Fast facts - Sexual violence on campus

Anyone can be a survivor of rape, sexual assault, or intimate partner violence.

1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college.

33.5% of multiracial women, 27% of American Indian and Alaska Native women, 15% of Latina women, 22% of Black women, and 19% of white women have been raped.

47% of transgender people, 46% of lesbians, 74% of bisexuals, 43.3% of heterosexual women, 40.2% of gay men, and 20.8% of heterosexual men have experienced sexual violence.

9 in 10 women in college who are survivors of sexual violence knew their attacker. Most often women are attacked by partners or ex-partners, classmates, friends, or co-workers. Schools should be given extensive guidelines on how to conduct investigations, particularly since there is a high likelihood based on this statistic that both the victim and the attacker are students or affiliates of the university.

Almost 70% of sexual assaults occur in the home of the survivor, the attacker, or another individual. For college students, this means that assaults are taking place not in dark alleyways but in the residence hall of their university.

Already the average duration of a sexual violence investigation takes more than 2 years, stripping these guidelines would prolong this process even further.

Between 2009 and 2014, Title IX complaints related to sexual violence at universities increased by more than 1,000%. In order to address this increase in reporting, the Department of Education needs to be developing more guidelines on how to handle these cases appropriately, not less.

95% of rapes on college campuses in the United States go unreported. Secretary DeVos should be working to encourage survivors to come forward and seek justice, not taking away the choice of their university to protect them and leaving them more vulnerable than ever.

Survivors of sexual violence face lasting physical and emotional trauma. They are 3 times more likely to suffer from depression, 6 times more likely to have PTSD, 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol, 26 times more likely to abuse drugs, and 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide.

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