30 Facts
For Sexual Assault Awareness Month

APRIL 2022

1. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month! Join us as we post facts, information, and resources about sexual assault during the 30 days of April. This year, we are uplifting the experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ survivors and survivors with disabilities. #SAAM2022 #30daysofSAAM

2. According to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, nearly 50% of transgender people reported experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime. These rates are even higher for transgender people of color and those who have done sex work, experienced houselessness, or have (or had) a disability.

3. People with disabilities are at least three times more likely to be sexually assaulted than people without disabilities, and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are seven times more likely to be sexually assaulted (Vera Institute, 2017).

4. Tomorrow is the Day of Action for Sexual Assault Awareness Month! On this day, we’re calling on everyone to take action to end sexual violence. We encourage you to wear teal to support sexual violence survivors. #WearTealDay #SAAMDayOfAction

#SAAM2022

602-279-2900 / 1-800-782-6400 | www.acesdv.org | info@acesdv.org
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According to the 2020 Campus Climate Survey Report, students with disabilities experienced sexual assault at higher rates than students without disabilities. If you want to learn how you can support students with disabilities, check out this webinar!

Bisexual women face incredibly high rates of sexual violence. According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (2013), 1 in 2 bisexual women have experienced rape or attempted rape in their lifetime and 3 in 4 bisexual women have experienced other forms of sexual violence.

“Disabilities are also created through sexual assault.” – Disability Visibility: First-person Stories from the Twenty-first Century (p.g., 245), Alice Wong

We recognize the traumatic impact of sexual violence. We support survivors and will continue to work to increase services for people with disabilities. To learn more about ACESDV’s disability-specific work, click here.

#SAAM2022
At least forty percent of gay men and nearly half of bisexual men have experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime (NIPSVS, 2014). To read about one survivor's experience, click here.

According to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, 65% of Native transgender respondents experienced sexual violence. To learn more about supporting 2SLGBTQ+ survivors, check out the Southwest Indigenous Women’s Coalition’s Native LGBTQ/2S Advisory Council!

“I did not get the rape kit done because they didn’t know how to get my feet in the stirrups” - Survivor with cerebral palsy (Paceley, Bein, & Green, (2015)) Survivors with disabilities often do not have access to services that fit their needs. To get involved in legislative advocacy for improving the lives of people with disabilities, check out Ability 360’s Legislative Advocacy web page!

“As disabled people, we are too often portrayed as being infantile and inexperienced. Being disabled labels us “asexual,” “unsexy,” and “undesirable.” Being disabled also labels us “easy,” because we are expected to feel grateful if someone actually shows interest — even when it’s exploitative and not consensual.” - Wendy Lu To read more about Wendy’s experience of sexual harassment, click here.

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13. The 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey found that 20% of respondents who were incarcerated in jail, prison, or juvenile detention in the past year were sexually assaulted by facility staff during that time. We encourage you to learn directly from formerly incarcerated 2SLGBTQ+ survivors of sexual violence in confinement by reading this report.

14. “Children with disabilities are three times more likely than children without them to be victims of sexual abuse, and the likelihood is even higher for children with certain types of disabilities, such as intellectual or mental health disabilities.” To read more about this topic, click here.

15. One of the root causes of sexual violence is oppression. Communities most impacted by oppression experience higher rates of sexual assault. Some forms of oppression include racism, sexism, ableism, heterosexism, cissexism, and more. If we want to eradicate sexual violence, we must focus on ending all forms of oppression. Join ACESDV in the mission to end sexual violence by dismantling oppression and promoting equity among all people. (https://www.acesdv.org/guiding-principles/).

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16. 2SLGBTQ+ individuals often experience discrimination when seeking care after experiencing violence. In fact, a national study found that 85% of respondents who have worked with 2SLGBTQ+ survivors were denied services because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity (National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs). To get involved in legislative advocacy for improving the lives of 2SLGBTQ+ people, check out Equality Arizona!

17. Arizona has local programs that provide advocacy, counseling, and other supportive services for healing. To talk to someone or to get connected to a victim service program contact the Arizona Sexual and Domestic Violence Helpline at 602-279-2980, text at SMS Text: (520) 720-3383 or chat online at http://www.acesdv.org/get-help-now

18. “I learned that sexual assault survivors share common wounds that heal when we support each other.” – Scott Merillat from the book “Queering Sexual Violence: Radical Voices from Within the Anti-Violence Movement”

19. Everyone deserves to feel pleasure and the freedom to be their full authentic self! To read stories about sexual liberation, check out Heal2End’s Sexual Liberation Contest Stories!

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20. One way we can support 2SLGBTQ+ sexual assault survivors is to educate ourselves. To watch an ACESDV webinar on this topic, click here.

21. One way we can support sexual assault survivors with disabilities is to educate ourselves. To watch an ACESDV webinar on this topic, click here.

22. “Ableism is connected to all our struggles because it undergirds notions of whose bodies are considered valuable, desirable, and disposable.” –Mia Mingus, Writer, Educator, and Trainer on Transformative Justice and Disability Justice
To learn more about Disability Justice, check out this article!

23. Accountability and justice look different for every survivor. For many survivors, transformative justice is an approach they are interested in engaging in. To learn more about what transformative justice is, check out this webinar called “Transformative Justice in the Lives of Survivors with Disabilities.”

24. April 24-30 is National Crime Victims’ Rights Week with the theme of: Rights, Access, Equity, for All Victims. This year’s theme underscores the importance of helping crime survivors find their justice by enforcing victims’ rights, expanding access to services, and ensuring equity and inclusion for all.
Learn more here: National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, April 24–30, 2022 (ojp.gov) #NCVRW

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One of the easiest ways you can help survivors is by getting involved on the legislative level. From participating in our annual Advocacy Day to calling your local and federal representatives, there’s a lot you can do. To sign up to receive legislative action alerts and updates, as well as view our legislative agenda click here: https://www.acesdv.org/public-policy-advocacy/

Today is Denim Day! Use #DenimDay and take pictures of yourself, colleagues and friends wearing denim in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Wearing denim symbolizes the protest against victim blaming and destructive attitudes about sexual assault. #denimday

Raising awareness is part of getting involved in the anti-sexual violence movement. Don’t forget, tomorrow is Denim Day! For more information on the history of Denim Day, visit: http://denimdayinfo.org/about/
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“Ending sexual violence is inextricably linked to disability justice, sex workers rights, gender self-determination, queer and trans liberation and the prison industrial complex.” – Reina Gossett from the book “Queering Sexual Violence: Radical Voices from Within the Anti-Violence Movement”

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Let’s continue to bring sexual violence awareness throughout the year. Help us end sexual violence through your support or get involved http://www.acesdv.org/donate/
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