

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Proclamation

April 2026

April marks **Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)** – a time to honor 25 years of progress and recommit to creating safer communities for all. This year's theme, "**25 Years Strong: Looking Back, Moving Forward,**" celebrates the resilience of survivors and the communities that have worked for change.

For 25 years, SAAM has supported survivors, raised awareness, and inspired action to prevent sexual assault, abuse, and harassment. As we reflect on how far we have come, we also recognize the work that lies ahead.

Prevention starts with all of us. It is in how we support one another, practice consent, and create spaces rooted in care and respect. When we act with intention, we move closer to a future free from violence.

We honor the survivors who have shared their stories and the advocates who have led the way. Their courage reminds us that prevention is possible and that each of us has a role to play.

As we look to the next 25 years, we renew our commitment to building a future free from sexual violence. Together, we can continue to strengthen prevention, support healing, and create communities where everyone feels safe and valued.

Statistics show:

- Most women and men across all sexual identities who experienced contact sexual violence reported that the person who harmed them was someone they knew (Chen, et al., 2023).
- Over 53% of women and over 29% of men reported experiencing contact sexual violence (Chen, et al., 2023).
- 1 in 5 male victims reported only male perpetrators, 1 in 2 had only female perpetrators, and about 1 in 6 had both male and female perpetrators (Chen, et al., 2023).
- More than 1 and 4 non-Hispanic Black women (29%) in the United States were raped in their lifetime (Basile et al., 2022).
- 1 in 3 Hispanic women (34.8%) reported unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime (Basile et al., 2022).

- More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women (84.3%) have experienced violence in their lifetime (Rosay, 2016).
- 32.9% of adults with intellectual disabilities have experienced sexual violence (Tomsa et al., 2021).
- 47% of all transgender people have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives (James et al., 2016).

25 years strong. Every voice matters. Every action counts. By standing in solidarity, we can build a future free from sexual violence and create a world where everyone is safe, valued, and respected.

Name

Date

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