

## American Association of University Women – Facts and Figures

[http://www.aauw.org/laf/library/assault\\_stats.cfm?makebig](http://www.aauw.org/laf/library/assault_stats.cfm?makebig)

- 65% of attacks are unreported, making sexual assault the "silent epidemic." Sexual assault remains the most drastically underreported crime. (1)
- 20–25% of women will be raped during their college career. (2)
- 3% of college women nationally have experienced rape or attempted rape during the academic year. This means, for example, that a campus with 6,000 coeds will have an average of *one rape per day* during the school year. (2)
- 13% of women are stalked during the academic year, and each stalking episode lasts an average of 60 days. (2)
- 90% of women know the person who sexually assaulted or raped them. (2)
- 75% of the time, the offender, the victim, or both have been drinking. (3)
- 42% of college women who are raped tell no one about the assault. (4)
- 5% of rape incidents are reported to the police. (2)
- 10 times more rapes are reported to crisis lines than are reported to the police. (5)
- 42% of raped women expect to be raped again. (4)

### Debunking Myths

Both college women and men harbor misconceptions about sexual assault. Getting the facts is essential to combating sexual assault on campus.

- 71% of rapes are planned in advance. (6)
- 80% of women who are raped try to physically resist. (6)
- 48.8% of the women did not consider what happened to them to be rape even though researchers considered the incidents to be rape. (2)
- 43% of college-aged men conceded to using coercive behavior to have sex (including ignoring a woman's protest, using physical aggression, and forcing intercourse) but did not admit that it was rape. (7)

### The Impact on Victims

#### **Physical and emotional**

- 40% of rape survivors develop sexually transmitted diseases as a result of sexual assault. (8)
- 80% 80% of rape victims suffer chronic physical or psychological problems over time. (9)
- 13 times as many rape survivors are more likely to attempt suicide than are people who are not victims of crime. Rape survivors are six times more likely to attempt suicide than are victims of other crimes. (10)
- 25–50% of sexual assault victims seek mental health treatment as a result of the assault. (11)

78 women get raped in an hour (national victim center 1992)

98% of rapists are men. 66% of rapists are White, 30% are Black and 4% are other races. (Report of Felony Sentences in State Courts to the Bureau of Justice 1992)

An estimated 683,000 adult women are raped each year. (Natl. Women's Study 1990)

## **50 Reasons Women Don't leave their Abusive Partners**

- Money
- Fear
- Relatives blame her
- Therapists blame her
- Police blame her
- Clergy blame her
- Her batterer blames her
- She blames herself
- No one believes she is being abused
- She doesn't think she is being abused
- Her partner says "I Love You"
- Her partner says "I'm sorry"
- Her partner says "I'll never do it again"
- Her partner says "I'll kill you if you leave"
- Her partner says "I'll take the children"
- Her partner says "I'll kill myself if you leave"
- She'll become homeless
- The shelters are full
- She believes the welfare system will abuse her more
- She loves her partner
- Her partner "loves" her
- The children love them both
- Her father abused her
- Her mother abused her
- Her partner is an alcoholic
- Her partner is a drug addict
- She's a drug addict
- Her partner is a pimp
- She's tried to leave before
- The children
- She can't speak English
- She doesn't have papers to be in this country
- She's in a wheel chair
- She's deaf
- She's retarded
- She's blind
- Her partner is her personal care attendant
- Her partner is a public figure
- She's a public figure
- She can't read
- She's afraid of the unknown
- She's isolated
- She's depressed
- Her partner threatens to expose her as a lesbian
- She's never told anyone
- It's not the right time
- Her partner found her before
- Her partner threatens to abuse the pets
- She feels that there is no one who would help