SEXUAL ASSAULT AMONG UTAH WOMEN: A 2022 UPDATE

OVERVIEW
Sexual assault is a serious concern in Utah and the nation.

HOW DOES UTAH STACK UP?
Rape is the only violent crime where Utah’s rate is above the national average.

RAPE & SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTED TO THE POLICE

Utah has the 9th highest rape per capita rate in the nation.

SEXUAL ASSAULT VULNERABILITIES
Forensic examination data helps us understand personal and situational vulnerabilities of victims.

Victim Vulnerabilities
- 27.6 average age
- 94.7% women
- 47.2% self-disclosed mental illness
- 22.4% reported no permanent address
- 9.6% reported physical/mental impairment

Situational Vulnerabilities
- 62.6% of assaults take place in a house/apartment
- 40.7% involve alcohol use by the victim
- 16.2% are suspected drug-facilitated sexual assaults
- 16.1% involve drug use by the victim
- 12.6% of victims are asleep and awakened to assault

Compared to Utah census data, Black and Native American individuals are disproportionately affected by sexual assault.
WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?
We must all do our part to reduce sexual violence in Utah.

Teach children about consent and healthy relationships.
Believe and assist women who report sexual assault.
Support agencies working to help survivors.
Increase referral and prosecution efforts.

PSYCHOLOGICAL & PHYSICAL IMPACT
Victims experience significant harm due to sexual assault.

Victims report being
hit
strangled
grabbed
held
coerced
verbally threatened

High levels of fear can incapacitate victims during the assault.

71% report non-anogential injuries (e.g., bruises to extremities)
48.6% report loss of consciousness
47.7% report anogential injuries (e.g., lacerations)

SEXUAL ASSAULT KITS & PROSECUTION
Decade long efforts are improving processing of sexual assault kits.

38% of sexual assault kits submitted to state crime laboratory
legislation passed mandating testing
submission rates over 95%

of adult sexual assault cases are referred by law enforcement for prosecution.
8-11% of cases are actually prosecuted.

National and state funding allowed state officials to test over 11,000 backlogged sexual assault kits and log over 5,000 forensic DNA profiles into national databases.

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>75% of survivors KNEW THE ATTACKER before the assault.

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58% acquaintance
6.9% spouse/partner
5.7% ex-partner
6.1% other

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Click here for the full report.