

BREAK THE SILENCE

behind sexual violence in the United States

Every year, more than
360,000
women are sexually assaulted.

Scope of the Problem

Sexual violence against women, in public and private spaces, has always been a concerningly prevalent issue in society. Women are the most common victims of sexual violence, and can be targeted at any age. Sexual violence not only appears in different forms, it can also be perpetrated by strangers, acquaintances or even intimate partners at any given time of day. Even in recent years, when the nation has taken large strides to address this issues, society still faces unimaginable incidents each year with more than 321,500 cases of sexual violence towards women. Unfortunately, studies show that most acts of sexual violence go unreported due to many underlying stigmas and societal shaming. If most incidents are not reported, the numbers of assaults must be drastically higher than what the studies show. Sexual violence is a bigger problem than most people realize. This tragic issue cannot be ignored, especially when so many individuals have been silenced. Being educated about these acts of violence and why women don't report, is the first step to creating change.

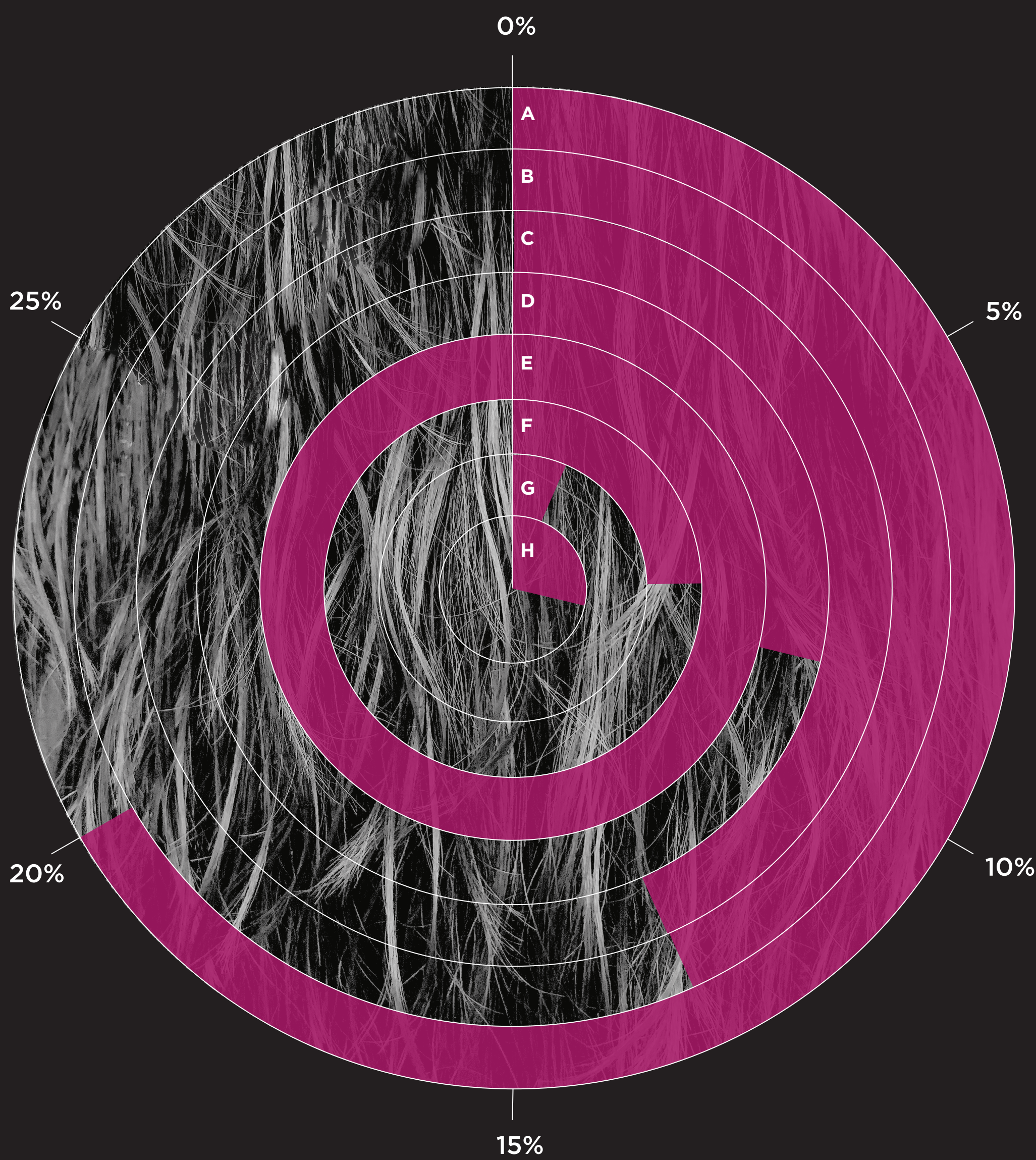


What is Assault?

Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. Rape being a leading form of assault is specifically defined as: Unlawful sexual activity and usually sexual intercourse carried out forcibly or under threat of injury against the will of any individual (regardless of their mental and physical condition). It is the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.

What it Includes:

- ▲ Rape
- ▲ Attempted Rape
- ▲ Incest
- ▲ Sodomy
- ▲ Unwanted Advances
- ▲ Child Molestation



75%
of assaults go unreported.

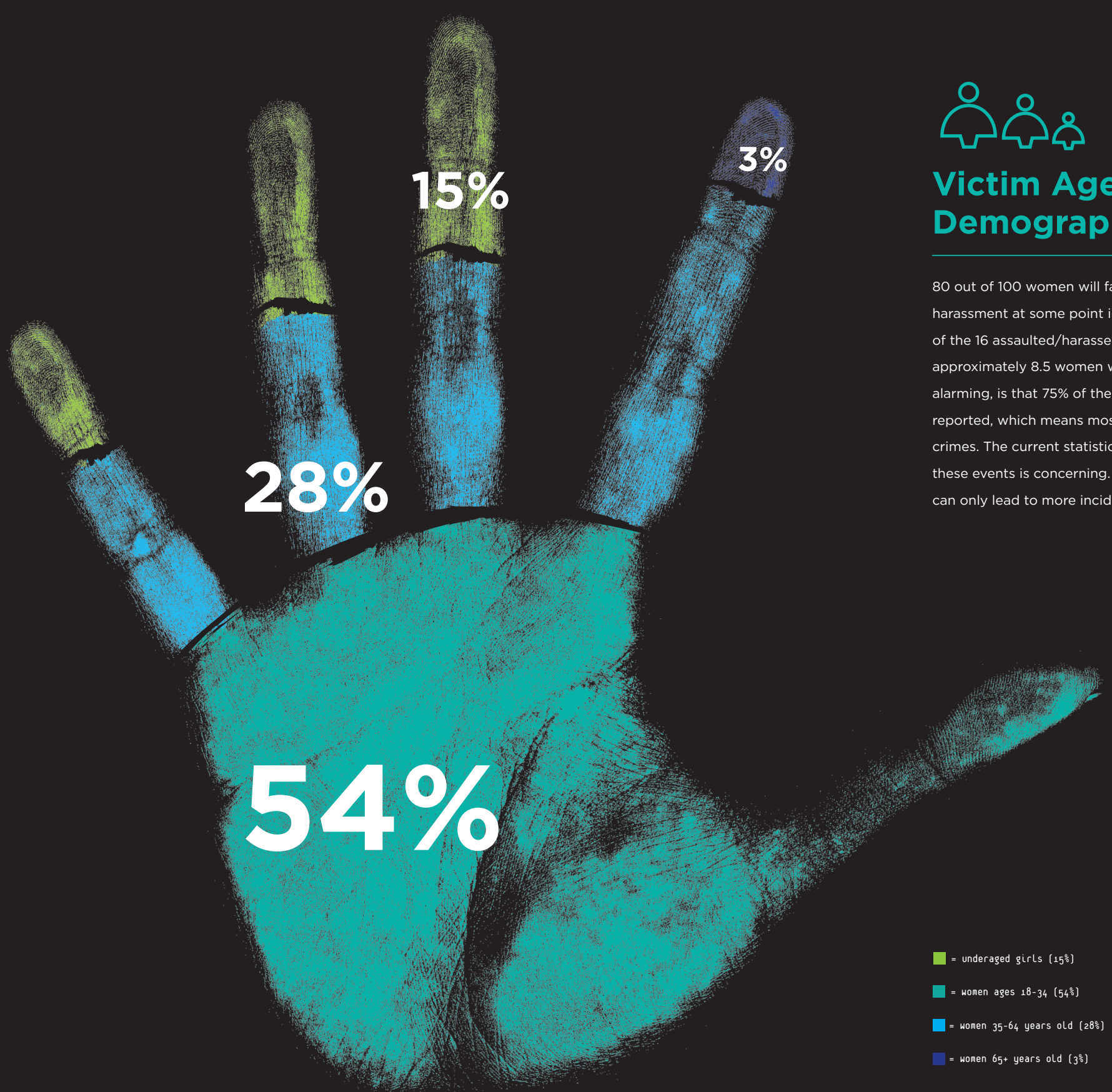
BUT WHY?

- A. Feared retaliation
- B. Believed police would do nothing
- C. Believed it was too personal
- D. Reported to other officials
- E. Did not specify reporting
- F. Didn't want to get perpetrator in trouble
- G. Believed Police wouldn't help
- H. Believed it wasn't important enough



#WhyIDidntReport

Too often, sexual violence goes unreported. In fact, sexual violence is the most underreported crime in the United States. Dr. Kim S. Ménard, Professor at Penn State and author of *Reporting Sexual Assault: A Social Ecology Perspective* says, "Because our society is not supportive of victims, but rather blames and stigmatizes them, research shows that a majority understandably do not report their assaults to police or other authorities (only approximately 30 to 40 percent report to police according to the National Crime Victimization Survey)." The hashtag #WhyIDidntReport began trending on Twitter as victims of sexual assault echoed one another's fears of facing stigma, victim-blaming, and re-traumatization as key reasons victims choose not to go to authorities after being assaulted.



Victim Age Demographics

80 out of 100 women will face some kind of sexual assault or harassment at some point in their lifetime. Approximately 2.5 out of the 16 assaulted/harassed women were under the age of 18 and approximately 8.5 women were between the ages 18-35. What's alarming, is that 75% of these assaults and harassments are not reported, which means most perpetrators walk free from their crimes. The current statistics of reporting and conversation about these events is concerning. The lack of reports and conversation can only lead to more incidents that happen without notice.

- = underage girls (15%)
- = women ages 18-34 (54%)
- = women 35-64 years old (28%)
- = women 65+ years old (3%)

Victim to Perpetrator Relationship

75% victims of rape have had some kind of relationship with their perpetrator and 25% of victims were assaulted by complete strangers. Being assaulted by an acquaintance, friend or even intimate partner may complicate many situations and also heavily affect whether or not the victim chooses to report or not. This statistic is very concerning.



Stranger



Acquaintance



Former partner



More than 1 offender



Non-Spouse relatives



- = stranger
- = acquaintance



Case Studies — Official Court Cases of Assault

People V. Turner - March 2016

Defendant: Brock Allen Turner
Crime: Sexual Assault, Rape
Defendant Verdict: Guilty

Victim: Chanel Miller
Judge: Aaron Persky

Outcome: Turner was sentenced on June 2, 2016, to six months' incarceration in the Santa Clara County Jail to be followed by three years of probation. He was released three months early. Additionally, Turner must register as a sex offender for the rest of his life and participate in a sex offender rehabilitation program.

Controversy: Many publicly expressed push back in response to the "light-discipline" that Turner was given. Those that defended Turner in his crime only exposed the sickening prevalence of sexual assault and how unimportant many people thought it was. Turner's father protested the prison sentence requested by the prosecutor, saying "The sentence is a steep price to pay for 20 minutes of action out of his 20 plus years of life". Till recently, the victim of this heinous crime was left anonymous, but was later identified as Chanel Miller. In response to the assault, she is now writing a memoir of her life and how this has affected her.

Brett Kavanaugh Supreme Court nomination September 2018

Assumed Perpetrator: Brett Kavanaugh
Crime: Sexual Assault
Defendant Verdict: Still pending

Victim: Dr.Christine Blasey Ford
Audience: Senate Judiciary Committee

Controversy: During the hearings of this incident, Dr. Ford testified to her assault and "Kavanaugh strongly denied these accusations and facts. Dr.Ford although she carried herself with much respect and maturity, faced tremendous backlash and hate. Even the president Donald Trump pushed back with disbelief." "I have no doubt that, if the attack on Dr. Ford was as bad as she says, charges would have been immediately filed with local Law Enforcement Authorities by either her or her loving parents. I ask that she bring those filings forward so that we can learn date, time, and place!". After she came forward, Dr. Ford was attacked with hate mail, death threats and exposing of personal information. She and her family were forced to leave their home." As of November 2018, Ford stated that she is still being harassed and threatened and has had to move four times as well as hire private security.



YOUR actions matter!

- If you suspect that someone you know has been sexually assaulted, there are steps you can take to support that person.
- Learn more about steps you can take to prevent a sexual assault and show you CARE. Identify ways to help someone you care about.
- Want to do more for sexual assault prevention on your campus? Rate your college's prevention program and make your voice heard.
- Learn more about how to respond when someone discloses sexual assault or abuse.



Direct Help

National Sexual Assault Hot-line
800.656.HOPE (4673)

Or chat online at
online.rainn.org.