

# Economic Impact of Sexual Violence

## FACT SHEET

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.<sup>1</sup>

- **\$122, 461** is the estimated lifetime cost per rape victim.<sup>2</sup>
- **\$282,000** is the estimated lifetime cost for survivors of child sexual abuse.<sup>2</sup>
- **\$3.1 trillion** dollars is the cost of rape to our society.<sup>2</sup>
- Underserved populations experience additional barriers to reporting sexual assault and additional finance impact.
- The National Violence Against Women Survey found that more than **19%** of adult female rape survivors and more than **9%** of adult male rape survivors said their victimizations caused them to lose time from work.

### 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 of Advocates

- Connect survivors to economic resources
- Advocate for accommodations in school or workplace
- Beware of discrimination
- Work within the Justice System - (Reparations and Replevins)
- Use resources through the Criminal Injury Compensation Board  
<http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/victimservs/cicb/index.shtml>

### 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_lycN_zxbl)

<sup>1</sup> The Resource, The National Sexual Violence Resource Center Newsletter, Fall 2018

<sup>2</sup> 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.