

FACTS

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found that approximately 30% of female victims experienced their first rape between 11-17 years old (Centers for Disease Control, 2011). The same survey found that 27% of male victims experienced their first rape before the age of ten.

This alarming rate also is reflected in multiple national studies: a National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence found that 18.7% of girls age 14-17 were victims of sexual assault in their lifetimes (2009). Another study found that 27% of surveyed girls reported facing a form of sexual violence on middle school grounds in the past year, most often in school hallways or classrooms (University of Illinois, 2008).

Some youth populations are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence. 73% of students who identify as LGBTQ experience sexual harassment (American Association of University Women, 2005). 12-30% of youth in juvenile detention reported being abused at their current facility in the preceding year alone (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2010) with up to 80 percent of the girls in some states' juvenile justice systems reporting a history of sexual or physical abuse (Human Rights Project for Girls, 2015)

Sexual violence against children and adolescents is a real and serious issue, and part of why services to support youth and their families like RVA's are so important.

Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline (888) 293-2080

Rape Victim Advocates (RVA) is an independent, not-for-profit organization in Chicago dedicated to the healing and empowerment of sexual assault survivors and to effecting positive change in policies and public attitudes toward sexual assault. All services are free and confidential, and available to anyone who is a victim of sexual violence, advocacy and counseling services are available in English and Spanish.

RVA provides:

- Crisis Intervention
- Counseling – Individual, Couples & Family
- Medical Advocacy
- Legal Advocacy
- Support Groups
- Volunteer & Internship Opportunities
- Specialized services for Children & Youth
- Seniors
- LGBTQ People
- People with Disabilities
- People involved in the Sex Trade

To schedule an appointment for any of our services, please contact us at (312) 443-9603.

Central Office (Downtown)

**180 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60601**
Phone: (312) 443-9603 Fax: (312) 443-9602
E-mail: info@rapevictimadvocates.org
www.rapevictimadvocates.org
Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Twitter @rapevictimadv

Austin Satellite Office

4909 W. Division Street, Suite 511, Chicago, IL 60651

Northside Satellite Office

1945 W. Wilson Avenue, Suite 6114, Chicago, IL 60640

Stroger Hospital Campus Satellite Office

Fantus Health Center
1901 W. Harrison, Chicago, IL 60612

YWCA RISE Children's Center

(RVA provides Legal/Medical Advocacy for Children/Youth)
820 W. Jackson Blvd, Suite 550, Chicago, IL 60607

Volunteer Opportunities

RVA has a wide array of volunteer and internship opportunities. You can truly make a difference! To learn how to become a volunteer or apply to be an intern, call (312) 443-9603 or go to our website at www.rapevictimadvocates.org.

Support RVA

Our work is made possible by the generosity of people like you. To make a donation, go to www.rapevictimadvocates.org or contact our Development Department at (312) 443-9603 ext 21.

empowering the
next generation



Children & Adolescents

RAPE VICTIM
ADVOCATES



About RVA

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 counseling, individual and group counseling, and medical and legal advocacy in the 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.



Services for Children and Adolescents

The needs of the child survivor of sexual violence can often be different from the adult survivor. RVA provides specialized services to help young people and their families heal in the aftermath of sexual violence as well as educating children and adolescents to prevent rape in our communities. All rape victims face challenges, but after an assault adolescents suffer from a very specific set of challenges resulting from the realities of adolescence. Adolescents who have experienced sexual violence may have issues related to

- A reluctance to report the assault due to parental concerns
- A disrupted sense of sexuality
- A tendency to withdraw from friends and family
- A tendency to externalize the rape by “acting out” and engaging in self destructive behaviors



Legal/Medical Advocacy for Children and Adolescents

RVA’s highly trained advocates provide specialized medical and legal advocacy services to children and adolescents and their significant others, throughout the medical and criminal justice processes. Services are free, confidential and available in English and Spanish.

RVA advocates provide 24–hour crisis intervention, emotional support and medical and legal advocacy to child and adolescent sexual assault survivors seen in the emergency department of RVA’s 14 partner hospitals.



Our Advocates Can Also

- Provide crisis counseling
- Give youth and their families or guardians information about medical concerns
- Assist with medical billing issues
- Help youth and their families communicate with hospital staff
- Assist you with immediate needs such as shelter, clothing
- Accompany you to the police station and to court throughout the criminal justice process
- Help you communicate with the police department and state’s attorney’s office
- Assist you with filing a petition for a protective order
- Help you file for Crime Victims Compensation
- Provide referrals for other services
- Assist families with child protective services whenever appropriate
- Discuss alternatives to the criminal justice system

We also provide specialized training on sexual assault and abuse issues specific to children and adolescents to medical personnel and members of the criminal justice system.

To contact our Children’s Legal/Medical Advocate, please call (312) 229-7245 or e-mail children@rapevictimadvocates.org.

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Prevention Education

Prevention education gives young people more awareness of sexual violence and the tools to become agents of change within their own communities. Information covered in prevention education workshops include

- Sexual assault statistics
- Cultural beliefs and practices that have normalized or promoted sexual violence (rape culture)
- Legal rights of victims
- Resources for survivors of sexual violence
- Tools and techniques for supporting a survivor

RVA’s educators work with many different participants including

- Students in elementary school through college
- Adolescents in after-school and other youth development programs
- Adult and youth groups at social service agencies, faith communities and other community organizations
- Parents, guardians and caretakers

Call RVA at (312) 443-9603 or send an email to educator@rapevictimadvocates.org to learn more about the Education and Training Program, or to schedule a workshop.



Counseling for Adolescents

RVA provides counseling for adolescents who have a recent or past history of sexual abuse and to their significant others (non-offending parents and siblings). Teens (ages 12-16) can receive up to five counseling sessions without parental notification.

Counseling services include free and confidential

- Adolescent counseling (ages 12 and older)
- Significant other counseling
- Family counseling
- Group counseling
- School-based counseling

To schedule a counseling appointment, please call (312) 443-9603 and ask to speak to a counselor.