

# Know the Facts: SEXUAL VIOLENCE

## WHAT IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

**Sexual violence is any type of unwanted sexual contact, including words and actions of a sexual nature, against a person's will or without their consent.**

A person might use force, threats, manipulation, intimidation, or coercion to commit sexual violence. Sexual violence is motivated by a need to control, humiliate, dominate, or harm. It can occur at any age and in any relationship (including stranger, significant other, family member, roommate, personal care provider, friend, teacher, etc.).

**Sexual violence can include, but is not limited to:**

- ▶ Rape
- ▶ Nonconsensual oral sex
- ▶ Unwanted touching
- ▶ Flashing or catcalling
- ▶ Restricting access to birth control or condoms
- ▶ Forced viewing of pornography
- ▶ Taking or distributing sexual images of someone without their consent

## THE FACTS:

In the U.S.

**1 in 2 women** and **1 in 4 men** reported unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime.

**1 in 3 women** and **1 in 9 men** reported being harassed in a public place at some point in their lifetime.

More than **1/2** female (**56.1%**) and male (**57.3%**) victims of sexual violence knew their perpetrators.

**1 in 4 women** reported completed or attempted rape during her lifetime.

**1 in 9 men** reported being made to penetrate someone during his lifetime.

More than **4 in 5** female (**83.4%**) and male (**86.1%**) rape victims reported they were first raped **before age 25** and almost half were first raped as a minor.

In Fairfax County

**9%** of students reported being physically forced into having sex by a dating partner.

**3%** of students reported being pressured into having sex by a dating partner.

**1 in 6** students reported experiencing sexual harassment.

## THE IMPACT:

### Immediate Impacts of Rape Among Female Victims

- 1 in 7** contracted a sexually transmitted infection
- 1 in 3** were injured
- 2 in 3** were concerned for safety
- 2 in 3** were fearful
- 1 in 7** became pregnant

### Immediate Consequences When Men Are Forced to Sexually Penetrate Someone Else

- 1 in 25** contracted a sexually transmitted infection
- 1 in 18** were injured
- 1 in 5** were concerned for safety
- 1 in 5** were fearful

To learn more about sexual violence, visit:

**fairfaxcounty.gov**  
search: **sexual violence**

If you've been sexually assaulted, call the Domestic and Sexual Violence

**24/7 HOTLINE 703-360-7273**