond to emerging issues, and support necessary services for survivors. To learn more about the College Consortium, contact the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault at info@njcasa.org.

REFERENCES

- 1 Association of American Universities. (2020). Report on the AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct . [https://www.aau.edu/sites/default/files/AAU-Files/Key-Issues/Campus-Safety/Revised%20Aggregate%20report%20%20and%20appendices%201-7_\(01-16-2020_FINAL\).pdf](https://www.aau.edu/sites/default/files/AAU-Files/Key-Issues/Campus-Safety/Revised%20Aggregate%20report%20%20and%20appendices%201-7_(01-16-2020_FINAL).pdf)
- 2 Sinozich, S., Langton, L. (2014). Rape and sexual assault victimization among college-aged females, 1995–2013. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved from <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rsavcaf9513.pdf>
- 3 Peterson, A. & Singh, S. (2017). The Know Your IX State Policy Playbook. Know Your IX. Retrieved from advocatesforyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Know_Your_IX_State_Policy_Playbook.pdf
- 4 White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault. (2014). Not Alone: The first report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. Washington, DC: White House. Retrieved from <https://feminist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/NotAlone2014Report.pdf>