



Gender Violence & Sexual Violence

Gender Violence is expressed through physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and economic abuse that results in harm, injury, and even death. Legal definitions of **sexual violence**, domestic violence, sex trafficking are included in the term gender violence as an inclusive way to encompass all of these forms of violence. Gender violence occurs as a result of the normative role expectations associated with the gender binary (male/masculine and female/feminine) and unequal access to power.

What Is Sexual Violence?

Sexual violence can be defined as any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient of the unwanted sexual activity. Falling under the definition of sexual assault is sexual activity such as forced sexual intercourse, sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling, and attempted rape. Sexual violence is never the individual's fault. It's important for anyone who has been raped to know that they are not alone.

Children

- 6.1 percent of all children have been sexually victimized in the past year.¹
- Incest between a child or adolescent and a related adult has been identified as the most widespread form of child sexual abuse.²

Adolescents

- In Idaho, 21.6% of Idaho's female students (compared to 3% of male students) reported being "forced to do sexual things they did not want with someone they were dating or going out with during the past 12 months."³ This statistic is 7% higher than the national average of 14.4%.⁴
- In Idaho, 9% of female students report having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to⁵ and **18% of Idaho Hispanic female students reported they experienced sexual violence.**⁶

Adults

- 1 in 5 (18.3%) women have experienced an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime.⁷
- More than three-quarters of female who were raped (79.6%) were first raped before their 25th birthday; 29.9% experienced their first completed rape before the age of 18
- During their lives, 1 in 71 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape; 27.8% occurred before the men were 10 years or younger.⁸

Marginalized Communities – While sexual violence impacts individuals of all ages, abilities and communities, historically marginalized communities and/or underserved populations are disproportionately affected by sexual violence.

Latina/Hispanic Women – Many cultural, economic, and political factors, including anti-immigrant sentiments impact and intensify the experience of sexual violence in Latina and Hispanic communities.

- A study that included 2,000 Latinas found 63.1% of women who identified being victimized in their lifetime reported having experienced more than one victimization, with an average of 2.56 victimizations.

1 Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

2 Courtois, Christine A. (1988). *Healing the Incest Wound - Adult Survivors in Therapy*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton and Company.

3 Idaho State Dept. of Ed. (2015). *Results of the 2015 IYRBS*

4 CDC, National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (2015)

5 Ibid

6 Idaho State Dept. of Ed. (2013). *Results of the 2013 IYRBS*

7 Black et. al. (2011)

8 Ibid

American Indian Women – American Indian women living on Indian reservations experience unique challenges that intensify the epidemic of violence against them.⁹

- 34% or more than one in three Native women will be raped during their lifetime, whereas for women as a whole the risk is less than one in five.¹⁰

LGBTQ Youth – Negative attitudes toward lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) people put these youth at increased risk for experiences with violence, compared with other students.

- 14% to 31% of gay and lesbian students and 17% to 32% of bisexual students had been forced to have sexual intercourse at some point in their lives.¹¹

Individuals with Disabilities – Isolation within a community, reliance on caregivers for personal care, and limited transportation options can create unsafe situations for people with disabilities. Perpetrators may perceive people with disabilities as easy targets because of societal stereotypes and extremely low rates of prosecution of perpetrators of crimes against people with disabilities.

- People with disabilities are:
 - 3 times more likely to experience rape, sexual assault, aggravated assault, and robbery
 - 3 times more likely to be sexually abused as children¹²
- Among adults with developmental disabilities, as many as 83% of females and 32% of males have been sexual assaulted.¹³
- 49% of people with developmental disabilities, who are sexual assaulted, will experience 10 or more incidents of sexual violence.¹⁴

What We Need to Do

Sexual violence is a serious and widespread problem. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), sexual violence is a widespread public health issue that affects men, women, and children every day. Sexual violence can have a lasting impact on a person's physical, mental, and emotional well-being and may affect people throughout their lives. For more information see the [CDC's Sexual Violence at a Glance Fact Sheet](#).

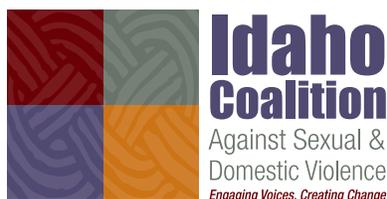
Center solutions on the needs of marginalized communities and underserved populations.

What we do and say about the issue of sexual violence matters. By increasing understanding of the issue, we can more effectively respond to survivors, enhance community safety and ultimately prevent sexual violence. The way misinformed communities often respond to victims inflicts shame, fear, humiliation, and, ultimately, silence.

Believe survivors when they disclose. Individuals who are sexually assaulted are never to blame. Delayed disclosures of sexual violence are normal, common and should be expected. Many people who have been sexually violated wait months or years before discussing what was done to them with anyone, let alone making a formal report to authorities.

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1 (800) 656-4673 or www.rainn.org

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence www.engagingvoices.org



9 Futures Without Violence. The Facts on Violence Against American Indian/Alaskan Native Women. 2014

10 Tjaden, P. & Thonennes. (2000). The Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: findings from the National Violence Survey Against Women. National Institute of Justice & the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. <http://www.ncjrs.gov/txtfiles1/nij/183781.txt>

11 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sexual identity, sex of sexual contacts, and health-risk behaviors among students in grades 9-12—Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, selected sites, United States, 2001-2009. *MMWR*. 2011.

12 VERA Institute of Justice

13 Johnson, I., Sigler R. 2000. "Forced Sexual Intercourse Among Intimates," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 15 (1)

14 Valenti-Heim, D., Schwartz, L. 1995. The Sexual Abuse Interview for Those with Developmental Disabilities.