

FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS SHOCKINGLY COMMON

- ◇ **1 of 6 U.S. women and 1 of 33 U.S. men has experienced an “attempted or completed rape”** as a child and/or adult (using a definition of rape that includes forced vaginal, oral, and anal sex).¹
- ◇ In Kentucky, **1 in 9 adult women has been “forcibly raped”** at sometime in her life, that totals **more than 175,000 women**.² This estimate is conservative, as it does not include alcohol- or drug-facilitated rape, attempted rape, ‘statutory rape’ (i.e., sex with someone under age 16 without explicit force), or other forms of sexual violence.

SEX OFFENDERS COMMONLY PREY ON PEOPLE THEY KNOW

- ◇ **73% of female rape victims knew the offender**, either as a ‘friend,’ acquaintance, intimate partner, or relative.³
- ◇ **Nearly 8% of women have been raped by an intimate partner** at some point in her lifetime.⁴

SEX OFFENDERS COMMONLY PREY ON THOSE UNABLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES

- ◇ **54% of female victims said they were less than 18 years old when they were first raped** and 18% of these women were also raped after the age of 18.¹
- ◇ People with developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, psychiatric disabilities, and those who are elderly are also frequently targeted.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS COSTLY

Sexual violence is very costly to both individuals and society.

- ◇ Rape is the costliest of crimes to its victims. Overall, victim costs are estimated at \$127 billion per year. Taking into account short-term medical care, mental health services, lost productivity, and pain & suffering, the cost per sexual assault is estimated at \$110,000. Pain & suffering accounts for \$104, 900.⁵
- ◇ Societal costs include businesses losses, through absenteeism and third-party liability; criminal justice responses, such as investigation, prosecution, incarceration, and registration; and non-monetary losses, such as fear and corresponding loss of quality of life.⁵

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS ARE THE WEAPONS MOST FREQUENTLY USED BY SEX OFFENDERS

- ◇ More than half of women raped by an acquaintance reported consumption of alcohol or other drugs.¹
- ◇ 75% of men involved consumed alcohol or other drugs.¹
- ◇ Offenders have and/or use traditional weapons, such as guns and knives, in 7% of all rapes and other sexual assaults.³

MOST SURVIVORS DO NOT SEEK IMMEDIATE PROFESSIONAL HELP

- ◇ Most sexual violence is not reported to police.
 - ◇ Over 60% of rapes and attempted rapes are never reported to police.⁶
 - ◇ Over 70% of crimes involving other forms of sexual violence are never reported to police.⁶
- ◇ Most victims do not seek medical treatment for their injuries.
 - ◇ Only 32 % of rape and attempted rape survivors are treated for injuries.⁶
 - ◇ Only 27% of victims injured during other forms of sexual violence are treated for injuries.⁶

SEXUAL VIOLENCE HAS DRAMATIC LONG-TERM IMPACTS

- ◇ Survivors are at greater risk for mental health problems than those who have never been sexually assaulted.
 - ◇ 31% of rape survivors experience posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).²
 - ◇ 30% experience major depression at some time in their lives.²
 - ◇ 33% experience serious suicidal thoughts at some time in their lives.²
- ◇ Long-term physical impacts are frequently related to sexual violence such as sexually transmitted infections, unplanned pregnancy/child-birth, eating disorders, sleep disorders, and use of alcohol and/or other drugs.

REFERENCES

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