

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2012

This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hello, I'm Dr. Linda Degutis, Director of the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

Sexual violence is a *significant* public health problem. It can happen any time, to anyone, anywhere. Data from CDC's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey – known as NISVS – underscore the problem. Nearly one in five women and one in 71 men in the US have been raped at some time in their lives. This form of violence is also happening to people at a young age. More than three out of every four female rape victims were first raped before their 25th birthday. More than one-quarter of male rape victims were first raped when they were 10 or younger. Nearly one in two women and one in five men have experienced other forms of sexual violence in their lifetime.

Sexual violence *can* impact health in many ways, including serious, long-term health problems, such as chronic pain, migraines and other frequent headaches, stomach problems, eating disorders, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. There are also emotional and mental health impacts and links to negative health behaviors.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a time to raise public awareness about the problem and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. CDC supports cutting edge research that identifies effective approaches in order to prevent sexual violence.

CDC also funds partners to help prevent sexual violence. Our frontline partners in state health departments and coalitions, as well as local practitioners, work with faith groups, youth, and businesses to make lasting community changes. Primary prevention is the cornerstone of CDC's National Rape Prevention and Education Program. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center provides leadership, consultation, and resources that support programs seeking to prevent sexual violence. Prevent Connect - a project of the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault - supports community-of-practice activities for practitioners working to prevent sexual violence. They do this through webinars, podcasts, and online discussions.

The goal of CDC's Injury Center is to stop sexual violence *before* it starts, but it takes all of us, working together, to prevent violence. With your help, we can create safer, healthier lives for ourselves, our families, our communities, and our country.

For more information, please visit www.cdc.gov and enter 'sexual violence' in the search box.

We *all* have a role to play. It's time to get involved! It's time to talk about it! It's time...

For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.