

CREATING AND REBUILDING COMMUNITY FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND RAPE



OVER HALF OF WOMEN AND NEARLY 1 IN 3
MEN IN THE US HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL
VIOLENCE INVOLVING PHYSICAL CONTACT
IN THEIR LIFETIME



BIPOC show higher rates of sexual violence than white individuals

LGBTQ+ people are more likely to experience sexual violence than non-LGBTQ+ people

80,600 inmates each year experience sexual violence while in prison or jail, 60% of whom experience sexual violence at the hands of jail or prison staff



Higher risk for developing mental illnesses, particularly depression and PTSD, and increased substance use

13%–51% of women experience depression following sexual assault;

23%–44% experience suicidal ideation

2%–19% attempt suicide

13%–49% report dependence on alcohol

28%–61% report the use of other illegal substances

HOW SEXUAL VIOLENCE HARMS COMMUNITIES

- Most survivors know their assaulter
 - 51.1% of female victims of rape reported being raped by an intimate partner and 40.8% by an acquaintance
 - It becomes dangerous to come forward
- Survivors are not treated with respect when they come forward
 - Of survivors who reported their assault to police, 2% were subsequently assaulted by the police

HOW TO SUPPORT SURVIVORS

- Peer support and community support/groups
- What to say?
- Increased accountability for assaulters – transformative justice
- Trauma informed self defense classes
- Understanding the body as a site of trauma