

Who Is Affected By Sexual Violence?

Because rape is one of the most under-reported crimes in this country, you may not think you are affected by sexual violence. But someone you know either has been a victim of sexual violence or has been deeply affected by a victim's experience.

Everyone is vulnerable to sexual violence at some point. Rapists target all types of people in various neighborhoods. This means that sexual violence is everybody's problem.

- Where does sexual violence take place?
- Who are the perpetrators?
- Why do so many survivors of sexual assault and abuse feel shame and guilt?
- What can be done to help?
- How can people reduce the risk that they will be raped?

The Education and Training (E&T) Program at Rape Victim Advocates provides presentations that address these issues.

For more information or to set up a presentation, email the E&T staff at educator@rapevictimadvocates.org or call (312) 443-9603

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.

preventing and challenging sexual violence



Education & Training

RAPE VICTIM ADVOCATES



Public Education

Public education gives community members more awareness of issues relating to sexual violence. Information covered in public 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

- Schools and youth development programs
- Civic and community organizations
- Faith communities
- Media



Prevention Education

Participants in prevention education workshops learn how to identify elements of rape culture, identify and reduce risk factors, and become agents of change within their own communities. RVA offers prevention education workshops to both youth and adults.

Workshop participants include

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



Professional Training

With over 40 years of experience, RVA is well suited to provide professional training to enhance knowledge of sexual assault, its impact on victims and resources for survivors of sexual violence. Audiences for professional training include

- Graduate students, especially in law, medicine or social work
- Social workers and health professionals
- Volunteers and staff at domestic violence organizations, transitional living facilities, child welfare agencies and other social service organizations
- School faculty and administrators
- Law enforcement personnel
- Leaders of faith communities

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.



How You Can Support a Survivor of Sexual Violence

Don't blame the survivor. Regardless of the circumstances, what happened was not the survivor's fault.

Believe the survivor. It is very important to show your support in this way.

Support the survivor's decisions about how to handle the situation, even if you don't agree. It is important for the survivors to make their own choices so that they can begin to regain their sense of control.

Don't question the survivor's behavior. People respond to sexual violence in very different ways, and some responses may seem irrational. But they are all normal reactions to an abnormal situation.

Refer the survivor to a rape crisis center. RVA and the Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline are two effective sources.

Respect the survivor's specific needs. Help the survivor find services that accommodate needs relating to language, culture, disability, sexual orientation, or other aspects of the survivor's life.



Myths and Facts about Sexual Violence

Myth: Sexual assault is an act of lust and passion.
Fact: Sexual assault and abuse are about using power and control to dominate, punish or humiliate another person or group of people.

Myth: Sexual Violence really does not happen so often.
Fact: I in 6 boys and I in 3 girls will be sexually assaulted by age 18 in this country. I in 5 women and I in 71 men will be raped in their lifetimes.

Myth: There is nothing we can do about sexual violence.
Fact: Sexual Violence can be combated with information, education and action. When we confront sexism, prejudice and oppression, we can help prevent sexual violence and support survivors.