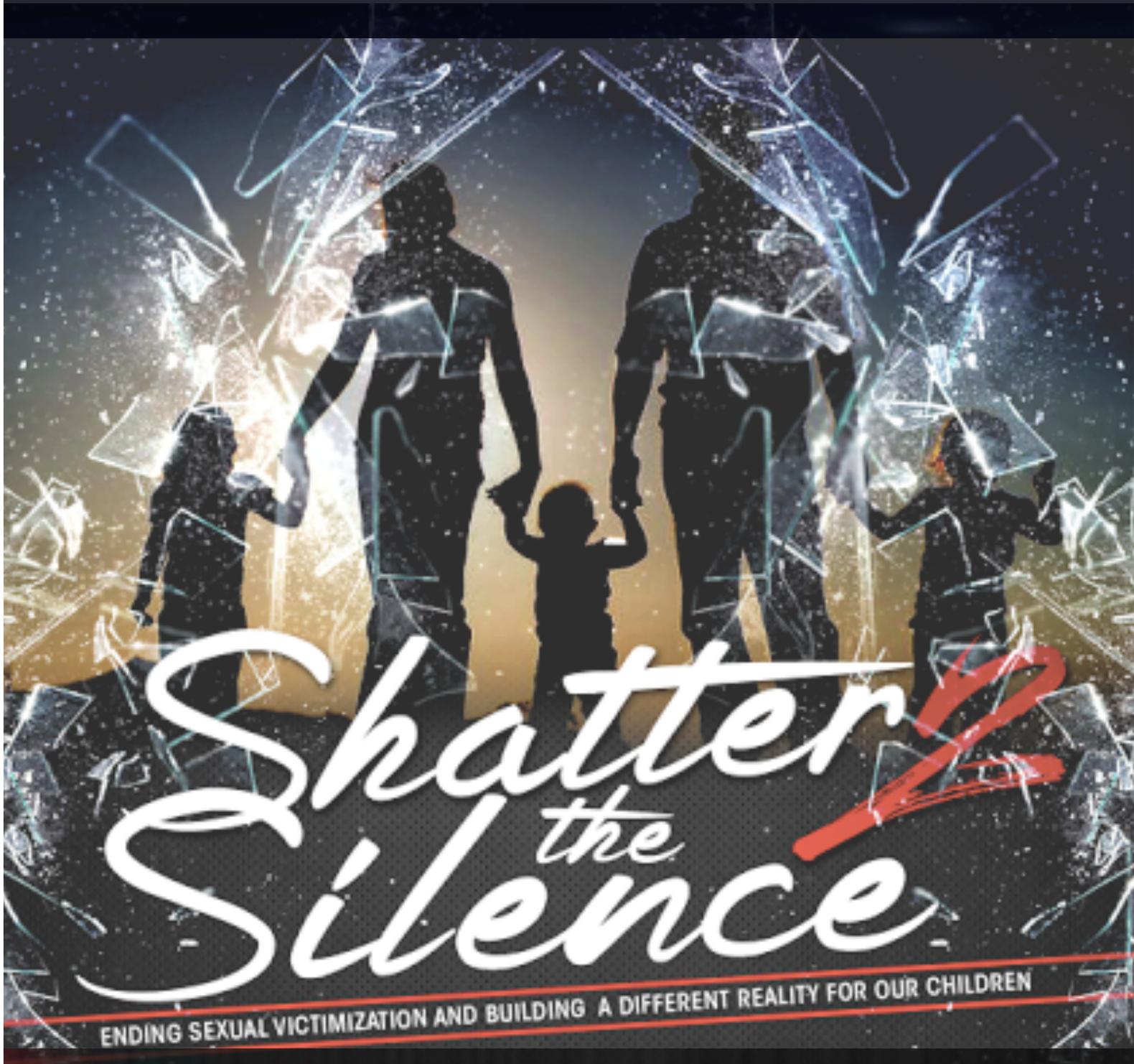


SHATTER THE SILENCE TOOLKIT:
A COLLECTION OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL RESOURCES



Toolkit developed by:
Shavonne J. Moore, PhD
Shatter the Silence Coordinator

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WELCOME

On behalf of the **Shatter the Silence Task Force**, we present to you a compilation of resources purposed to support conversations about sexual victimization. In this Toolkit, you will find statistics, education materials and handouts, sermons, scripture, prayers, and other national and local resources that can be utilized to engage others in discussion about the impact of sexual victimization on our communities.

Who is the Shatter the Silence Task Force: The Shatter the Silence Task Force is a faith-based group of clergy, lay leaders, and other congregants from 14 churches and 3 para-church organizations. Our task force aims to bring voice, action, and change to the prevalent, and yet sometimes hidden, issue of sexual victimization.

What is Sexual Victimization: Sexual victimization is a term used to describe types of non-consensual and unwanted sexual contacts, included but not limited to sexual assault and abuse, domestic and intimate-partner violence, and sex trafficking. We view sexual victimization as a collective “us” issue because we recognize the prevalence of it and know that many of our women, men, boys, and girls are impacted by it, even when we are unaware. For example, 1 in 5 women have or will experience sexual assault in their lifetime; 1 in 6 men are sexually assaulted by the age of 18. Given those numbers alone, we can imagine how many members of our congregations have been victims of sexual victimization at some point in their lives, as children and/or as adults.

What Can You Do: We believe the church can play a crucial role in reducing the statistics, providing support for those impacted, and creating a different reality for our families and children where they are safer and more protected. Since 2013, we have developed multiple programs with over 500 participants. In a recent program, we surveyed participants and learned that the majority of them were deeply impacted by sexual victimization, over three-fourths reported attending churches where sexual victimization is occasionally or rarely talked about, and importantly, most participants reported wanting to discuss this issue in their churches. This toolkit is meant to provide resources for assisting in those discussions.

It is time to end the silence, hurt, and pain for all those who have been affected by sexual victimization. We appreciate you accessing our toolkit and value your desire to shatter the silence around this topic.

Blessings,

Gloria White-Hammond

Rev. Gloria White-Hammond, MD
Co-Pastor
Bethel AME Church - Boston

Shavonne J. Moore

Shavonne J. Moore, PhD
Shatter the Silence Coordinator
Bethel AME Church - Boston

Shatter the Silence Task Force:

Bethel AME Church (Providence, RI)
Bethel AME Church (Boston, MA)
Black Ministerial Alliance
Boston Temple Seventh Day Adventist Church
Concord Baptist Church
Emmanuel Gospel Center
Fellowship Christian Church
Global Ministries Christian Church
Heart Change Fellowship Church

Life Church
Mars Hill Fellowship Church
Morning Star Baptist Church
New England AME Women's Missionary Society
Peoples Baptist Church
Roxbury Presbyterian Church
Twelfth Baptist Church
Zion Baptist Church



Sexual Victimization Defined and Explained

Sexual Victimization involves non-consensual (e.g., lacking explicit consent) sexual contact that happens to someone against his/her will. Sexual victimization is an umbrella term that encompasses multiple forms of victimization including but not limited to rape, sexual assault, childhood sexual abuse, domestic and interpersonal violence, sex trafficking, etc. Sexual victimization is, in some ways, synonymous with other terms such as sexual violence and gender-based violence.

Prevalence

Statistics from the White House Council of Women and Girls indicate 22 million females experience rape in their lifetime; nearly half are raped before the age of 18, and over a third of those who are raped as minors are also raped as adults. Although sexual assault is typically thought of as impacting women, we know that men are impacted as victims, as well. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 1 in 6 men will experience a sexual assault before the age 18. Given those numbers alone, we can imagine how many members of our congregation have been victims of sexual violence at some point in their lives, as children and/or as adults. As President Obama has noted in his 2015 public service announcement that addressed sexual victimization, “one in any number, is too many.”

Church Impact

Sexual victimization heavily impacts our churches, families, and communities. Participants of a recent workshop, entitled Shatter the Silence, were asked to respond to questions inquiring about their: being impacted by sexual victimization, attending churches where sexual victimization is addressed, and being willing to have related conversations in their churches. The majority of the workshop participants reported that they have been deeply impacted by sexual victimization; over three-fourths reported that they attend churches where sexual victimization is occasionally or rarely talked about. Importantly, most participants reported that they want to have this conversation in their churches.

Click [HERE](#) for a video example of this information,
or copy the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFtaFv5m1NE>
into your web browser.



rape and abuse
crisis center

advocacy. counseling. education.

For Parents Dealing with Child Sexual Abuse

Child Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse occurs when a child is tricked, forced, coerced, or manipulated into sexual contact for the purpose of gratifying the abuser. The sexual abuse can range from fondling of the child's sexual parts, exposure of the abuser's private parts, having a child touch the abuser's private parts, to intercourse.

Some Facts

Studies on child sexual abuse indicate *one in four* females and *one in six* males will be sexually abused before the age of 18.¹ The abuser is known to the victim in 93% of all cases.²

Effects of Child Sexual Abuse

Nearly all victims will experience feelings of confusion, shame, guilt, anger, self-blame, embarrassment, and fear. Child sexual abuse can result in long-term relationship problems and be perpetuated from generation to generation. A male who is sexually abused as a child is more likely to sexually abuse others if there has been no intervention. A female victim who receives no intervention is more likely to be re-victimized.³

Reaction of Parents

When their child is violated, parents may feel violated too. They experience feelings similar to those of their child; self-blame, anger (at themselves and the abuser), guilt, embarrassment, and fear. They tend to want to overprotect their child to ensure the child's safety; however, the child may view this as punishment or lack of trust.

When parents have also been victims of sexual abuse, it may be difficult for them to separate feelings regarding their experience of abuse and that of the child. These parents may need to receive help to deal with their own abuse experience.

Pointers to Help Parents Talk to a Child Who Has Been Sexually Abused

Remember, a child may not have the vocabulary to talk about the sexual abuse and often does not tell anyone about the abuse, due to fear of not being believed. In some case, the victim has been threatened with harm, told not to tell, or has been told s/he will get in trouble if the "secret" is told.

It is important for parents to stay calm and have their feelings under control when they talk to their child. The effect sexual abuse has on a child depends, in part, upon the parents' reaction. If parents become overly upset and angry, a child may think s/he is bad, or has done something wrong. When parents react in a concerned, caring, supportive, and loving manner, the child feels better able to share their feelings about what happened.

24-hour Crisis Line (701)293-7273

www.raccfm.com

07/12

This material may be reproduced provided credit is given to the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center.

F: Education/Revised Handouts/For Parents Dealing with Child Sexual Abuse

Indicators

While the presence of the following behaviors does not mean a child has been sexually abused, a pattern of these behaviors usually indicates that a problem exists. It is important to talk with a child who exhibits a pattern of behavioral problems and seek necessary help.

1. Physical Indicators

- Change in appetite
- Eating disorder
- Unexplained gagging
- Pregnancy
- Vaginal or uteral discharge
- Infection or sexually transmitted disease (evidence by difficulty urinating, scratching, and tugging at clothing around genital area)

2. Behavioral Indicators

- Abrupt change in behavior
- Clinging or whining
- Refusal to go to a certain place/be with a certain person
- Regression to more infantile behavior such as bed wetting, thumb sucking, fecal soiling, etc. (evident primarily in younger children)
- Acting out and attention-getting behavior (e.g. shoplifting, fire setting)
- Prostitution or promiscuous sexual behavior
- School problems, truancy, drop in academic performances
- Alcohol/drug abuse
- Excessive bathing

3. Psychological Indicators

- Excessive fear of being touched
- Fear of being alone
- Nightmares and other sleep disturbances
- Withdrawal and isolation from peers
- Depression
- Physical self-abuse
- Suicide attempts/threats
- Reluctant to undress for physical education classes
- Chronic running away issues

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http://www.darkness2light.org/KnowAbout/statistics_2.asp
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<http://www.sccadvasa.org/articles/73.pdf>

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS

WHY IT MATTERS

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by an intimate partner against another. It is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background. Violence against women is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior, and thus is part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma, and sometimes death. The consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and truly last a lifetime.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◇ **One in every four women** will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.¹
- ◇ An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.²
 - ◇ 85% of domestic violence victims are women.³
 - ◇ Historically, females have been most often victimized by someone they knew.⁴
- ◇ Females who are **20-24 years of age** are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence.⁵
 - ◇ Most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police.⁶

CHILDREN WHO WITNESS

- Witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.⁷
- Boys who witness domestic violence are *twice as likely* to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.⁸
- 30% to 60% of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household.⁹

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING

- ≈ **One in 6 women and 1 in 33 men** have experienced an attempted or completed rape.¹⁰
- ≈ Nearly 7.8 million women have been raped by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.¹¹
- ≈ Sexual assault or forced sex occurs in approximately 40-45% of battering relationships.¹²
- ≈ 1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men have been stalked in their lifetime.¹³
- ≈ 81% of women stalked by a current or former intimate partner are also physically assaulted by that partner; 31% are also sexually assaulted by that partner.¹³

HOMICIDE AND INJURY

- ⇒ Almost **one-third of female homicide victims** that are reported in police records are killed by an intimate partner.¹⁴
- ⇒ In 70-80% of intimate partner homicides, no matter which partner was killed, the man physically abused the woman before the murder.¹²
- ⇒ Less than one-fifth of victims reporting an injury from intimate partner violence sought medical treatment following the injury.¹⁵
- ⇒ Intimate partner violence results in more than **18.5 million mental health care visits** each year.¹⁶

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- √ The cost of intimate partner violence **exceeds \$5.8 billion each year**, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services.¹⁷
- √ Victims of intimate partner violence *lost almost 8 million days of paid work* because of the violence perpetrated against them by current or former husbands, boyfriends and dates. This loss is the equivalent of more than *32,000 full-time jobs* and almost *5.6 million days of household productivity* as a result of violence.¹⁷
- √ There are 16,800 homicides and \$2.2 million (medically treated) injuries due to intimate partner violence annually, which costs \$37 billion.¹⁸



REPORTING RATES

- * Domestic violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes.²⁰
- * Only approximately one-quarter of all physical assaults, one-fifth of all rapes, and one-half of all stalkings perpetuated against females by intimate partners are reported to the police.¹

PROTECTION ORDERS

- * Approximately 20% of the 1.5 million people who experience intimate partner violence annually obtain civil protection orders.¹
- * Approximately one-half of the orders obtained by women against intimate partners who physically assaulted them were violated.¹ More than two-thirds of the restraining orders against intimate partners who raped or stalked the victim were violated.

STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAWS

- States differ on the type of relationship that qualifies under domestic violence laws.
- Most states require the perpetrator and victim to be current or former spouses, living together, or have a child in common.
- A significant number of states include current or former dating relationships in domestic violence laws.
- Delaware, Montana and South Carolina specifically exclude same-sex relationships in their domestic violence laws.

To find more information on the domestic violence laws in your state, visit www.womenslaw.org.

IF YOU NEED HELP

For more information or to get help, please call:
THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE at 1-800-799-7233
THE NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT HOTLINE AT 1-800-656-4673
THE NATIONAL TEEN DATING ABUSE HOTLINE AT 1-866-331-9474

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For more information, please visit our website at www.ncadv.org.



The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional or psychological abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence varies dramatically.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ITS EFFECTS:

- Every 9 seconds in the US a woman is assaulted or beaten.ⁱ
- In the United States, an average of 20 people are physically abused by intimate partners every minute. This equates to more than 10 million abuse victims annually.ⁱⁱ
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been physically abused by an intimate partner.ⁱⁱⁱ
- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men have been severely physically abused by an intimate partner.^{iv}
- 1 in 7 women and 1 in 18 men have been stalked. Stalking causes the target to fear she/he or someone close to her/him will be harmed or killed.^v
- On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines nationwide receive approximately 20,800 calls.^{vi}
- The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%.^{vii}
- Domestic violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.^{viii}
- Domestic violence is most common among women between the ages of 18-24.^{ix}
- 19% of domestic violence involves a weapon.^x
- Domestic victimization is correlated with a higher rate of depression and suicidal behavior.^{xi}
- Only 34% of people who are injured by intimate partners receive medical care for their injuries.^{xii}

WHY IT MATTERS:

Domestic violence is prevalent in every community and affects all people regardless of age, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality. Physical violence is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior as part of a much larger, systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence can result in physical injury, psychological trauma, and even death. The devastating consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime.

ECONOMIC EFFECTS:

- Victims of domestic violence lose a total of 8 million days of paid work each year.^{xiii}
- The cost of domestic violence exceeds \$8.3 billion annually.^{xiv}
- Between 21-60% of victims of domestic violence lose their jobs due to reasons stemming from the abuse.^{xv}
- Between 2003 and 2008, 142 women were murdered in their workplace by former or current intimate partners. This amounts to 22% of workplace homicides among women.^{xvi}

If you need help:

Call The National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
 Or, online go to DomesticShelters.org



WHY DO PEOPLE STAY IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS?

One of the most common questions people ask about victims of domestic violence is, “Why don’t they just leave?” People stay in abusive relationships for a variety of reasons including:

- The victim fears the abuser’s violent behavior will escalate if (s)he tries to leave.
- The abuser has threatened to kill the victim, the victim’s family, friends, pets, children and/or himself/her-self.
- The victim loves his/her abuser and believes (s)he will change.
- The victim believes abuse is a normal part of a relationship.
- The victim is financially dependent on the abuser.
- The abuser has threatened to take the victim’s children away if (s)he leaves.
- The victim wants her/his children to have two parents.
- The victim’s religious and/or cultural beliefs preclude him/her from leaving.
- The victim has low self-esteem and believes (s)he is to blame for the abuse.
- The victim is embarrassed to let others know (s)he has been abused.
- The victim has nowhere to go if (s)he leaves.
- The victim fears retribution from the abuser’s friends and/or family.
- For more information, visit www.ncadv.org.

Sources:

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HOW DO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT INTERSECT?

Perpetrators who are physically violent toward their intimate partners are often sexually abusive as well. Victims who are both physically and sexually abused are more likely to be injured or killed than victims who experience one form of abuse. Abusers assault people of all genders, races, ages, social classes, and ethnicities. Women who are disabled, pregnant, or attempting to leave their abusers are at greatest risk for intimate partner rape.^{i,ii}

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 in 5 women will be raped in her lifetime.^{iv}
- Nearly 1 in 2 women and 1 in 5 men experienced sexual violence victimization other than rape at some point in their lives.^v
- Intimate partner sexual assault and rape are used to intimidate, control, and demean victims of domestic violence.
- Intimate partner sexual assault is more likely than stranger or acquaintance assault to cause physical injury.^{vi}
- 14%-25% of women are sexually assaulted by intimate partners during their relationship.^{vii}
- Between 40 and 45 percent of women in abusive relationships will also be sexually assaulted during the course of the relationship.^{viii}
- Over half of women raped by an intimate partner were sexually assaulted multiple times by the same partner.^{ix}
- Women who are sexually abused by intimate partners report more risk factors for intimate partner homicides than non-sexually abused women.^x
- Women who are sexually abused by intimate partners suffer severe and long-lasting physical and mental health problems, similar to those of other rape victims. They have higher rates of depression and anxiety than women who were either raped by a non-intimate partner or physically abused, but not sexually abused by an intimate partner.^{xi}

MARITAL RAPE:

- 18 percent of female victims of spousal rape say their children witnessed the crime.^{xii}
- Between 10 and 14 percent of married women will be raped at some point during their marriages.^{xiii}
- Only 36 percent of all rape victims ever report the crime to the police. The percentage of married women who report a spousal rape to the police is even lower. Marital rape is the most underreported form of sexual assault.^{xiv}
- Until 1976, state laws specifically exempted spousal rape from general rape laws. In 1976, Nebraska was the first state to legally recognize nonconsensual intercourse with a spouse as rape. By 1993, all 50 states had either completely or partially repealed their spousal rape exemptions. However, even now, some states still have some form of spousal rape exemptions, and it is often legally considered a different, lesser crime than non-spousal rape.
- Many Americans do not believe marital rape is actually rape.

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Or, online go to DomesticShelters.org

HOW TO HELP:

- Encourage primary care physicians and OB/GYNs in your community to screen women for signs of physical and sexual violence and ask if they are in violent or abusive relationships during regular check-ups.
- Demand state legislators update rape laws to include marital rape rather than considering marital rape a different crime.
- Work with local schools, religious youth groups, and other youth-oriented programs to teach about healthy sexuality and healthy relationships.
- Ask local schools and universities to address the issue of sexual violence in their classrooms and through victim assistance programs.
- Ask your members of Congress to support funding for direct surveys and programs created in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).
- Volunteer at your local rape crisis center or state sexual assault coalition. Visit the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence at www.ncadv.org, the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence at www.naesv.org, or find a local program at www.domesticshelters.org to learn about volunteer opportunities in your community.

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 Or, online go to DomesticShelters.org



DATING ABUSE AND TEEN VIOLENCE

Federal law and many state laws define domestic violence as abuse perpetrated by a current or former spouse, co-habitant, or co-parent. This leaves dating partners without protections afforded to other current or former intimate partners, including access to protective orders and protection from gun violence.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE:

- Nearly 20.9% of female high school students and 13.4% of male high school students report being physically or sexually abused by a dating partner.ⁱ
- Nearly 1.5 million high school students in the United States are physically abused by dating partners every year.ⁱⁱ
- A 2013 study of 10th graders found that 35% had been either physically or verbally abused; 31% were perpetrators of physical or verbal abuse.ⁱⁱⁱ
- A 2014 study found 10% of teenage students in dating relationships were coerced into sexual intercourse in the previous year.^{iv}
- A 2013 study found 26% of teens in relationships were victims of cyber dating abuse. Females were twice as likely to be victims as males.^v
- 57% of teens know someone who has been physically, sexually, or verbally abusive in a dating relationship.^{vi}
- Only 33% of teenage dating abuse victims ever told anyone about it.^{vii}
- 50% of youth reporting dating violence and rape also reported attempting suicide. This is compared to 12.5% of non-abused girls and 5.4% of non-abused boys.^{viii}

CAMPUS VIOLENCE:

- 43% of dating college women reported experiencing abusive behaviors from their partner.^{ix}
- Over 13% of college women report that they have been stalked. Of these, 42% were stalked by a boyfriend or ex-boyfriend.^x
- 1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted during their college tenures.^{xi}
- Date rape among college students accounts for 35% of attempted rapes, 22.9% of threatened rapes, and 12.8% of completed rapes.^{xii}

WHY IT MATTERS:

Domestic violence is most common among women between the ages of 18-24.^{xiii} The rate of marriage has declined steeply over the last fifty years.^{xiv} People, particularly young people, are dating longer than in previous generations. As people get married later in life, dating violence will continue to rise. Given the prevalence of domestic violence within these dating relationships and a shift in the structure of relationships today, communities must work together to ensure that victims of dating violence have access to resources and an increase in legal protections.

If you need help:

Call The National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
Or, online go to DomesticShelters.org

HOW TO HELP:

One of the most effective way to help protect young adults from dating violence is to contact your Members of Congress and ask them to:

- Expand the federal definition of domestic violence to including dating violence and stalking.
- Introduce, cosponsor, and vote in favor of legislation establishing and funding classroom-based programs to educate middle and high school students about healthy relationships, domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
- Support legislation providing additional funding for local program initiatives that provide counseling services to youth and children who are abused by dating partners and/or witness domestic violence.
- Fund college campus programs aimed at increasing evidence-based domestic and sexual violence education, prevention, and intervention.
- Increase funding for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs.

Encourage local schools and youth programs to train teachers, school counselors, and athletic coaches on how to recognize children and teens who are victims of intimate partner violence. Provide educators with resources and prepare them to intervene in domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking situations.

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If you need help:

Call The National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
 Or, online go to DomesticShelters.org



HUMAN TRAFFICKING CHEAT SHEET

Overview

- Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery.
- Human trafficking is prevalent in many countries around the world. Different countries may be primarily sites of origin, transit, destination, and/or internal trafficking.
- Cases of human trafficking have been reported in all fifty states of the United States (Free the Slaves).
- Human trafficking is a market-based economy that exists on principles of supply and demand. It thrives due to conditions which allow for high profits to be generated at low risk.

What is Human Trafficking?

- As defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the legal definition of “severe forms of trafficking in persons” is:
 - a) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
 - b) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
- Under the legal definition, trafficking victims in the US can be divided into three populations:
 - Minors (under age 18) induced into commercial sex;
 - Adults age 18 or over involved in commercial sex via force, fraud, or coercion;
 - Children and adults forced to perform labor and/or services in conditions of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, via force, fraud, or coercion.
- Victims are trafficked for a wide variety of purposes, such as commercial sex, agricultural work, or housekeeping, yet they all share the loss of one of our world's most cherished rights—freedom.
- There is no one consistent face of a trafficking victim. Trafficked persons can be rich or poor, men or women, adults or children, and foreign nationals or US citizens.
- There is no one consistent face of a trafficker. Traffickers include a wide range of criminal operators, including individual pimps, small families or businesses, loose-knit decentralized criminal networks, and international organized criminal syndicates.

The Law

- Human Trafficking is a crime under US and international law, as well as under many state laws.
- The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 is the main US law on trafficking. It has been reauthorized in 2003, 2005 and 2008.
- The “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children” is the main international law on the subject.

Statistics

- The number of trafficking victims in the US is largely unknown. However, hundreds of thousands of US citizen minors are estimated to be at risk of commercial sexual exploitation.

Myths and Misconceptions

- It is important to dispel certain myths about trafficking.
 - Trafficking is not smuggling or forced movement.
 - Trafficking does not require transportation or border crossing, and does not only happen to immigrants or foreign nationals.
 - Trafficking does not require physical force, physical abuse, or physical restraint.
 - The consent of the victim is considered irrelevant, as is payment.

Child Sex Trafficking in America: A Guide for Parents and Guardians

What is **Child Sex Trafficking**?

Child sex trafficking is one of the most common types of **commercial sexual exploitation**. Child sex trafficking is a high priority at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), because these children are often currently missing and actively being exploited. Child sex trafficking victims include girls, boys, and LGBTQ youth. Victims could be anyone – your daughter, neighbor, or nephew. Knowledge and awareness are key in keeping your loved ones safer.

According to the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act **sex trafficking** is defined as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act.”¹ Children who are exploited through commercial sex are viewed as victims of **severe forms of trafficking in persons**, which is sex trafficking “in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.”² A **commercial sex act** is “any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.”³

How does a child become a **victim**?

Traffickers target vulnerable children and lure them into sex trafficking using physical and psychological manipulation, and sometimes they may resort to violence. Any child may be vulnerable to such a person who promises to meet his or her emotional and physical needs. Often traffickers/pimps will create a seemingly loving or caring relationship with their victim in order to establish trust and allegiance. This manipulative relationship tries to ensure the youth will remain loyal to the exploiter even in the face of severe victimization. These relationships may begin online before progressing to a real-life encounter.

Who are the **pimps**?

Pimps, also known as traffickers, can be anyone, including family members, foster parents, friends, gangs, trusted adults, or “boyfriends,” who profits from the selling of a minor to a buyer.

Victims are

Targeted – Pimps are predators who seek out vulnerable victims. While any youth can be targeted by a pimp, runaways or children experiencing trouble at home are especially vulnerable. Traffickers know these children have emotional and physical needs that are not often being met and use this to their advantage. Pimps find victims at a variety of venues such as in social networking websites, shopping malls, and schools; on local streets; or at bus stations.

Tricked – Pimps are willing to invest a great deal of time and effort in their victim to break down a victim’s natural resistance and suspicion – buying them gifts, providing a place to stay, promising a loving relationship – before revealing their true intent. Frequently victims do not realize the deceptive nature of their trafficker’s interest in them, viewing their pimp as a caretaker and/or boyfriend.

Traumatized – A pimp’s use of psychological manipulation causes the child to truly believe the pimp cares for his or her well-being. Coupled with physical control this can make a victim feel trapped and powerless to leave. This “trauma bond” is difficult to break and specialized intervention and services are often necessary.

Statistics

- In 2014, 1 in every 6 endangered runaways reported to NCMEC was likely a victim of child sex trafficking.
- Traffickers are increasingly using social networking apps and sites to target and recruit children.



¹Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 [United States of America]. Public Law 106-386 [H.R. 3244]. 28 October 2000. Section 103(9).

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³Ibid.

Is someone you know a **victim**?

Each time a child runs away his or her chance of being targeted increases. Youth being controlled by a trafficker or pimp frequently do not reveal their victimization because of the severe control their trafficker has over them, both physically and psychologically. Also, shame and guilt often keep victims silenced. If something does not seem right, ask questions! Establishing an ongoing, open and non-judgmental dialogue with children is critical to building trust that can create space for prevention and intervention.

Some signs and **vulnerabilities** to look for

- History of sexual abuse. Traffickers will work to identify any vulnerability in a young person's life and use that to both create a closer bond and maintain future control.
- History of running away or current status as a runaway.
- Signs of current physical abuse and/or multiple sexually transmitted diseases.
- Unstable home life and/or involvement in the child welfare or foster care system.
- Inexplicable appearance of gifts, clothing, or other costly items that does not fit the child's situation. Traffickers often buy gifts for their victims as a way to build a relationship and earn trust.
- Presence of an older boy- or girlfriend. While they may seem "cool," older friends or boyfriends are not always the caring individuals they appear to be.
- Substance abuse of harder drugs. Pimps may also target youth with significant drug addictions as well as use drugs to lure and control their victims.
- Withdrawal or lack of interest in previous activities. Due to depression or being forced to spend time with their pimp, victims lose control of their personal lives.
- Gang involvement, especially among girls.

"With the young girls, you promise them heaven, they'll follow you to hell," ... a pimp convicted of child sex trafficking.

I. Urbina. "For Runaways, Sex Buys Survival." *The New York Times*. October 26, 2009, page 3.

How to keep your child **safer**

One of the most important things you can do to protect your child is to create an environment in which he or she feels comfortable talking with you. Open **communication** is key. Share the dangers of sex trafficking with your children and encourage them to alert you when they feel uncomfortable in any situation.

Often trafficking victims have experienced victimization in the past, and many times this has been inflicted by individuals close to the victim. Do you trust the people with whom your child interacts? **Knowing** whom your children are with at all times is crucial to protecting their safety.

When your daughter or son is online, do you know which sites they are visiting and with whom they are communicating? Taking the time to **monitor** what your children do and who they are interacting with on the Internet is a VERY important step in keeping your child safer.

If something does not seem right, **ask questions!**

When a child goes missing, the legal guardian should **immediately** call law enforcement and make a report. Next, call the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at 1-800-THE-LOST® (1-800-843-5678). Taking the extra step to report missing children to NCMEC ensures that all available resources are being employed to assist in the identification and recovery of that child.

If you suspect a case of child sex trafficking, contact the **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children®** at 1-800-843-5678 or visit www.cybertipline.com

Preventing the Sexual Exploitation of Children

The words **sexual exploitation** evoke a number of reactions and feelings. Perhaps one of the most devastating is silence — our inability or unwillingness as a society to speak about this horrific problem. This silence may impact a child who has been sexually exploited. Children may be frightened or intimidated into not telling. They may feel they won't be believed or what happened is their fault. All of these feelings may cause them to hide their pain.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) is working to bring sexual exploitation to the forefront; raise awareness about this issue; and help combat its negative, long-term effects. NCMEC wants to help families and communities support the courageous child victims who come forward so they may begin to heal and make more people aware of the problem so other children don't have to suffer in silence.

NCMEC wants people to know the sexual exploitation of one child results in multiple victims within that child's family and the effects may extend like tentacles into the community. Often people feel powerless to fight its insidious nature because the problem seems too huge and overwhelming. People may not want to confront the issue of who the perpetrator might be. They may not want to believe it could be a person in a position of trust or responsibility living in their own community.

But there are steps that need to be taken. When taken they could lead to a reduction in the incidence of sexual exploitation, an improvement in how we protect our children from this scourge, and caring and support for those children who have suffered at the hands of offenders. It's all about empowerment and giving children, parents, guardians, and communities the strength to overcome what they have lost, so they may live healthier and more productive lives.

What Families May Do

- Listen to your children. Pay attention if they tell you they don't want to be with someone or go somewhere.
- Take the time to talk with your children. Encourage open communication and learn how to be an active listener.
- Notice when someone shows one or all of your children a great deal of attention or begins giving them gifts. Talk to your children about the person, and find out why that person is acting in this way.
- Teach your children they have the right to say **NO** to any touch or actions by others that make them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused and to get out of those situations as quickly as possible. If avoidance is not an option, teach your children to kick, scream, and resist. When in such a situation, teach them to loudly yell, "This person is not my father/mother/guardian," and immediately tell you or another trusted adult. **Reassure them you're there to help and it is OK to tell you anything.**
- Be sensitive to any changes in your children's behavior or attitude. Encourage open communication, and learn how to be an active listener.
- Look and listen to small cues and clues indicating something may be troubling your children because children are not always comfortable disclosing disturbing events or feelings. Some children may not be able to tell because they have been told — by a child molester or exploiter — bad things will happen if they tell what has occurred. Some children may be coerced into activity they didn't at first understand to be inappropriate and/or don't know how to end. Children may be especially fearful of being punished, being embarrassed, or experiencing the loss of the love and respect of their family members and friends.
- If your children do confide in you about problems they may be having, strive to remain calm, reassuring, and nonjudgmental. Listen compassionately to their concern, and work **with them** to get the help they need to resolve the problem.
- Be sure to screen babysitters and caregivers. Most jurisdictions have a public registry. Access to and available information about criminal offenses and records varies. Visit www.nsopw.gov, your jurisdiction's registry, or your local law-enforcement agency for specific criteria. Check references with other families who have used the caregiver or babysitter. Once you have chosen the caregiver, drop in unexpectedly to see how your children are doing. Ask your children how the experience with the caregiver was, and carefully listen to the responses.
- Provide oversight and supervision of your children's use of computers and the Internet. Know who they're communicating with online and where they may have access to the Internet. Establish rules and guidelines for computer and Internet use for your children.
- Be involved in your children's activities. As an active participant you'll have a better opportunity to observe how the adults in charge interact with your children. If you are concerned about anyone's behavior, discuss your concerns with the sponsoring organization.

- Work with your children's schools to institute sound and effective child-safety programs as part of their curriculum.
- Practice basic safety skills with your children and discuss their safety openly and honestly. There is no substitute for your attention and supervision. Being available and taking time to really know and listen to your children helps build feelings of safety and security.

What Schools May Do

- Make sure teachers, volunteers, and others with access to children are properly screened and trained.
- Implement and enforce a policy for reporting child sexual exploitation and handling disclosures from children.
- Establish protocols and screening for school computer use. Provide training for students, parents, guardians, and teachers regarding the acceptable use of online computers.
- Choose or develop child-safety programs for the school that are based on accepted educational theories; are appropriate for the children's ages and levels of education and development; are designed to offer concepts to help children build self-confidence in order to better handle and protect themselves in all types of situations; use multiple program components repeated several years in a row; and use qualified presenters who include role-playing, behavioral rehearsal, feedback, and active participation in presentations.
- Assess your environmental structure and take every possible step to help make it safer for children. Make certain children are properly supervised both in the classroom and around the campus.
- Make certain campus security is in place so all visitors are screened through the office and unusual incidents/visitors are properly handled.
- Provide programs and roles for parents and guardians to make them part of their children's safety and security at school and while going to and from school.

What Communities May Do

- Notify the public of the sex-offender registry and community-notification requirements. Schedule town meetings and community seminars to help raise awareness about these policies and issues.
- Support local law-enforcement efforts to establish neighborhood crime-watch programs. Report suspicious persons/activities to local law enforcement.
- Support aggressive prosecution of offenders who victimize children within local communities and have an action plan and protocol in place to alert the community and help address their concerns when a high-profile arrest is made.
- Mobilize community groups and child-serving organizations to help make your community more "child safe." Determine if available services and programs are adequate to address the needs of your community.
- Advocate use of Code Adam® in local retail stores to rapidly locate lost children by using standard protocols and procedures. An immediate response to a lost child minimizes the possibility the child will be taken from the store.
- Institute free child-identification programs in the community to help ensure all parents and guardians have a recent, clear, and readily available color photograph of their children.
- Advocate for meaningful legislative change with elected officials.

It is only through unified and diligent preparation and persistent prevention efforts that the sexual exploitation of children may be effectively addressed. For information regarding NCMEC's resources to help prevent the sexual exploitation of children, visit www.cybertipline.com or call 1-800-843-5678.

Information reprinted respectively from NCMEC's *Know the Rules...General Tips for Parents and Guardians to Help Keep Their Children Safer*; *Just in case...Guidelines in case your child might someday be the victim of sexual exploitation*, *KIDS AND COMPANY: TOGETHER FOR SAFETY*, and *Guidelines for Programs to Reduce Child Victimization: A Resource for Communities When Choosing a Program to Teach Personal Safety to Children*.

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It's time ... to talk about it! Your voice. Our future. Prevent sexual violence.

Understanding sexual violence: Tips for parents & caregivers

Sexual violence is a widespread issue that impacts everyone. This fact sheet provides information about how parents and caregivers can play a role in preventing sexual violence and supporting survivors. Together we can create safe and respectful communities.

What is sexual violence?

Sexual violence is a broad term and includes rape, incest, child sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, unwanted sexual contact, sexual harassment, exposure, and voyeurism.

Sexual violence occurs when someone is forced or manipulated into unwanted sexual activity without their consent. Reasons someone might not consent include fear, age, illness, disability, and/or influence of alcohol or other drugs. Anyone can experience sexual violence, including children, teens, adults, and elders.

These crimes are widespread and occur daily in our communities, schools, and workplaces, but sexual violence can be prevented. Community members can work to prevent sexual violence by establishing healthy and positive relationships that are based on respect, safety, and equality.

Sexual violence at a glance

- One in six boys and one in four girls will experience a sexual assault before the age 18 (Dube et al., 2005).
- One in five women and one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives (Black et al., 2011).

- A majority of women who reported being raped at some point in their life (79.6%) experienced their first rape before the age of 25, and 42.2% experienced their first completed rape before the age of 18 years (Black et al., 2011).
- More than 25% of male victims in a national sample reported their first rape was when they were 10 years of age or younger (Black et al., 2011).
- Rape is far more extensive than reported in official statistics, and the majority of rapists are never apprehended (Carr & VanDeusen, 2004).

Your role in prevention

You can play a role in changing the underlying norms and culture that allows sexual violence. Traditional gender roles, power imbalances, and victim-blaming all contribute to sexual violence.

Be a part of the solution:

- Be a role model for respectful behavior to those around you.
- Talk with your children about healthy sexual development and personal boundaries.
- Intervene and speak up when you see inappropriate behavior. To better equip yourself in these situations, practice what you might say or do.



It's time ... to talk about it! Your voice. Our future. Prevent sexual violence.

- Talk to someone from your local sexual assault center for more information.
- Invite them to speak in your schools, faith communities or workplaces.
- Learn more about sexual violence and share information with others.
- Learn about reporting suspected child abuse. Know what to do if you or someone you know suspects a child may be being abused.

How you can help

Parents and caregivers are uniquely positioned to assist children and teens experiencing sexual violence, as they often see the warning signs – sudden changes in behavior or mood, lower grades, social withdrawal – before others.

Children and teens may turn to you to discuss what is happening. All adults are responsible for keeping children safe and protecting them from harm.

If you suspect a child is being abused, contact the police or your local child protective services agency, the ChildHelp National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453), or local sexual violence program.

How to offer support

Survivors of sexual violence have experienced trauma, and each person reacts differently to trauma. Some disclose immediately, but many never talk about what happened to them, or wait years to talk about it.

When someone discloses sexual abuse, appreciate their resilience, strength, and bravery. Be mindful of your own response:

When someone disclosed abuse appreciate their resilience, strength and bravery. Be mindful of your own response.

- Create a safe space for the child or teen to talk and share. Allow them control over the environment as much as possible.
- Listen and allow them to share the amount of information that they are comfortable sharing. If a survivor wants to share with you allow them to do so in their own way, in their own words and in their own time.
- Believe them. Survivors often struggle with disclosing abuse because they fear they won't be believed. It takes immense bravery for them to trust you and share the details of their story.
- Be open and honest about your responsibilities. Children and teens have a right to be safe, valued and respected. Connect them with community resources or trained professionals to provide continued support.

Resources

- **ChildHelp National Child Abuse Hotline:** 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453) www.childhelp.org
- **National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC):** www.nsvrc.org
- **Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN):** www.rainn.org
- **Stop It Now!:** www.stopitnow.org/



It's time ... to talk about it! Your voice. Our future. Prevent sexual violence.

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Sexual Violence

Facts at a Glance

2012

Adults

In a nationally representative survey of adults:¹

- Nearly 1 in 5 (18.3%) women and 1 in 71 men (1.4%) reported experiencing rape at some time in their lives.
- Approximately 1 in 20 women and men (5.6% and 5.3%, respectively) experienced sexual violence other than rape, such as being made to penetrate someone else, sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, or non-contact unwanted sexual experiences, in the 12 months prior to the survey.
- 4.8% of men reported they were made to penetrate someone else at some time in their lives.
- 13% of women and 6% of men reported they experienced sexual coercion at some time in their lives.

College Age

- In a nationally representative survey of adults, 37.4% of female rape victims were first raped between ages 18-24.¹
- In a study of undergraduate women, 19% experienced attempted or completed sexual assault since entering college.²

Children and Youth

In a nationally representative survey:¹

- 42.2% of female rape victims were first raped before age 18.
- 29.9% of female rape victims were first raped between the ages of 11-17.
- 12.3% female rape victims and 27.8% of male rape victims were first raped when they were age 10 or younger.

A 2011 survey of high school students found that 11.8% of girls and 4.5% of boys from grades 9-12 reported that they were forced to have sexual intercourse at some time in their lives.³

Perpetrators

In a nationally representative survey:¹

- Among female rape victims, perpetrators were reported to be intimate partners (51.1%), family members (12.5%), acquaintances (40.8%) and strangers (13.8%).
- Among male rape victims, perpetrators were reported to be acquaintances (52.4%) and strangers (15.1%).
- Among male victims who were made to penetrate someone else, perpetrators were reported to be intimate partners (44.8%), acquaintances (44.7%) and strangers (8.2%).

Health Disparities

- Among high school students, 12.5% of American Indian/Alaska Natives, 10.5% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students, 8.6% of black students, 8.2% of Hispanic students, 7.4% of white students, and 13.5% of multiple-race students reported that they were forced to have sexual intercourse at some time in their lives.³
- Among adult women surveyed in 2010, 26.9% of American Indian/Alaska Natives, 22% of non-Hispanic blacks, 18.8% of non-Hispanic whites, 14.6% of Hispanics, and 35.5% of women of multiple races experienced an attempted or a completed rape at some time in their lives.¹

Sexual Violence Facts at a Glance

Non-fatal Injuries, Medical Treatment, and Health conditions

- Among sexual violence victims raped since their 18th birthday, 31.5% of women and 16.1% of men reported a physical injury as a result of a rape. 36.2% of injured female victims received medical treatment.⁴
- During 2004-2006, an estimated 105,187 females and 6,526 males aged 10-24 years received medical care in U.S. emergency departments as a result of nonfatal injuries sustained from a sexual assault.⁵
- Based on 2005 data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), for both women and men, links were found between history of nonconsensual sex and high cholesterol, stroke and heart disease; female victims of nonconsensual sex were more likely to report heart attack and heart disease compared to non-victims.⁶
- Rape results in about 32,000 pregnancies each year.⁷
- Among female victims of partner violence who filed a protective order, 68% reported they were raped by their intimate partner and 20% reported a rape-related pregnancy.⁸

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24-HOUR NATIONAL HOTLINES

Domestic Violence

National Domestic Violence Hotline:

800-799-7233,
TTY 800-787-3224

Rape, Abuse, & Incest

Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) Hotline:

800-656-4673

RAINN 24/7 National Sexual Assault Online Hotline:

ohl.rainn.org/online

Teen Dating Abuse

National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline:

866-331-9474,
TTY 866-331-8453

Child Abuse

National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4-A-CHILD

1-800-422-4453

Suicide Prevention

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:

800-273-8255

LOCAL BOSTON RESOURCES

Sexual Assault

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)
99 Bishop Allen Drive
Cambridge, MA 02139
Office: (617) 492-8306
24-Hour Hotline: [800-841-8371](tel:800-841-8371)
TTY: [617-492-6434](tel:617-492-6434)

Domestic Violence

SafeLink Domestic Violence Hotline (operated by Casa Myrna)
24-Hour Hotline: [877-785-2020](tel:877-785-2020)
TTY: [877-521-2601](tel:877-521-2601)
Provides support in over 130 languages

Commercial Sex Trafficking

My Life My Choice
989 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215
Office: 617-779-2179
(No hotline available)

Legal Services

Greater Boston Legal Services, Inc.
197 Friend Street, Boston
Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm
Intake Office: 617-371-1234
TTY: 617-371-1228
www.gbls.org
(No hotline available)

RESOURCES FOR CLERGY

Sermon Guide from We Will Speak Out - U. S.

IMA World Health produced a “One In Three” Sermon Guide for delivering 3 different sermons for addressing sexual victimization – also called sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) throughout their guide. The objective of the “One In Three” Sermon Guide is to help pastors and other faith leaders gain awareness of this critical issue and provide basic tools to help them discuss it with their churches and communities and, when applicable, mobilize them to take action.

In their own words:

“This sermon guide—developed through the collaboration of health experts at IMA World Health and ordained ministers—begins with an introduction to SGBV and why the Church must take action, followed by three chapters each addressing a specific SGBV issue. Each chapter includes an introduction explaining the health issue, a sample sermon incorporating appropriate Scripture, and guiding questions to help you discuss this issue with your congregation.”



Click [HERE](http://wewillsspeakout.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/wwso_sermon_guide.pdf) for the One In Three Sermon Guide, or copy the link http://wewillsspeakout.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/wwso_sermon_guide.pdf into your web browser.

NEED TO PRAY?

PRAYING FOR AN END TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Survivors

1. God we pray for healing for our girls, boys, women, and men who are victims of sexual violence. *Psalm 27, II Timothy 1:7*
2. God we pray for courage to face the lifelong journey of spiritual, mental, and physical health. *John 14:26-27, I Peter 5:7, Isaiah 26:3*
3. God we pray for the families and friends who try to comfort survivors through this healing process. *Nehemiah 4:14*
4. God we thank you for the bold and brave survivors who tell their stories in hopes of helping all of us. *Revelations 12:11*
5. God we pray for all those who have not yet found the words to tell someone they have been harmed or are causing harm to others. *Romans 8:15*

Perpetrators

1. God we pray for the girls, boys, women and men who perpetrate any form of violence against others. *Ephesians 6:10, II Corinthians 4:3-4*
2. God we pray to change the hearts of those who commit these heinous acts. We pray for their healing, change, and salvation. *II Corinthians 5:17*

Church and Community

1. God we pray for our first responders, nurses, elected officials, advocates, and all those who work to believe our stories and to support us through the process. *Isaiah 41:10*
2. God we pray for the therapist and mental health professionals who work with victims and perpetrators. *John 16:33*
3. God we pray for the prison officials who work with the perpetrators. *Psalm 46:1-3*
4. We pray for ourselves as we take on this movement to end sexual violence, encourage and empower women and men, and change a society that condones and perpetuates this vicious cycle. *Jeremiah 29:7*
5. God we thank you for your healing power and for your grace and mercy that keep us. *Philippians 1:6*
6. God we pray that our churches would be safe havens where people can find the love, support, and healing that they need. *Psalm 61:1-5*

Video Options

The following four videos were filmed during the Shatter the Silence Workshop, at Bethel AME Church (Boston), on June 20, 2015. Shatter the Silence was a day-long interactive workshop designed to raise awareness, discuss prevention, and create response efforts to sexual victimization within our community. There were small and large group discussions, speakers, videos, visual exhibits, prayer, and much more.

ADVERTISING VIDEOS

Workshop participants shared their personal stories and beliefs about the importance of addressing sexual victimization, especially within spiritual and religious spaces. These videos speak about why they stand against sexual victimization.

Videos may be used for education, discussion, or event advertising purposes.

Click [HERE](#) for the 5-minute video clip,
or copy the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFtaFv5m1NE> into your web browser.

Click [HERE](#) for the 2-minute video clip,
or copy the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYO8PNGYJEM> into your web browser.



PRESENTATION VIDEOS

Shatter the Silence Morning Plenary with Rev. Dr. Thema Bryant-Davis

This video was filmed during the Shatter the Silence Workshop, at Bethel AME Church (Boston), on June 20, 2015. Rev. Thema Bryant-Davis, PhD, presented an overview of sexual victimization as it relates to rape, domestic violence, teen dating violence, and sex trafficking, for boys, girls, men, women. The goals of the presentation were to: (1) increase participants' awareness of the prevalence and impact of sexual victimization throughout the lifespan, (2) discuss discrepancies in prevalence as it relates specifically to communities of color, and (3) address the overall impact that sexual victimization has on an individual's faith.

Brief Bio:

Rev. Dr. Thema Bryant-Davis is a licensed psychologist, poet, dancer, and minister. Dr. Bryant-Davis, an Associate Professor at Pepperdine University, is Past-President of the Society for the Psychology of Women. She has been featured on BET, PBS and C-SPAN as well as in the Boston Globe, ESSENCE Magazine, and Black Entertainment Television's Weekend Magazine. She is the author of the critically-acclaimed books *Thriving in the Wake of Trauma: A multicultural guide*, *Mangos and Manna* and *The Birthing of a Lioness*, and is the recording artist on the CD *Sky: An upbeat black girl's song*. Dr. Bryant-Davis received her doctorate from Duke University in Clinical Psychology with a focus on the cultural context of trauma recovery, as well as the intersection of gender and racial identity. She is a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She co-leads the Soul Sisters Women's Ministry of First AME Church in Los Angeles and lives by words from her mother, Rev. Cecelia Williams Bryant, who states "God is speaking. My life is God's vocabulary." – <http://www.drthema.com>

Click [HERE](#) for the morning plenary video, or copy the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QLO-47Lt6E> into your web browser.

See **“Small Group Discussion Questions and Facilitator Guide”** of this toolkit for small group discussion questions that followed the plenary presentation.

Shatter the Silence Afternoon Plenary with Rev. Marion Mason

This video was filmed during the Shatter the Silence Workshop, at Bethel AME Church (Boston), on June 20, 2015. Rev. Marion Mason spoke about the faith community's need to explore collective responsibility as it pertains to sexual victimization as an "us" (e.g., everybody) issue. The goals of the presentation were to: (1) increase participants' awareness of sexual victimization as an "us" issue, and (2) explore the impact on faith and spirituality.

Brief Bio:

Rev. Marion Mason is currently the Strategic Pastor of Heart Change Fellowship in Jamaica Plain, MA, as well as the Dean of Students within the Division of Student Development at Eastern Nazarene College. Rev. Mason also serves as a Senior Training consultant for the Center for the Study of Sport in Society and on the teaching faculty at Futures Without Violence. In this capacity, he provides educational trainings and lectures on issues of sports, cultural competency, leadership, violence and sexual assault prevention, and social justice. He has led numerous violence and sexual assault prevention trainings, with an extensive list of clients including: Major League Baseball, The United States Army, Boston College Athletics, Northeastern University, Mass General Hospital, and a number of community based organizations. He holds Master's degrees in Public Administration and Non-Profit Management from George Mason University and Religion (Christian Leadership) from Liberty University, and is currently enrolled in the Doctorate of Education program at Northeastern University. Pastor Marion and his Wife Tamika have been married since 2004 and have 3 beautiful daughters Mianna, Makayh, and Mykal.

Click [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vtqc0CKaEY) for the morning plenary video, or copy the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vtqc0CKaEY> into your web browser.

See ***“Small Group Discussion Questions and Facilitator Guide”*** of this toolkit for small group discussion questions that followed the plenary presentation.

Community Partners and Supports

The Shatter the Silence Task Force has successfully partnered with the following community organizations:

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC)

The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC) has a Survivor Speakers Bureau, which is a group of survivors and friends/family members of survivors who volunteer to talk about sexual assault and abuse. Speakers have been trained to address audiences from a variety of backgrounds including students (middle school through graduate school), police officers and other first responders, health and mental health practitioners, parents, and athletes. The presentation format is 20 minutes of the survivor telling their story followed by a 20-minute Q&A session. Survivors are typically accompanied by a BARCC volunteer who can answer questions about BARCC services or other questions not directly related to the survivor's experience. There are two survivor-speakers (10 minutes each) who give an overview of their story, reactions to the trauma, and coping process. Requests for certain demographics regarding the survivors are possible but not guaranteed. – <http://www.barcc.org/active/awareness/speakers>

BARCC provides a short list of books and movies that address various aspects of sexual victimization. The listing of books and movies are also accompanied by prepared discussion questions to guide the conversations. – <http://www.barcc.org/active/awareness/books>

*- Also see “**Small Group Discussion Questions and Facilitator Guide**” of this toolkit for additional resources on developing and leading small group dialogue.*

Jane Doe Inc.

Jane Doe Inc., the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence, has a focus on engaging men as a primary prevention strategy to fight sexual and domestic violence against women, children, and other men. Their stance is focused on promoting positive masculinity, breaking gender roles and stereotypes, and addressing behaviors related to power and control. Their goal is to develop pride about males being advocates and to work to circumvent shame and blame as it relates to male and female survivors. Their programming approaches include: by-stander intervention, social power related to male identity, homophobia and gender expectations as related to victimization and blaming, and parenting and raising young men.

– http://www.janedoe.org/who_we_are/contact_us

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program

The Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) program was founded in 1993 by Sport in Society (now known as the Center for the Study of Sport in Society) at Northeastern University. MVS focuses on expanding the understanding of sexual victimization from a “woman’s issue” to a men and women issue. Their core teachings are about the role both men and women play in the bystander effect. They use a “play book” filled with scenarios to help participants think through and practice responsiveness.

– <http://www.northeastern.edu/sportsociety/mentors-in-violence-prevention/>

My Life My Choice

My Life My Choice is a nationally recognized, survivor-led, anti-human trafficking organization in Boston. Their purpose is to help improve the lives of young people who are stuck in the commercial sex industry. In addition to providing support for victims through mentorship and leadership development opportunities, the organization also provides education and raises awareness in communities. They are able to provide educational programs by sending a survivor to speak about her experiences, or a staff member to provide information and background of the commercial sex industry and the effects of being trafficked. – <http://www.fightingexploitation.org/contact-us>

Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D) Courses / Boston Police Department

Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) is an internationally recognized self-defense, certification program. The self-defense program is a four-week course that is typically run through your local police department. This free course is founded in education and awareness and includes lectures, discussion and self-defense techniques suitable for women of all ages and abilities. Please note that the focus of the course is training women in self-defense. The target age for participants is 13-senior, and the target occupancy per class is 10 - 25 people; a minimum of 10 people are needed for the classes to occur. Contact your Boston Police Department District for information and scheduling. – http://www.rad-systems.com/program_ma.html

REACH – Beyond Domestic Violence & PAVE

REACH is an organization in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that provides education to the community for promoting awareness and prevention of dating and domestic violence. They have adult and teen foci, and a Survivor Speakers' Bureau where speakers are available to speak about experiences with dating and domestic violence. They specifically discuss the impact of their abuse and the role the community has had, and can have, in providing support for them. – <http://www.reachma.org/what-we-do/prevention-and-education-programs>

REACH also has a program entitled Peers Against Violence (PAVE). PAVE is a youth-focused program that focuses on teen dating violence prevention. Their engagement is focused on high school teens, and they provide education about healthy relationships, combating bystander effect, and becoming peer leaders. – <http://pavenet.reachma.org/home.html>

**Small Group Discussion Questions and Facilitator Guide:
Guidelines and Techniques
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Thank you for agreeing to serve as a facilitator, assisting two discussion groups. Discussion groups provide individuals meaningful experiences that involve shared learning. In discussion groups, participants can take on active roles in the learning process. Learning becomes more effective when participants learn from each other, as well as, from the information you share with them. This is especially true, if the information is related to their needs or prior experiences. Your discussions will be shaped by the activities immediately prior to the discussion groups (a video and a panel presentation), as well as by what the participants bring up, and the personalities of the participants involved.

Following are some specific guidelines and techniques to help facilitate the discussions:

Share pre-established group norms, or ground rules. Examples: No judgment about what someone else has said; share the airtime; and respect confidentiality of everyone in the group. Ask participants if there are a few others that they would like to contribute.

Ask open-ended questions. This is a skill that gets people involved in telling their own experiences as they relate to the session objectives. A discussion should then begin that flows naturally and freely. Asking open-ended questions is the most direct way to find out what the participants need to talk about. Questions must be worded so that participants do not feel they are being grilled, yet should enable you to find out key information.

An open-ended question is one that cannot be answered by a “yes” or “no” and gives insight into the topic. There are no right or wrong answers to open-ended questions. Open-ended questions provide more information and are the same type of questions a good news reporter asks: Who, What, When, Where, Why, How much, How often. If you set up a friendly atmosphere from the beginning, it will encourage participants to talk rather than just answer a series of questions. Also, balance your use of open-ended questions with the other facilitating skills such as clarifying or focusing.

Deal with silence. Silence and reluctance are normal in the early stages of a discussion. Before or after asking your first open-ended question, you can prepare the group for this usual period of silence by telling them it is okay to take a moment to think of their response. If the silence lasts longer than what you consider normal, ask or guess aloud about what it may mean. Also, you can voice that it is sometimes hard to be the first to respond, or pick someone you know will be comfortable answering.

Guide the discussion. To facilitate means to allow things to happen and to make them easy. The facilitator allows others to speak and then gently bringing topics to an end. At the same time, you must stay in control of the discussion and avoid it becoming a free-for-all. If that happens, the quieter people will not have the chance to be heard, and no one will learn anything. Here are some specific points to bear in mind when guiding the discussion:

- Guide the discussion by holding off on some topics to be discussed, so that it does not lose momentum. Keep the topic focused on the session objective(s).
- Actively encourage participants to give more information and better define their situations, as well as focus on specific concerns. The discussion will need to be directed in order to better find issues and feelings on which the participants would like to focus.

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- Recognize fears, biases, and disagreement, and bring them out into the open.
- Look for feedback (yawns, stretching, etc.) that indicates whether people are listening.
- Avoid letting group members dominate airtime. To someone taking over the discussion, you can say, “Your points are really interesting, let’s hear how others are thinking about this”. Move on without embarrassing the person.
- Avoid strong agreement or disagreement over a subject that leaves the impression that there is no sense discussing it.
- Find ways to limit constant complaining or blaming of others.

Encourage participation. Ways to reinforce the importance of each person’s input and encourage them to take part are:

- Focus on the person who is speaking; pay close attention to her.
- If someone speaks too softly, repeat their question and/or comments to the group before replying.
- Give positive support and feedback to every person who speaks; a nod of the head or word of praise will encourage that person to speak again.
- Watch for nonverbal signs that may indicate someone else’s desire to respond or ask a question.
- Use words that everyone is familiar with; avoid technical terms or jargon.
- Check the seating arrangement to make sure it will include everyone.

Focus on topics. Focusing stresses a particular subject that you think would be helpful to the group to explore (or that the group has made clear they want to explore further). Commonly, a specific topic (or topic area) repeatedly surfaces in the flow of a discussion, in which case it may seem natural to further discuss and clarify it. This may happen naturally, or as the facilitator, you may need to ask more open-ended questions relating to the specific issue. The purpose of focusing the discussion in this case would be to help everyone better understand and further express their feelings about an issue that they have shown is relevant to them.

Another reason to focus the discussion would be to help participants who are rambling, jumping from topic to topic, or bringing up issues that are unrelated to the session objective(s). When the dialog seems to have confused both you and the participants, it is time to get things back in focus. To do this, you can select one point to repeat or reduce a number of points into a summary in order to focus on how the participants are feeling.

Focus on feelings. Place primary emphasis on the feelings or experiences of each group member. Avoid debating ideas; this is a place for support and information sharing.

Practice active listening. Some people tend to speak more than listen. Listening is a skill that can be developed beyond the everyday practice with which we are all familiar. It means that you must be silent and allow the participants to talk. We are all guilty of sometimes listening with half an ear to the speaker while busily figuring out what to say next, or how to change the subject to something we would rather talk about. However, in order to help someone, you must listen carefully to what they are saying and avoid the temptation to interfere with your own thoughts and interests. Many times someone has mixed feelings or

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several concerns, and may need more time to talk before you can be sure of how they really feel. Listening skills can give you this time. Encourage group members to listen to and understand what other group members are saying.

Clarify. This simply means making a point clear. To do this, you will first need to use your listening skills to help gather enough information about what a person has said to clearly understand their message and restate what you heard. This involves becoming an active listener, encouraging people to respond to your understanding of their statements and then showing acceptance of what they have said.

Stay with the speaker. When one person is speaking, stay with that person until they are finished, rather than allowing other members to interrupt or take the floor. Discourage side discussions.

Accept people as they are. Effective learning and comfortable communication can only occur when there is an atmosphere of acceptance. The strategy here is to learn to accept and respect someone's feelings without necessarily agreeing with their point of view. Respond to the feelings that are behind the comments being made; realizing that you do not have to teach something, but that you are there to listen to, talk with, and learn something from the participants and their experiences.

Deal with strong feelings, doubts, and disagreements. Strive to be sensitive to the feelings of others; lead the group to share their knowledge and experience without telling others what they should do. Make sure participant's experiences/solutions to their own problems are offered as possibilities and suggestions rather than suggesting only one way to do it.

Deal with erroneous information. When someone's input to the group discussion includes incorrect information, you can make a statement that stresses the value of their experience and your respect for their decision, whether you agree with it or not. Some possible responses, which avoid embarrassing the person, are:

- "I'm glad that worked for you. Other people have found that _____ worked better for them."
- "I'm glad that worked for you. The panelists we've heard don't recommend it."
- "I'm glad you brought that up. That used to be what was generally recommended, but now new research has found that..."
- "That's too bad. What could you have done differently if you had the information we have talked about today?"

Summarize the discussion. As much as possible, bring ideas together, highlight certain discussion, repeat related information, and complete one topic before going on to another. Some groups find it helpful to end the session with each participant sharing what the session has meant to them, and what they learned or discovered during the session, allowing participants to see that their input and shared experiences helped everyone to learn. It can be particularly valuable for them to realize that they even helped you, the facilitator, learn something new.

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Be patient. Remember that it takes time for a group to grow and develop trust. Do not define success by the number of people who spoke during your discussion. Grow through the discussion, and encourage your group members to do the same.