



Facts About Sexual Violence

National

- 20% of college women in the U.S. have experienced a completed rape and 25% have experienced an attempted rape (The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control).
- Sexual violence results in serious, immediate and long-term, physical and emotional health problems including:
 - Pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and chronic pain,
 - Anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- From 1992-2000, only 36% of completed rapes and 34% of attempted rapes were reported to police (The National Crime Victimization Survey).
 - All victims of completed rapes and 39% of victims of attempted rapes suffered physical injuries.

Oklahoma

- 1,557 forcible and attempted rapes of women were reported to local police and sheriffs' departments during 2004 (Uniform Crime Reporting System, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation).
 - The rate of forcible and attempted rape in Oklahoma was 38% higher than the U.S. rate.
- During 2001 – 2003, it was estimated that 74,600 to 88,500 Oklahoma women had experienced threatened, coerced, or forced sex since the age of 18 and 8,500 to 14,500 had experienced forced sex in the past year (Oklahoma Women's Health Survey, Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)).
 - The perpetrator was a person known to the victim in 89% of incidents, most often an intimate partner, friend or acquaintance.
 - Disabled women reported higher rates of forced sex since age 18 and forced sex in the past year than women who were not disabled.
- 12% of women 18 years of age and older surveyed during 2005 reported they had experienced unwanted sex in their lifetimes (Oklahoma Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, OSDH).
- During 2005, 9% of high school girls and 5% of high school boys had been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to (Youth Risk Behavior Survey).
 - 12% of 9th grade girls, 11% of 10th grade girls, and 8% of 11th grade girls reported they had been forced to have sexual intercourse.
- According to a recent survey of women 18-35 years of age, 31% had been sexually assaulted in their lifetimes (Sexual Assault Prevention Women's Survey, University of Oklahoma Public Opinion Learning Laboratory, 2006).
 - 74% were younger than 18 years of age when the first sexual assault occurred.
 - 32% of women who had been sexually assaulted had experienced more than one sexual assault.



Prevention

- Prevention strategies should promote **positive social norms** for a safe environment such as:
 - Healthy relationships,
 - Respect,
 - Intolerance of violence,
 - Equality,
 - Offender accountability.
- Prevention strategies should change **harmful social norms** that promote sexual violence such as:
 - Glamorizing violence in the media,
 - Objectification and oppression of women,
 - Male domination and gender inequality,
 - Tolerance of violence and violent behaviors,
 - Victim blaming.
- Prevention efforts should include activities at multiple levels of society (Spectrum of Prevention):
 - *Influencing **policies and legislation***. Keep legislators informed and promote legislation to improve victim services, and sexual violence prevention efforts in Oklahoma.
 - *Changing **organizational practices***. Change the organizational policies of government, schools, businesses, and churches regarding sexual violence, sexual harassment, intimidation, and violent behavior to impact the community.
 - *Fostering **coalitions and networks***. Collaborate and network with a wide variety of groups and organizations that have a common interest in preventing sexual violence.
 - *Educating **providers***. Train school, church, and other personnel to recognize and respond to bullying, sexual harassment, and partner violence, in order to promote positive organizational environments.
 - *Educating the **community***. Work with the media and engage community leaders to promote healthy male and female roles in society. Campaigns such as “My Strength is Not for Hurting” emphasize that men can be strong without being violent. Another national campaign “Choose Respect,” promotes healthy dating relationships among teens.
 - *Strengthening **individual** knowledge and skills*. Provide workshops, seminars, and support groups for men that develop and support healthy masculine roles, healthy sexual relationships, and strengthen men’s roles in preventing sexual violence.