

## Sobering Statistics

Native American Women are **2x** more likely to experience rape than women of any other race.<sup>1</sup>

**MORE THAN HALF** of Native American women will experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime. **96%** of those who do, experience the violence from non-native perpetrators. Native Women are also **2.5x** more likely to lack access to resources.<sup>1</sup>

**65%** of people who identify as both transgender/two-spirit and Native American have been assaulted in their lifetime.<sup>2</sup>

Only **ONE IN FIFTEEN** Black women who are raped will report her assault.<sup>3</sup>

**40-60%** of Black women reported being subjected to coercive sexual contact by age 18.<sup>3</sup>

**53%** of Black transgender people have been assaulted in their lifetime.<sup>2</sup>

**ONE IN SIX** Latinas will experience sexual assault in their lifetime.<sup>4</sup>

**77%** of Latinas reported sexual harassment as a major workplace issue; Latina domestic workers are especially vulnerable to sexual harassment and deportation blackmail.<sup>5</sup>

In a content analysis of 31 pornographic websites advertising scenes depicting the rape or torture of women, **NEARLY HALF** of the sites used depictions of Asian women as the rape victim.<sup>6</sup>

1. Amnesty International. (n.d.). Maze of Injustice. Retrieved December 9, 2019, from <https://www.amnestyusa.org/reports/maze-of-injustice/>.

2. Human Rights Campaign. (2019). Sexual Assault and the LGBTQ Community. Retrieved December 9, 2019, from <https://www.hrc.org/resources/sexual-assault-and-the-lgbt-community>.

3. End Rape on Campus. (n.d.). Survivor of Color Prevalence Rates. Retrieved December 9, 2019, from <https://endrapeoncampus.org/new-page-3>.

4. Bureau of Justice Statistics. 2004. National Crime Victimization Survey. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

5. Southern Poverty Law Center. 2009. "Sexual Abuse/Discrimination." Under Siege: Life for Low-Income Latinos in the South. Montgomery, AL: Southern Poverty Law Center. Available at [www.splcenter.org/publications/undersiege-life-low-income-latinos-south/4-sexual-abuse-discrimination](http://www.splcenter.org/publications/undersiege-life-low-income-latinos-south/4-sexual-abuse-discrimination).

6. Gossett, J.L. and Byrne, S., A Content Analysis of Internet Rape Sites Gender & Society, Vol. 16, No. 5 689-709, 2002.

## What Can We Do?

Anti-oppression work is anti-sexual violence work. Women of color are disproportionately affected by sexual violence due to systematic and historical influences, and marginalization of resources. The intersection of racism and sexism promotes violence, reinforces hypersexualization, and discourages reporting by discrediting survivors who are women of color. For survivors who are also LGBTQ+, especially trans survivors, these issues are multiplied by increased levels of violence against sexual and gender minorities and transgender women of color. It is imperative to address all intersections of power-based violence in order to end sexual violence.

We need active work against both oppression and sexual violence to help women today. If you are interested in giving more voice to this issue and joining Maryland WOCN, please visit our website at [www.mcasa.org](http://www.mcasa.org), and contact us via email at [info@mcasa.org](mailto:info@mcasa.org), or by phone at 301-328-7023.



Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

**OUR MISSION:** The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault is the statewide collective voice advocating for accessible, compassionate care for survivors of sexual crimes, and accountability for all offenders.

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Working With and For **Women of Color**  
Across the State of Maryland



A PROGRAM OF



Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Working to end sexual violence in Maryland

## ABOUT

In October 2000, the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) established Maryland's Women of Color Network (Maryland WOCN) to address the issue of sexual violence specifically in communities of color.

Recognizing that women of color (WOC) have been historically underserved in the area of sexual violence prevention and aid, Maryland WOCN outlined goals to support education, advocacy, and leadership in communities of color to improve service delivery to and support of victims.

It is the goal of Maryland WOCN to advocate for both macro- and micro-level changes that will ensure the rights of women of color, due to the historical and systematic oppression they have experienced. We seek social justice for all women and femme-identifying people of color, with attention to the interpersonal and systematic challenges each individual community faces.



Since its inception, Maryland WOCN has actively worked to break down barriers to service delivery and influence meaningful change for WOC by:

- Sponsoring statewide conferences and regional workshops;
- Speaking at community-based outreach events;
- Researching and disseminating best practices to support women of color who are survivors of sexual violence;
- Offering trainings for professional and peer educator groups;
- Providing technical assistance to grassroots, church-based, and other start-up organizations working with communities of color;
- Advocating for systemic change in response to survivors who belong to communities of color;
- Building the capacity of rape crisis and recovery centers to address sexual violence in communities of color;
- Working to develop a professional pipeline encouraging WOC to join the fields of sexual violence prevention and survivor services;
- Advancing legislation and policies that protect the rights of survivors, increase public safety, and hold offenders accountable.

## SYSTEMIC IMPACT

Sexual violence disproportionately affects WOC. Racism and sexual violence have historically been used to disempower and control WOC. The intersection between sexism and racism allows a system where WOC are affected at significantly higher rates of sexual violence. These rates are even higher for LGBTQ+ WOC, and especially high for indigenous women.

There are many long-term effects of sexual assault for all survivors, but WOC face several unique risks. For example, weathering, or “allostatic load,” is the deterioration of health due to the chronic stress of discrimination. Sexual violence exacerbates the effects of weathering, thereby increasing the risk of:

- Reproductive health and birth complications
- PTSD
- Depression
- Chronic illness such as hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes

Institutionalized racism in healthcare and law enforcement creates a lack of trust, unequal treatment, and stereotyping. In some communities, reporting sexual violence may be further complicated by cultural and religious norms that prioritize protection and forgiveness of the perpetrator over safety and healing of the survivor. These barriers can cause survivors to receive poor care and experience continued violence in the form of rape culture and re-traumatization.