

# The Source

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The Quarterly Newsletter of the Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

## Male Survivors of Sexual Violence

### Awareness of Male Sexual Assault

Awareness of male sexual assault is increasing and becoming more frequently studied and talked about. The general invisibility of the rape of boys and men is due in part to widespread homophobia and societal definitions of masculinity and maleness. Systems of dominance, homophobia and gender rigidity not only perpetuate sexual violence, these systems of power serve to silence male survivors who may fear appearing powerless, weak and unmasculine.

The rape of men and boys is an act of power used to reinforce the dominant status of the perpetrator through the use of sexual violence. Males perceived as powerless become targets of these assaults.

Young boys, adolescent men, men in institutions and men with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to this form of violence. Contrary to the belief that homosexual men commit male-to-male sexual violence, research shows that men who identify as heterosexual are overwhelmingly the perpetrators of male sexual assault. Statistics show that heterosexual men commit 96-98% of all sexual violence against males and females.

### Prevalence of Sexual Assault Perpetrated Against Boys and Men

Increased attention and awareness of sexual violence and the growing recognition of male victimization in particular have led to an increase in the number of studies being conducted on the prevalence of sexual assault of boys and men. Research suggests that sexual violence perpetrated against boys and men is widespread with estimates ranging from one in five to one in eight males reporting some form of sexual assault. A majority of studies confirm that an estimated 5-10% of boys and men will be raped in their lifetime. Using a definition of rape that includes forced vaginal, oral or anal sex, the National Violence Against Women Survey found that 1 of 33 U.S. men had experienced an attempted or completed rape as a child or an adult.<sup>1</sup>

### Perpetrators of Sexual Assault

The majority of perpetrators of sexual violence are men. Studies of sexual assault against children and young adolescents report that more than 97% of perpetrators were male. Despite popular belief, most male perpetrators identify themselves as heterosexual and often have consensual sexual relationships with women. One study notes that 98% of male perpetrators self-identify as heterosexual.<sup>2</sup>

The vast majority (over 80%) of sexually abused boys never become adult perpetrators, while a majority of perpetrators (up to 80%) were abused as boys and young men. Perpetrators tend to be known by, but unrelated to, the victim.<sup>3</sup> Females can also be perpetrators. Studies report that women commit 2-4% of reported sex offenses against children. A Bureau of Justice Statistics study reports that overall, 6% of offenders who sexually assaulted juveniles were female, compared with just 1% who sexually assaulted adults.<sup>4</sup> Female perpetrators of sexual assault tend to use persuasion rather than force or the threat of force during their crimes.<sup>5</sup>

### Boys and Adolescent Males

According to a report on the sexual assault of young children reported to law enforcement that used data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System, more than half of all juvenile victims of sexual assault were under age 12 and one of every seven victims of sexual assault were under the age of 6. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the year in a male's life when he is most likely to be a victim of sexual assault is the age of 4.<sup>6</sup> Twenty six percent of sexual assault victims under the age of 12 and 8% of sexual assault victims aged 12 to 17 are boys.<sup>7</sup>

### Interpersonal Relationships

Sexual assault in interpersonal relationships is an extremely prevalent form of violence, particularly when we consider that men involved in physically abusive relationships with other men may be especially vulnerable to sexual assaults by their partners. In a study of 162 gay men and 111 lesbian women, 52% reported at least one incident of sexual coercion by same-sex partners. Lesbian women experience 1.2 incidents per person while gay men experience 1.6 incidents per person.<sup>8</sup> Nearly 7 million men are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Each year, 834,000 men are sexually assaulted by their partners.<sup>9</sup>

### All-Male Cultural Institutions

Rape and sexual assault of men and boys occurs in other all-male settings including military organizations, athletics, dormitories and

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Visit us on the Web!

[www.mcadsv.org/mrcdsv](http://www.mcadsv.org/mrcdsv)

If you need help, call your local domestic violence or sexual assault program or one of these national organizations.

National Domestic Violence Hotline  
Linea Nacional sobre la Violencia Domestica  
1-800-799-SAFE  
(797-7233)  
TTY 1-800-787-3224  
[www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org)

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)  
1-800-656-HOPE  
[www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)

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## Internet Resources for Male Survivors

### Male Survivor: Overcoming Sexual Victimization of Boys and Men

Male Survivor provides articles on topics ranging from adult and adolescent survivors, families of survivors, prevention and education, and bibliographies of resources for professionals and survivors. [www.malesurvivor.org/](http://www.malesurvivor.org/)

### New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project

The Web site provides statistical reports, information for survivors, and information on the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. [www.avp.org/](http://www.avp.org/)

### Men Can Stop Rape

Men Can Stop Rape provides resources including information on male survivors of sexual assault. [www.mencanstoprape.org/](http://www.mencanstoprape.org/)

### Stop Prisoner Rape

Stop Prisoner Rape seeks to end sexual violence committed against men, women, and youth in all forms of detention. Includes fact sheets, research on prison rape, handbooks for survivors and families, and steps on how to take action. [www.spr.org/](http://www.spr.org/)

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fraternities. All-male environments cultivate the tendency for violence perpetrated by men against women and against other men.<sup>10</sup> A sense of competition, violence as a rite of passage, an expression of dominant status or power, or an initiation or hazing are among the many reasons this culture of violence exists in these settings.

### Boys and Men with Disabilities

Studies show that boys and men with disabilities are twice as likely than boys and men without disabilities to be sexually abused in their lifetime.<sup>11</sup> More than 90% of men and women with developmental disabilities will experience sexual abuse at some point in their lives. Forty-nine percent will experience 10 or more abusive incidents.<sup>12</sup> Reported rates of sexual violence range from 4-6% among adolescent boys with disabilities.<sup>13</sup> Other studies suggest that 16-30% of boys with disabilities will be sexually abused before their eighteenth birthday.<sup>14</sup>

### Sexual Assault in Prisons

The few studies that have been done on prison rape reveal astonishing rates of abuse. A recent study of prisons in four midwestern states found that approximately 20% of male inmates reported a pressured or forced sex incident while incarcerated. About 9% of male inmates reported that they had been raped.<sup>15</sup> Stop Prisoner Rape estimates that 360,000 men are sexually assaulted or raped in prisons in the United States each year. For at least two of the three inmates who are sexually assaulted, the assaults are not isolated incidents but a pattern repeated on a daily basis.<sup>16</sup> Sexual assaults in prisons and other correctional institutions are perpetrated by corrections officers and staff as well as by other inmates. Sexual violence perpetrated in a prison setting is often committed by men who identify as heterosexual as a tool to establish and maintain power and control over other men. Shockingly, prison rape is often not included in the Bureau of Justice Statistics crime surveys or estimates of rape and sexual assault.

### Impact on Male Survivors

Boys and men who are sexually assaulted may experience a wide range of post-traumatic symptoms including depression, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and other emotional and physical problems as a result. Common reactions of men and boys after an assault can also include fear of appearing "unmasculine," societal, peer or self-questioning of their sexuality, homophobia, sense of shame, and feelings of denial.

### Help for Male Survivors

The sexual violence perpetrated against boys and men is severely underreported and this group of survivors is underserved. Boys and men who are sexually assaulted rarely see their reality reflected in articles, books or in direct service program outreach initiatives, which further isolates them and reinforces the devastating myths surrounding male survivors of sexual assault. Resources are becoming increasingly more available

## Latino Families and Domestic Violence

Casa de Esperanza's new manual, *Latino Families and Domestic Violence*, is a guide to understanding and working with Latino families experiencing domestic violence. Written primarily for government workers, nonprofit staff members, and other professionals working with Latino clients, it will benefit anyone seeking to relate effectively to our growing Latino communities. Practical and insightful, the manual uses case studies and reflection "breaks" to encourage the reader's thought and application of the material. It offers resources and features suggestions for communication.

*Latino Families and Domestic Violence* is a valuable resource for individual or group trainings. Casa de Esperanza also offers training sessions on the manual's content as well as suggestions and tips for its use and application. Visit Casa de Esperanza at [www.casadeesperanza.org](http://www.casadeesperanza.org) for more information. *Latino Families and Domestic Violence* is now available at the Resource Center.

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for male survivors, their friends and families, and professionals who work with them. Familiarize yourself and your organization with resources in the community so you will be prepared to help male survivors in their journey through healing.

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## Resource Center Wish List on Amazon

The Michigan Resource Center has created a wishlist at Amazon.com to help interested individuals choose materials to donate to the Resource Center. Visit the Amazon.com wish list for the Michigan Resource Center and make a donation today! It is fast, easy and tax deductible! Click on the Wish List link at the top of www.amazon.com and search for "Michigan Resource Center." Help end violence against women in Michigan by donating materials to the Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

## Stolen Lives: Children in the Sex Trade

It has been estimated that over 300,000 children work in the sex trade in North America. Every year, in the United States and Canada, over seven billion dollars are generated by the sexual exploitation of children under the age of eighteen. *Stolen Lives* takes a hard look at this world through the eyes of the teenaged boys and girls who are being exploited in the fast growing business of child prostitution. Their stories, diverse, poignant, courageous and compelling, expose the painful reality of this modern crisis. The video also profiles people and organizations that are working, with substantial success, to help young people escape life in the sex trade. *Stolen Lives* is now available at the Resource Center.

## Preventing Pregnancy from Sexual Assault

Each year an estimated 25,000 American women become pregnant following an act of sexual violence. As many as 22,000 of those pregnancies could be prevented through the prompt use of emergency contraception.

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center, Education Fund of Family Planning Advocates of New York State and the Clara Bell Duvall Project of the ACLU of Pennsylvania have come together to produce a toolkit explaining how organizations can work to ensure that every sexual assault victim is offered the means to prevent pregnancy when she receives treatment at a hospital.

The toolkit, *Preventing Pregnancy from Sexual Assault: Four Action Strategies to Improve Hospital Policies on Provision of Emergency Contraception*, describes four different options to improve the provision of Emergency Contraception (EC) at hospitals:

- Legislation
- State regulations
- Litigation, and
- Voluntary Action.

The toolkit provides advice on how community-based organizations can conduct surveys to determine what the policies are at their local hospitals concerning the offering of EC to rape victims. *Preventing Pregnancy from Sexual Assault* is now available at the Resource Center.

## NSVRC Unveils New Web Site

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) is pleased to launch its new and improved Web site, [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org). The NSVRC is a comprehensive collection and distribution center for information, statistics, and resources related to sexual violence. Highlights of the new Web site include:

- New and expanded resources organized by categories such as types of sexual violence, strategies and responses to sexual violence, and state, national and international sexual violence organizations. The NSVRC collects information and resources to assist those working to end sexual violence and to improve resources, outreach and responses.
- Online calendar where users may view and add national events, conferences and trainings.
- Comprehensive online classifieds system that includes job postings, funding opportunities and more.
- Extensive electronic library. This library database contains the library collections of both the NSVRC and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR).

## National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) Cosmetic and Reconstructive Support Program for Survivors of Domestic Violence

### Face to Face: The National Domestic Violence Project (800) 842-4546

Face to Face assists survivors of domestic violence who have suffered facial, head and neck injuries as a result of a domestic assault by an intimate partner or spouse. Facial plastic surgeons offer complimentary consultation and facial plastic surgery to qualifying applicants.

### Give Back a Smile (GBAS) Program (800) 773-GBAS (4227)

The GBAS program assists survivors of domestic violence who have suffered injuries to their front teeth and/or supporting structures of the front teeth as a result of a domestic assault by an intimate partner or spouse. Cosmetic dentists offer complimentary consultation and cosmetic and reconstructive dental care to qualifying applicants.

### Skin Care Out Reach Empowers Survivors (SCORES) (888) 892-6702

The SCORES program assists survivors of domestic violence who have suffered skin injuries (scars, tattoos, burns) to their torso as a result of a domestic assault by an intimate partner or spouse. Dermatologic surgeons offer complimentary consultation and dermatologic surgery to qualifying applicants.

If you have any questions or wish to apply, please call and leave a message at the toll free numbers listed above. An NCADV advocate will walk potential applicants through the application process.

## New Resources

*Available to borrow from the Michigan Resource Center*

- **Ten Talks Parents Must Have With Their Children About Violence**
- **We Are Those Women! A Training Manual for Working with Women with Disabilities in Shelters and Sexual Assault Centers**
- **Marketing Nonprofit Programs and Services: Proven and Practical Strategies to Get More Customers, Members and Donors**
- **A Place to Start: A Resource Kit for Preventing Sexual Violence**
- **A Journey Towards Freedom: A Haggadah for Women Who Have Experienced Domestic Violence**
- **Kids Helping Kids: Break the Silence of Sexual Abuse**
- **Organizing Communities to Challenge Violence Against Women**
- **Violence Against Women With Disabilities: Practical Considerations For Health Care Professionals**

**The Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence is a collaboration of the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.**

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**MICHIGAN  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION &  
TREATMENT BOARD**



**MICHIGAN COALITION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

**Resources Available Via Fax-on-Demand from the Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence**

The Resource Center staff is pleased to offer a selection of frequently requested materials and other important documents to our patrons via fax-on-demand. This technology will allow our patrons to have immediate and 24-hour access to resources.

**Instructions for Using Fax-On-Demand:**

- 1) To access the system, please pick up the handset or press the Hook (or Unhook) button on the fax machine.
- 2) Dial (517) 347-1060 (Do Not Press Start).
- 3) You will be prompted by a welcome message. Next, you will be asked to enter the two digit box number of the desired material, followed by the # sign. You may request up to five boxes during this session.
- 4) If you need another box number please enter the number followed by the # sign.
- 5) When finished with your session please press ##. Then, press the Start button to begin receiving your requested materials.

If you have any questions, need assistance or are having problems with the system, please call us at (517) 381-4663. We are more than happy to assist you.

**Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence Lending Policies and Applications**

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- 38 Religion and Violence Against Women and Children <sup>UPDATED!</sup>
- 39 Resources on Domestic Violence and Later Life: Print, Video and Web Resources (3 Bibliographies) <sup>NEW!</sup>

**Resources for Michigan Service Providers**

- 41 Survivor's Handbook for Battered Women For the State of Michigan. A handbook for battered women in Michigan written by Susan G. S. McGee
- 42 Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force Report and Recommendations Report from the Michigan Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force April 2001
- 43 A Handbook for Survivors of Sexual Assault: A handbook for adult survivors of sexual assault in Michigan prepared by the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
- 44 Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Brochure Resource List: brochure listing clearinghouses in Michigan and across the country.

**Michigan Laws Handbook created by the Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence <sup>UPDATED!</sup>**

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