



allegany  
children's initiative  
*Hope starts here*

April 2023

# SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS

April is sexual assault awareness month. SAAM (Sexual Assault Awareness Month) was first observed in the U.S. in 2001. One of the events that factored into the recognition of SAAM being held in April occurred in Italy during 1992. An 18-year-old girl was assaulted by her 45-year-old driving instructor. While her abuser was originally convicted and sentenced to jail time for his crime, he was able to appeal and have his sentence overturned by the Italian Supreme Court. The man insisted that the assault was actually consensual sex and cited the girl's "tight jeans" as proof. The Italian Supreme Court agreed that her jeans would have been too tight for the man alone to take off. The next day, the women of the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans to stand in solidarity with the victim.

Ever since SAAM was observed for the first time in 2001, people across the globe have participated in "Denim Day" every April 26. To participate in Denim Day, simply wear jeans to join in the protest against the idea that the clothes you wear give consent.

For more information, visit:  
<https://denimday.org/why-denim>

Or watch this video:  
[https://youtu.be/5\\_6eSN77Ok8](https://youtu.be/5_6eSN77Ok8)

**LEARN THE FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

- 1 IN 2 WOMEN** have experienced sexual violence other than rape in their lifetimes.<sup>1</sup>
- 1 IN 5 WOMEN** know someone raped or sexually assaulted.<sup>2</sup>
- 41% OF WOMEN** report they experience a potentially aggressive sexual harassment.<sup>3</sup>
- 1 IN 3 WOMEN** experience physical or sexual violence or sexual harassment in a relationship.<sup>4</sup>
- Men are **50% TO 95%** chance of developing post-traumatic stress disorder after being raped.<sup>5</sup>
- 1 IN 6 BOYS** have sexually abused before age 18.<sup>6</sup>
- 18% OF MEN** reported sexual violence, self-harm, or assault.<sup>7</sup>
- 26.2% OF MEN** who experience intimate partner violence disclosed it to police at the time of the abuse.<sup>8</sup>
- 1 IN 67** men in the United States said experienced rape or attempted rape.<sup>9</sup>
- 67.5% OF INSTANCES OF RAPE ARE ESTIMATED TO GO UNREPORTED.<sup>10</sup>**
- Among college students, **9 OUT OF 10** victims of sexual assault know the perpetrator is sexually assaulted.<sup>11</sup>

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE THRIVES WHEN IT IS NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY AND VICTIM BLAMING GOES UNCHECKED.**

**USE YOUR VOICE TO PREVENT IT**

- ♥ BELIEVE SURVIVORS
- ♣ CHALLENGE VICTIM BLAMING
- 👤 RESPECT BOUNDARIES

NSVRC [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)



Equity is  
Imperative