

Economic Impact of Sexual Violence

CDC published a study, “Lifetime Economic Burden of Rape Among U.S. Adults,” in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine in 2017. Using mathematical modeling researchers were able to estimate the lifetime per-victim and total population economic burden of rape among adults in the US.¹

- **\$122, 461** is the estimated lifetime cost per rape victim.²
- **\$282,000** is the estimated lifetime cost for survivors of child sexual abuse.²
- **\$3.1 trillion** dollars is the cost of rape to our society.²
- Underserved populations experience additional barriers to reporting sexual assault and additional finance impact.
- Many sexual assaults survivors lose time from work following an assault.³

Justice System Costs

Primary Costs

- Legal fees
- Cost of representation

Secondary Costs

- Unpaid leave, transportation to court
- Childcare costs

Workplace and Educational Impact

- Loss of employment
- Unpaid leave (8.1 days a year)
- Loss of productivity
- Loss of development opportunities
- Drop out or forced out of school
- Transfer schools

Intangible Expenses

- Pain and suffering
- Psychological distress
- Decreased quality of life

Abusers can inflict direct financial harm. Examples: destruction of property, fraud, workplace harassment, theft.

Tips for Advocates

- Connect survivors to economic resources
- Advocate for accommodations in school or workplace
- Beware of discrimination
- Work within the Justice System - (Reparations and Replevins)
- Connect survivors to the Sexual Assault Legal Institute for free legal advice on economic issues related to their sexual assault, including resources through the Criminal Injury Compensation Board: <https://gocpp.maryland.gov/victim-services/cicb>

Giving Voice to the Economic Impact of Sexual Violence

In these videos you will hear sexual assault survivors explain the financial impact of their sexual assault.

- Tedx Talk - The (literal) Cost of Not Believing Survivors
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6Gy2WsBJk4>
- How Rape and Sexual Assault Impact your Career
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_lycN_zxbl

¹ Degue, Sarah, *Applying an economic burden estimate to advance prevention*, The Resource, The National Sexual Violence Resource Center Newsletter, Fall 2018

² Peterson, C., DeGue, S., Florence, C., & Lokey, C. N. (2017). Lifetime economic burden of rape among US adults. *American journal of preventive medicine*, 52(6), 691-701.

³ Peterson C, Liu Y, Kresnow MJ, Florence C, Merrick MT, DeGue S, Lokey CN. *Short-term Lost Productivity per Victim: Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, or Stalking*. 2018 Jun 18. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29776781/>