

About Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is any form of sexual interaction without consent (or permission).

Consent means that you want to be engaged in whatever sexual behavior is happening. If someone is feeling pressured, coerced, manipulated, or threatened, that is not consent. If someone is incapacitated due to drugs or alcohol, that is not consent.

Ultimately, sexual violence is about an offender exerting power and control over someone else—and it is never a survivor's fault. Survivors need, and deserve, support.

Sexual violence affects people of all genders, ages, races, religions, incomes, abilities, ethnicities, and sexual orientations. Survivors often know the person who assaulted them.



A Few Statistics

- 77% of survivors had been victimized by an acquaintance in Chittenden County
- 97% of people in Vermont are assaulted by people that are known to them.
- Almost one in two transgender people (47%) surveyed have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime. (U.S. Transgender Survey)



Sexual violence is not inevitable.

Sexual violence is imbedded in our culture as a tool of colonization, patriarchy, white supremacy and other forms of oppression.

Sexual violence is not something that happens to only one type of person. Sexual violence is about someone exerting power and control over someone else.

Sexual violence is not something that people deserve.

Sexual violence is an umbrella term that includes many different experiences.

Sexual violence is not something that people often lie about; federal crime statistics reflect that people are more likely to lie about their own death than they are to lie about being sexually assaulted.

Sexual violence is everyone's responsibility to end.

