



College Sexual Assault

It is estimated that the percentage of completed or attempted rape victimization among women in higher education institutions may be between **20% and 25%** over the course of a college career.

What is Title IX?

- ❖ **Title IX** of the Education Amendments of 1972 **protects** people from **discrimination** based on sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance.
- ❖ Title IX is not just about sports; it is a **prohibition against sex-based discrimination in education**. It addresses **discrimination** against pregnant and parenting students and women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programs. It also addresses **sexual harassment, gender-based discrimination, and sexual violence**. Sexual violence includes attempted or completed **rape or sexual assault**, as well as **sexual harassment, stalking, voyeurism, exhibitionism**, verbal or physical sexuality-based **threats** or **abuse**, and **intimate partner violence**.
- ❖ **101 schools** are currently being **investigated** (as of March 2015) under Title IX including Florida State University, Boston University, Emerson College, Northeastern University, Harvard College, Harvard University Law School, Berklee School of Music, and Brandeis. ¹

Who is Affected?

- ❖ For the period 1995–2013, **females ages 18 to 24** (college students and non-students) had the highest rate of rape and sexual assault victimizations compared to females in all other age groups.
- ❖ Among college women, **9 in 10** victims of rape and sexual assault knew their offender.
- ❖ **Less than 5%** of completed or attempted rapes against college women were reported to law enforcement. However, in **two-thirds** of incidents the victim did tell another person, usually a **friend, not family or school officials**.
- ❖ Most women (**88%**) have **never consumed a drink left unattended** or consumed a drink given to them by a stranger (**76%**).
- ❖ Non-students, still "college aged," **reported a higher rate of sexual assault** than college students, at a 1.2 times greater rate.²

What does Research say?

- ❖ In a New England study published in 2002 in the journal **Violence and Victims**, **120** men were identified in a sample of **1,882 college students** whose self-reported acts met legal definitions of **rape or attempted rape**, but who were **never prosecuted** by criminal justice authorities.
 - These **120 rapists** were responsible for **1,225** separate acts of **interpersonal violence**, including **rape, battery, and child physical and sexual abuse**.³

¹ <http://www.ed.gov/>

² <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rsavcaf9513.pdf>

³ <http://www.davidlisak.com/wp-content/uploads/pdf/RepeatRapeinUndetectedRapists.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.blackwomensblueprint.org/>



Rape Victim Advocates (RVA) is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the healing and empowerment of sexual assault survivors through non-judgmental crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, and medical and legal advocacy in the greater Chicago metropolitan area. RVA provides public education and institutional advocacy in order to improve the treatment of sexual assault survivors and to effect positive change in policies and public attitudes toward sexual assault.

What RVA is Doing to Help College Students

RVA currently works with over 13 local universities and colleges in the Chicago area (including formal relationships with Northwestern University & Loyola University Chicago) providing training to professional staff including campus security, administrators, and faculty as well as students (allowing those students to then become peer advocates on their campuses), consultation on their policies and procedures responding to sexual violence, participation on campus committees and support with awareness activities.

RVA provides FREE services including 24-hour hospital crisis response, medical and legal advocacy, accompaniment to Title IX hearings, counseling, specialized support groups for college students, education & training, institutional advocacy, and volunteer & internship opportunities.

How Can I Help?

Listen & Believe – Remember that support is one of the most powerful things you can offer. Let survivors know that you believe them, that it is not their fault, and that there is help, like the services offered by RVA.

Get involved in your college or university – If you're a current student or parent of a current student, find out more about what your or your child's college is and isn't doing to address sexual violence. If you're an alumni, use your voice to ensure that your alma mater is not only compliant with Title IX, but is proactive in addressing sexual violence.

DONATE – Help us help others. Your support makes this vital work possible. Around the clock, day after day, year after year, RVA stands ready to support and advocate on behalf of college students and others who have suffered sexual violence. We need your support. Please make tax-deductible contributions to RVA by visiting www.rapevictimadvocates.org or calling (312) 443-9603 to find out more.

Volunteer & Internship Opportunities – RVA offers a wide variety of volunteer and internship opportunities, including direct service and administrative roles. We provide extensive training and support for qualified individuals who want to give back to their community through RVA, and be part of the movement to end sexual violence. If you are interested in becoming an RVA volunteer, please email volunteer@rapevictimadvocates.org for more information.

**For more information about RVA, visit our website www.rapevictimadvocates.org,
“like” us on Facebook www.facebook.com/rapevictimadvocates
or follow us on Twitter [@rapevictimadv](https://twitter.com/rapevictimadv)**

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Offices in the Loop, on the Stroger Hospital campus, in the Austin community and on the Northside.

24-hour Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline 1-888-293-2080