

Rape and sexual assault are preventable.

Individuals and communities working together can address risk factors for perpetrating rape:

- *Attitudes and beliefs that condone sexual violence and sexual harassment*
- *Hostility towards women*
- *Abusive or neglectful family environments*
- *Weak laws and infrequent prosecution of sexual assault and sexual harassment*

Prevention strategies should promote:

- *Healthy and respectful relationships*
- *Intolerance of violence*
- *Equality*
- *Offender accountability*

What You Can Do about Sexual Violence

Rape and sexual assault are serious public health concerns.

- 1,526 forcible and attempted rapes of women were reported by law enforcement during 2009. (Uniform Crime Reporting System, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation)
- 31% of women 18-35 years of age reported experiencing sexual assault in their lifetimes. (Sexual Assault Prevention Women's Survey, University of Oklahoma Public Opinion Learning Laboratory, 2006)
 - 74% were younger than 18 years of age when the first sexual assault occurred.
 - 32% of women who had been sexually assaulted had experienced more than one sexual assault.
- One in 5 (20%) college women in the U.S. have experienced a completed rape and one in 4 (25%) have experienced an attempted rape. (National Center for Injury Prevention and Control)

Schools and Youth Serving Organizations can:

- Create a climate where violence and harassment are not tolerated. Create and enforce policies that promote respect, communication, and conflict resolution without violence.
- Train teachers and staff to recognize and intervene if they see or hear about sexual violence or sexual harassment.
- Implement education for students on healthy relationships and gender equity.

Colleges and Universities can:

- Create a climate where violence and harassment are not tolerated. Create and enforce policies that promote respect, communication, and conflict resolution without violence.
- Review, revise, and enforce policies on sexual misconduct and sexual harassment including publicizing policies several times a year to remind students, faculty and staff.
- Train students, faculty, and staff to recognize and intervene if they see or hear about sexual violence or sexual harassment.

Faith Organizations can:

- Promote respect and gender equity through sermons, newsletters, and discussions.
- Create a climate where violence and harassment are not tolerated. Create and enforce policies that promote respect, communication, and conflict resolution without violence.
- Train leaders to recognize and intervene if they see or hear about sexual violence or sexual harassment.
- Implement education for students around healthy relationships and gender equity.

Individuals can:

- Be a role model - through your words and actions show that you respect your partner.
- Use communication rather than violence to solve problems.
- Support healthy relationship education in schools and youth serving organizations.