

Identity-Based Violence

Statistics and Research Findings

“[Trauma] is a very normal and automatic response to an abnormal event. The overwhelming nature of the trauma means that it can’t be processed or integrated like mundane memories, so the experience can remain present, raw, and unhealed. Violence and harassment (which often carries an underlying threat of violence) can be traumatic. In turn, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can develop from direct or indirect exposure to something traumatic, or from repeated exposure to elements of something traumatic”[Ⓢ]

Physical & Psychological Consequences of the Trauma of Violence

- Victims of sexual assault are^{**}:
 - 3 times more likely to suffer from depression.
 - 6 times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.
 - 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol.
 - 26 times more likely to abuse drugs.
 - 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide.
- 64% of transgender people who have experienced sexual assault have attempted suicide at some point in their lifetime, compared to the estimated national rate of 1.6%.[‡]
- Overall, African Americans have a 9.1% prevalence rate of PTSD, compared to 6.8% in whites.
- Experiencing multiple forms of oppression, like homophobia or transphobia and racism, results in compounded psychological stress. LGBTQ people who are also African-American, Asian or Pacific Islander, or Latino are more than twice as likely to have experienced psychological distress in the past year as are their straight peers.[‡]
- Women with a history of rape or stalking by any perpetrator, or physical violence by an intimate partner, reported a higher incidence of health problems as compared to women without a history of these forms of violence. †
 - This includes a higher incidence of:
 - asthma
 - irritable bowel syndrome
 - diabetes
 - frequent headaches
 - chronic pain
 - difficulty sleeping
 - activity limitations

Rape & Sexual Assault

- Every year in the United States, 1,270,000 women experience rape. †
- Approximately 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men in the United States have been raped in their lifetime. †
- Approximately 1 in 2 women in the United States have been victims of other forms of sexual assault in their lifetime. †
- Lifetime rate of rape/attempted rape for women by race:**
 - All women: 17.6%
 - White women: 17.7%
 - Black women: 18.8%
 - Asian Pacific Islander women: 6.8%
 - American Indian/Alaskan women: 34.1%
 - Mixed race women: 24.4%
- 64% of men who raped women were using alcohol and/or drugs prior to the attack. †
- Rapists are almost always (98% of the time) men. ✕
- About 4 out of 5 sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim. **
- The presence of a bystander makes a completed rape 44% less likely. *
- 22-38% of trans people have been harassed by police, with upwards of 15% experiencing physical abuse and 7% being sexually assaulted by law enforcement. ?
- 68% of rapes are not reported to the police and 98% of rapists will never spend a day in jail. **
- Approximately 2-10% of reported rapes are false accusations. †

Intimate Partner Violence

- More than one-third of women in the United States have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime. †
- Lesbian, gay and bisexual respondents reported levels of intimate partner violence at rates equal to or higher than those of straight respondents. ☆
- Nearly 1 in 10 women in the U.S. has been raped by an intimate partner in her lifetime. †
- Nearly 1 in 3 women in the United States has been slapped, pushed or shoved by an intimate partner at some point in her lifetime. †
- Approximately 1 in 4 women in the U.S. have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime. †
- Among victims of rape, physical violence, and/ or stalking by an intimate partner, approximately 6 out of 10 women reported being concerned for their safety because of the violence in that relationship. †

Remember: What is harassment for someone else might not be harassment for you. Victims have the right to define harassment for themselves. You don't have to memorize every possible form of harassment, you just have to believe someone when they tell you their story.

For More Information:

- Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network (www.RAINN.org)
- One in Four (www.oneinfourusa.org)
- Center for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention)
- UN Women (www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women)
- World Health Organization (www.who.int/topics/gender_based_violence/en/)
- The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (www.thetaskforce.org)
- FORGE (www.forge-forward.org)
- The National Center for Transgender Equality (www.transequality.org)
- Black Women's Blueprint (www.blackwomensblueprint.org)
- INCITE! (<https://incite-national.org>)

©Potter, Shawna. Making Spaces Safer A Guide to Giving Harassment the Boot Wherever You Work, Play, and Gather. Chico, CA, AK Press, 2019.

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

‡ Lisak D., Gardinier L., Nicksa S. C., Cote A. M. (2010). False allegations of sexual assault: An analysis of ten years of reported cases. *Violence Against Women*, 16,1318-1334.

‡ Brecklin, L., & Ullman, S. (2002). The roles of victim and offender alcohol use in sexual assaults: Results from the national violence against women survey. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 63, 57-63.

×Sedgwick, J. L. (2006). Criminal victimization in the United States, 2005 Statistical tables: National crime victimization survey. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, NCJ 215244

**<http://rainn.org/statistics>

* Clay-Warner, J. (2002). Avoiding rape: The effects of protective actions and situational factors on rape outcome. *Violence and Victims*, 17 (6), 691 – 705.

#<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>

‡<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

☆http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/cdc_nisvs_victimization_final-a.pdf

♣ Grant, Jaime M., Lisa A. Mottet, Justin Tanis, Jack Harrison, Jody L. Herman, and Mara Keisling. Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. Washington: National Center for Transgender Equality and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, 2011.

♣<http://forge-forward.org/wp-content/docs/what-you-should-know-anti-violence1.pdf>