

# UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

## Definition:

Sexual violence is attempted or enacted verbal harassment, coercion, unwanted touching, and rape. Sexual violence can be committed by family members, other people we know, or complete strangers, and it can be a form of domestic violence committed by intimate partners. Child abuse can be another form of sexual violence, often inflicted by adults in positions of trust. It can cause physical, emotional, social, and financial harm, and impacts people of all genders and sexual orientations.

## 1 in 5 women

experience sexual violence during their lifetime<sup>1</sup>

## 1 in 14 men

men experience sexual violence during their lifetime<sup>2</sup>

Data on sexual violence against men may be underreported.

## Warning Signs:

- Actual or threatened physical force, coercion, intimidation, or pressure to engage in sexual activity
- Being touched against one's will regardless of what body parts
- Being forced to watch porn against one's will
- Being prevented from using a condom or other protection during sex

## Non-consensual sexual contact can include:

- Being pressured, intimidated or forced to do sexual things against one's will
- Being incapacitated due to drugs or alcohol
- Changing mind about engaging in sexual activity

## Our Resources:

Safe Horizon provides crisis support, such as lock replacement, orders of protection, advocacy for and with victims within police precincts and the courts, and shelter. Immediate and long term supports include safety planning, counseling, support groups, financial education, and finding safe, stable housing. Beyond direct support to impacted individuals, we also advocate for survivors at the local and national levels, arguing for changes in law, policy, and social services.

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**Each year, we serve 12,500 survivors of child sexual abuse and 5,000 adult victims of sexual assault.**

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## Our Programs:

- **Child Advocacy Centers:** Support for children who have experienced severe abuse
- **Community and Restorative Practices:** Counseling, safety planning, and more for survivors experiencing trauma
- **Criminal and Civil Justice Programs:** Assistance navigating criminal and civil justice systems
- **Domestic Violence Shelters:** Emergency and long-term safe housing
- **Hotline:** 24/7/365 personalized support and safety planning via phone and chat
- **Immigration Law Project:** Support for immigrant survivors of violence and abuse in securing secure status and protection
- **Streetwork Project:** Housing, healthcare, community, and more for youth experiencing homelessness

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## GET HELP:

**Call our 24-Hour Hope Hotline  
1-800-621-4673 (HOPE).**