

Sexual Violence Fundamentals

Who is impacted by sexual violence?

The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Who experiences sexual violence?

Sexual violence affects everyone: All populations and all communities. No community is immune.

Communities and populations that experience systemic oppression often experience higher rates of sexual violence and more barriers to accessing resources. These groups include:

- Immigrants and refugees, including undocumented immigrants
- Black, Indigenous, and people of color
- LGBTQ+ people, especially transgender women of color
- Elderly people
- People with disabilities, especially intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Homeless people
- Incarcerated people

Furthermore, perpetrators with power and privilege often take advantage of vulnerabilities to inflict harm. For example:

- A professor might use their power over a student to coerce said student into a sexual relationship.
- A perpetrator might target an undocumented person because they believe that that person will be less likely to go to the police.
- A perpetrator might target a person with an intellectual disability because they think that that person will not be believed.

“ Sexual violence affects people of all gender and all ages. Our elderly population is at risk. Men are at risk. If you don't recognize that sexual violence can and does impact anyone, you may unintentionally fund services that aren't welcoming to the entire generational span and all genders. You may leave out entire populations that need support. You have the power to do better through educating yourself and your colleagues. ”

- Cecilia Miller, MN



Questions?

Please contact the Sexual Violence Justice Institute at SVJI@mncasa.org.

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