Domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

STATISTICS

1 IN 5 WOMEN in the United States are sexually assaulted while in college.

Off-campus sexual victimization is much more common among college women than on-campus victimization. Of victims of completed rape 33.7% WERE VICTIMIZED ON CAMPUS and 66.3% OFF CAMPUS (2)

9 IN 10 COLLEGE WOMEN who are victims of rape and sexual assault knew their offender

SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Survivors of sexual assault are 3 TIMES MORE LIKELY to suffer from depression (6)

SEXUAL ASSAULT

According to the United States Department of Justice, sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. Falling under the definition of sexual assault are sexual activities as forced sexual intercourse, forcible sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling, and attempted rape.

CONSENT

Many universities define consent as an affirmative, clear, and unambiguous agreement to engage in a particular sexual activity. The consent must be given freely, can be revoked at any time and does not imply consent for other or future sexual activities. Consent cannot be obtained if a person is substantially impaired (e.g. mental disability, under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or asleep).

RAPE MYTHS & FACTS

Domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels.

Myth: Sexual assault is not common
Fact: For every 1,000 women attending a college or university, it is estimated that there are 35 incidents of rape each academic year (2)

Myth: Rape usually occurs between strangers
Fact: 9 in 10 college women who are victims of rape and sexual assault knew their offender (2)

Myth: Rapists hide in the bushes and randomly attack women on the street
Fact: 50% of all rape/sexual assault incidents occur within 1 mile of the victim’s home or at their home (5)

Myth: Women often make false reports of rape
Fact: The rate of false reporting for sexual assault is 2-8% (4)

Myth: A woman who wears revealing clothing is at least partially to blame for her sexual assault
Fact: Survivors are never to blame for their assaults. Sexual assault is an issue of power, control and violence, not clothing. The perpetrator is always to blame.

THE ROLE OF ALCOHOL

Alcohol is frequently present in cases of sexual assault. Half of all sexual assault perpetrators are under the influence of alcohol at the time of the assault (1) and 89% of assaults occur when the survivor is incapacitated due to alcohol (3). It is important to note that the use of drugs and alcohol is never an excuse for the actions of perpetrators or a reason to blame sexual assault survivors.
All Universities that receive federal funding are required to abide by the following laws regarding sexual assault on campus:

**TITLE IX**
A part of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity. It specifically prohibits sexual harassment in educational settings on the grounds that it can impact the ability of the student to learn. The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces Title IX and assists universities in complying with the law.

**CLERY ACT**
This law, originally passed in 1990, requires colleges and universities who receive federal funding to report crimes that occur on campus in a publicly available annual security report.

**CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE ELIMINATION (SAVE) ACT**
This amendment to the Clery Act expanded the scope of this legislation in terms of transparency, accountability, and education requirements. Universities must be more transparent about incidents of sexual violence on campus, guarantee basic rights to survivors, follow certain standards for disciplinary proceedings, and offer campus-wide prevention education programs.

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)**
During reauthorization of VAWA in 2013, an amendment to the Clery Act (originally passed in 1990, requires colleges and universities who receive federal funding to report crimes that occur on campus in a publicly available annual security report) required more specific information to be reported including statistics on sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Universities must also implement an awareness and prevention program focused on healthy relationships and bystander intervention that reaches all incoming and continuing students, faculty and staff.

**STATISTICS**

FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORES ARE AT HIGHER RISK THAN JUNIORS AND SENIORS (3)

WOMEN OF COLOR AND MEMBERS OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY SEXUAL ASSAULT (7)

LESS THAN 5% OF COMPLETED OR ATTEMPTED RAPE AGAINST COLLEGE WOMEN ARE REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT (2)

**References**