

DATING VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTER

www.ncvc.org/dvrc
Tel. 202-467-8700
E-mail: dvrc@ncvc.org

Campus Dating Violence fact sheet

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime

Crime victims can call
1-800-FYI-CALL
M-F 8:30am-8:30pm
or e-mail us at gethelp@ncvc.org.

What is Dating Violence?

Dating violence is controlling, abusive, and aggressive behavior in a romantic relationship. It occurs in both heterosexual and homosexual relationships and can include verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, or a combination of these.

Incidence of College Dating Violence

- 32% of students report dating violence by a previous partner, and 21% report violence by a current partner.^a
- 39%-54% of dating violence victims remain in physically abusive relationships.^b
- 12% of completed rapes, 35% of attempted rapes, and 22% of threatened rapes occur on a date.^c
- 60% of acquaintance rapes on college campuses occur in casual or steady dating relationships.^d
- An estimated 5% of college women experience a completed or attempted rape in a given year.^e
- In one year, more than 13% of college women indicated they had been stalked, 42% by a boyfriend or ex-boyfriend.^c
- 51% of college males admit perpetrating one or more sexual assault incidents during college.^f

Influence of Alcohol and Drugs

- 75% of men and 55% of women involved in acquaintance rape had been drinking or taking drugs prior to the incident.^b

Reporting Victimization

- 50% of dating violence victims report the violence to someone else: of these, 88% report the violence to a friend and 20% to criminal justice authorities.^a
- 44% of victims raped by a steady boyfriend or spouse report the assault, compared to 77% of victims raped by a stranger.^b
- The beliefs that dating violence is a private matter or not important enough and fear of reprisal are reasons given for not reporting the violence.^b

Victims and Dating Violence

- Victims may remain in an abusive relationship for many reasons, including: fear of the perpetrator, self-blame, minimization of the crime, loyalty or love for the perpetrator, social or religious stigma, or lack of understanding.
- Sexual assault victims experience more anxiety, depression, and thoughts of suicide than non-victims.^b
- Initial reactions to rape and sexual assault include anger, depression, embarrassment, and guilt.^b

Dating Violence and the Law

- All 50 states and the District of Columbia have laws against dating violence behaviors such as sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. However, the specific term "dating violence" is almost never used in these laws.
- In 39 states and the District of Columbia, victims of dating violence can apply for protective orders against the perpetrator. Age requirements and the language of the laws vary by state.

Who Can Help

- Crisis hotlines or campus helplines can provide immediate assistance and referrals to sexual assault or domestic violence programs that provide shelter, counseling, support groups, legal assistance, and medical services/accompaniment.
- University and college health centers often offer counseling services. Campus police or school judicial programs can provide sanctions for on-campus violations.
- Legal options include reporting to the police, obtaining protective orders, and cooperating with criminal prosecution.

The Dating Violence Resource Center, a program of the National Center for Victims of Crime, provides training and technical assistance to the Office on Violence Against Women grant recipients in order to increase awareness of and commitment to addressing teen dating violence and to help craft community-specific responses to meet the needs of teenage victims of dating violence.

a C. Sellers and M. Bromley, "Violent Behavior in College Student Dating Relationships," *Journal of Contemporary Justice*, (1996).

b B. Caponera, "Guidelines for Counseling Adolescents in Sexually Coercive Relationships," (New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, 1998).

c B. Fisher, F. Cullen, and M. Turner, "The Sexual Victimization of College Women," (Washington: NIJ/BJS, 2000).

d I. Johnson and R. Sigler, "Forced Sexual Intercourse on Campus," *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, (1996).

e B. Fisher and F. Cullen, "Extent and Nature of the Sexual Victimization of College Women," (Washington: NIJ, 2000).

f A. Berkowitz, "College Men as Perpetrators of Acquaintance Rape and Sexual Assault," *College Health*, (1992).

g T. Hart and C. Rennison, "Reporting Crime to the Police," (Washington: OJP, 2003).

1. It is estimated that for every 1,000 women attending a college or university, there are 35 incidents of rape each academic year 1. <http://www.nsvrc.org/news/2595>

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

2. Sexual Assault Numbers –RAINN-Rape Abuse and Incest National Network

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

- Every 2 minutes, someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted
- There is an average of 207,754 victims (age 12 or older) of sexual assault each year
- 44% of victims are under age 18
- 80% are under age 30
- 54% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police
- 97% of rapists will never spend a day in jail
- Approximately 2/3 of assaults are committed by someone known to the victim
- 38% of rapists are a friend or acquaintance

3. Sexual Assault on Campus Shrouded in Secrecy - 2009

<http://www.nsvrc.org/news/news-field/1944>

But an array of controversial practices at UVA and college campuses elsewhere continues to shroud the college judicial system in controversy. **Indeed, a nine-month investigation by the Center for Public Integrity has found that a thick blanket of secrecy still envelops cases involving allegations of sexual assault on campus. One national study reports that roughly one in five women who attend college will become the victim of a rape or an attempted rape by the time she graduates. But while the vast majority of students who are sexually assaulted remain silent — just over 95 percent, according to a study funded by the research arm of the U.S. Justice Department — those who come forward can encounter mystifying disciplinary proceedings, secretive school administrations, and off-the-record negotiations.** At times, policies lead to dropped complaints and, in cases like Russell's, gag orders later found to be illegal. Many college administrators believe the existing processes provide a fair and effective way to deal with ultra-sensitive allegations, but alleged victims say these processes leave them feeling like victims a second time.

The Center has interviewed 48 experts familiar with the disciplinary process — student affairs administrators, conduct hearing officers, assault services directors, victim advocates — as well as 33 female students who have reported being raped by other students. The inquiry has included a review of records in select cases, and examinations of 10 years worth of complaints filed against institutions with the U.S. Education Department under Title IX and the Clery Act — two laws requiring schools to respond to assault claims and to offer key rights to alleged victims. The Center has also surveyed 152 crisis-services programs and clinics on or near college campuses nationwide over the past year.

Just over half the students interviewed by the Center have reported they unsuccessfully sought criminal charges and instead had to seek justice in closed, school-run administrative proceedings that led either to academic penalties or no punishment at all for their alleged assailants, leaving them feeling betrayed by a process they say has little transparency or accountability. Some of those students, including Russell, said they were ordered to keep quiet about the proceedings and threatened with punishment if they did not. Still other students said administrators discouraged them from pursuing rape complaints. Survey respondents indicated similar problems with the closed procedures on campuses.

4. **New mandates under new VAWA Law** include mandatory training for new staff, faculty and incoming students...specifying consent education, bystander intervention, personal safety, how to report, potential consequences and resources.

Campus SAVE Act Depends On Reauthorization Of Violence Against Women Act

The Huffington Post | By Tyler Kingkade Posted: 02/19/2013 2:53 pm EST | Updated: 02/19/2013 6:30 pm EST http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/02/19/campus-save-act-vaawa_n_2640048.html

The Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) Act was first introduced in 2010 by Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.), but now depends on the passage of the Senate version of VAWA, which has incorporated much of its language. It's the most significant reform of policy on how college sexual assaults are handled since the Jeanne Clery Act of 1990 and the Campus Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights of 1992. The SaVE Act would require that schools provide victims with contact information for legal assistance and for counseling and health services. Officials handling disciplinary proceedings would be required to receive annual trainings, and campus crime reports would be expanded to include reports of stalking and domestic violence.

Currently, American universities are required to take action once a sexual assault is reported and to provide resources for victims, but are not obligated to have a prevention policy. The SaVE Act would require institutions to provide prevention and awareness programs for all incoming students and new employees. "By going beyond traditional risk reduction alone and covering primary prevention, consent, bystander intervention and reporting options we will begin to change the culture of tolerance for sexual violence and the silence that surrounds it," S. Daniel Carter, formerly director of public policy for Security On Campus, Inc., wrote of the SaVE Act in a blog for The Huffington Post. Security on Campus is one of 29 organizations that has endorsed the SaVE Act. (Carter is now with the VTV Family Outreach Foundation.)

At least 75 instances of sexual assault were reported on college campuses in news articles within the first six weeks of the current academic year, according to a survey of media reports by The Huffington Post. That number reflects only a small percentage of the total instances, as few assaults make it into news reports and only a small percentage of sexual violence victims ever report their attack to school or law enforcement officials. According to a study for the Department of Justice, fewer than 5 percent of sexual assaults in college are reported, and nine out of 10 women know their attacker.