



Sexual Violence in Ohio: Facts, Resources & Action Steps

What is Sexual Violence?

Sexual violence is any type of unwanted sexual contact. This can include overtly violent acts, such as rape, sexual assault, and sexual abuse. It can also include words and actions like sexual harassment, catcalling, and sharing of private images. Sexual violence is a form of oppression intended to further disempower, isolate, harm, and/or humiliate the survivor.

What are the facts about Sexual Violence?

Analysis of results from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Victimization Survey indicates that nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 67 men have experienced some form of sexual violence in their lives; however, the true scope of the problem is not fully known, as it is believed that sexual violence is vastly underreported and undisclosed by survivors. Sexual violence affects all ages, races, ethnicities, nationalities, and genders/gender expressions.

What is known about Sexual Violence:

- Women and children generally, and women of color, individuals with disabilities, and individuals who identify as LGBTQI specifically, suffer sexual violence at disproportionate rates worldwide, including in the U.S.
- Most sexual violence is committed by someone known to the survivor, including intimate partners, family members, and acquaintances
- Sexual violence is never the fault of survivors
- Very few perpetrators are held criminally or civilly responsible for their actions
- Sexual violence negatively affects the physical, emotional, social, and economic health of survivors, and negatively affects public health, community vitality, and economies at all levels
- Sexual violence is preventable and requires the commitment of governments, institutions, systems, organizations, communities, and individuals

What is being done about Sexual Violence in Ohio?

Organizations and communities throughout Ohio are working to improve the response to survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, empower individuals to prevent abusive behavior, and change the cultural conditions that permit and tolerate violence in all its forms.

Rape Crisis Programs: There are 32 rape crisis programs in Ohio providing advocacy services to survivors of sexual violence in 72 of Ohio's 88 counties. Services include hotline advocacy, hospital accompaniment/advocacy, criminal justice system accompaniment/advocacy, community awareness/outreach, and systems advocacy. Many programs also offer prevention education programming, and access to support groups and counseling services. For communities without direct access to rape crisis services, Ohio has a 24-hour statewide Sexual Violence Helpline to provide advocacy to survivors. Rape crisis programs in Ohio must comply with core service and administrative standards.

Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV): As the statewide sexual assault coalition for Ohio, OAESV provides training and technical assistance to rape crisis programs; advocates for federal and state public policies that support survivors, hold offenders accountable, and prevent sexual violence; and equips organizations and communities with tools to recognize and prevent sexual violence.

What can Ohioans do to support survivors of Sexual Violence?

Sexual violence affects all Ohioans, and all Ohioans have a role in supporting survivors and stopping the violence. Here are a few ways individuals in Ohio can support survivors:

- Believe survivors when they disclose sexual violence, do not blame them for the violence, and help them to access supportive services if they request them
- Support your local rape crisis program by donating money or supplies, by participating in the program's public events or outreach campaigns, or by volunteering
- Speak out against victim-blaming and rape myths
- Support OAESV by donating, becoming a Member, following us on social media, or participating in our public policy efforts

What can Ohioans do to prevent Sexual Violence?

Everyone is responsible for preventing sexual violence. Here are a few ways Ohioans can get involved:

- Educate yourself about the primary prevention of sexual violence
- Talk to children and youth in your life about consent, healthy boundaries, and healthy masculinity
- Confront rape culture by speaking out against abusive language and behavior
- Connect with your local rape crisis program to learn what prevention programming exists in your local community and how you can help
- Support OAESV and our prevention and public policy efforts

Where can I find more information?

General information and resources for Ohio:

Visit OAESV's website for information about understanding sexual violence, supporting survivors, preventing sexual violence, public policy efforts to address sexual violence, becoming a Member, and more: <http://oaesv.org/>

To find a rape crisis program near you, visit <http://oaesv.org/get-help>

To access the statewide Ohio Sexual Violence Helpline, call 844-OHIO-HELP or visit:

<https://www.ohiosexualviolencehelpline.com/>

Statistics & Research on Sexual Violence:

National Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence Survey: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/index.html>

Bureau of Justice Statistics: <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=317>

Ohio Crime Statistics & Crime Reports: http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/crime_stats_reports.stm

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network: <https://www.rainn.org/about-sexual-assault>

Adverse Childhood Experiences Study: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/>

U.S. Department of Education Campus Safety & Security Data: <https://ope.ed.gov/campusafety/#/>

Sex Trafficking Fact Sheet from Equality Now: <https://www.equalitynow.org/sex-trafficking-fact-sheet>

Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force Data: <http://humantrafficking.ohio.gov/data-reports.html>

For addition information or resources, contact OAESV:

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Email: info@oaesv.org