

What Is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is any type of unwanted sexual contact, violence, or other behavior. Unwanted sexual activity is that which occurs without knowing, voluntary, and positive consent of the focus of the behavior. Falling under the definition of sexual assault is sexual activity such as completed or attempted unwanted sexual intercourse (rape), continuing with sexual activity beyond the bounds of consent (for example, not using a condom when consent was based on condom use or sexual penetration of any orifice), and nonconsensual fondling. Sexual assault is never the victim's fault, rather it is the of the person engaging in the sexual activity to do so without getting explicit consent. Sexual assault is widespread and it's important for victims to know that they are not alone.

- Nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 67 men have experienced rape or attempted rape in their life (Smith, et al., 2017).
- One in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will experience some form of sexual assault during their life (Smith, et al., 2017).
- Almost half (49.5%) of multiracial women and over 45% of Native American women are subjected to some form of sexual assault in their life (Smith, et al., 2017).
- Young people are at the highest risk of sexual assault. Nearly 80% of female victims of rape were first raped before their 25th birthday, with 42.2% experiencing their first rape before the age of 18 (29.9% between 11 and 17 and 12.3% at or before age 10). Approximately 28% of male victims of rape were first raped when they were 10 years old or younger.
- In approximately 8 out of 10 cases of rape, the victim knows the perpetrator. Know perpetrators include current or former intimate partners, friends and family members, people of authority (boss, supervisor, coach, teacher, clergy members, medical professional, caregiver, etc.), and acquaintances (peer, coworker, teammate, etc.).
- The 2017 Idaho Youth Risk Behavior Survey finds that:
 - > 15.1% of female high school students and 4.1% of male high school student had been forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to during the past 12 months. 12th grade girl report the highest rates of sexual violence with 21% reporting unwanted sexual intercourse, while the number is highest for boys in 11th grade with 5.1% reporting. The Idaho rate of forced sexual intercourse is significantly higher than the US Overall rate (10.3% female and 3.1% male).
 - > Forced sexual intercourse is significantly associated with lower academic achievement (with 17% of those reporting forced intercourse getting mainly D/Fs vs. 4.7% in the population as a whole).
 - > Female students were forced to engage in unwanted sexual acts at extremely high rates – 20.8% for Idaho female students vs. 15.6% for the US overall.