



BLACK WOMEN AND SEXUAL ASSAULT



For every Black woman who reports rape, at least 15 Black women do not report.

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Bureau of Justice Statistics
Special Report, Hart & Rennison,
2003. U.S. Department of
Justice.

Sadly, this statistic remains relevant today. Given the impact of historical trauma, racism, and oppression, often Black women will tell no one about the abuse.



1 in 4 Black girls will be sexually abused before the age of 18.

35% of Black women experienced some form of contact sexual violence during their lifetime.

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)

In the U.S., 38% of Black women experienced sexual violence other than rape during their lifetime.

17% of Black women experienced sexual violence other than rape by an intimate partner during their lifetime.

Among students, 11% of Black girls in a national high school sample reported having been raped.

Thompson, McGee, & Mays, 2012.



According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 1 in 5 Black women are survivors of rape.

40-60% of Black women report being subjected to coercive sexual contact by age 18.

Black Women's Blueprint, "The Truth Commission on Black Women and Sexual Violence," 2012

African American girls and women 12 years and older experienced higher rates of rape and sexual assault than White, Asian, and Latina girls and women from 2005-2010.

40% of confirmed sex trafficking survivors in the U.S. are Black.

Banks, Duren and Kycckelhahn, Tracey, "Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2008-2010", The Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2011.

U.S. DOJ Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Female Victims of Sexual Violence, 1994-2010," 2013



Many cultural considerations can hinder healing for Black women survivors: the burdensome expectation of strong Black womanhood; the power of the Black church; the desire to shield Black men; and the lack of self-care examples are all real dynamics Black women survivors endure.

Jazelle Hunt, "Field lessons from reporting on Black women survivors of sexual violence"

30% of Black women with documented histories of childhood sexual abuse were sexually assaulted in adulthood.

Because of African-Americans' unique history of racist and sexist victimization, the Black community has an even harder time than others dealing with rape. This prevents survivors from getting help and our community from addressing the issue effectively.

Lori Robinson, "I Will Survive: The African-American Guide to Healing from Sexual Assault and Abuse"



References

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report. Retrieved from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control:

Violence Prevention State Report Book (PDF) — bit.ly/ncvawbc_cdc

Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization — bit.ly/cdc_partner-violence

MCASA African-American Women and Sexual Assault — bit.ly/masa_assault

IWPR, Violence Against Black Women, Many Types, Far-reaching Effects — bit.ly/iwpr_violence



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