



Women of Color and Sexual Assault

Approximately 885,623 African-Americans were victims of violent crime during 2001. This is the highest rate of violent victimization of any racial group (31.2 per 1000). (Rennison, Callie. Criminal Victimization 2001: Changes 2000-2001 with Trends 1993-2001. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice).

In a 1994 survey of 243 women, the rates for adult rape showed African-American women disclosing the highest rate (37.9%), followed by white women (25.5%), Latinas (17.9%), and Asian-Americans (10.5%). (Urquiza, A.J. and Goodlin-Jones, B.L. Violence and Victims. 9 (3) Fall 1994: 223-232.)

In a content analysis of 31 pornographic websites, which advertised scenes depicting the rape or torture of women, nearly half of the sites used depictions of Asian women as the rape victim. (Gossett, J.L. and Byrne, S. Click Here: A Content Analysis of Internet Rape Sites Gender & Society, Vol. 16, No. 5 689-709, 2002.)

About 9 in 10 American Indian victims of rape or sexual assault were estimated to have had assailants who were white or black. (Greenfeld, L. and Smith, S., American Indians and Crime. 1997. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. Washington, D.C.)

Among groups of color, American Indian/Alaska Native women were most likely to report rape victimization while Asian/Pacific Islander women were least likely to report rape victimization. (Tjaden and Thoennes. November 1998 National Institute of Justice, Office of the Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice).

A study of sexual abuse in the South Asian immigrant community was conducted between 1991 and 1993. Interviewed were Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi women ranging in age from early twenties to late forties with different socioeconomic backgrounds and different religions. About 60% of the women spoke of being forced to have sex with their husbands against their will. (Abraham, M. Sexual Abuse in South Asian Immigrant Marriages, Violence Against Women, Vol. 5 No. 6: 591-618, 1998.)

For every one white woman that reports her rape, at least 5 white women do not report theirs; and yet, for every African-American woman that reports her rape, at least 15 African-American women do not report theirs. (Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report. Hart and Rennison. 2003. U.S. Department of Justice.)

90% of Indian women in chemical dependency treatment are victims of rape and childhood sexual abuse. (Henry. Tribal Responses to Violence Against Women. 1998. Presentation to Federal Bar Association Conference, Indian Law Section.)

In a study of American Indian Women's Chemical Health Project, 75% of Indian women surveyed reported having experienced some type of sexual assault in their lives. (Hawkins, Nancy, et. al., 1993. American Indian Women's Chemical Health Project, Chemical Dependency Division, Dept. of Human Services, State of Minnesota.)