

Sexual Violence Against Black & African American Women

FACT SHEET

- **1 in 4** Black girls will be sexually abused before the age of 18.¹
- **1 in 5** Black women are survivors of rape.¹
- **35%** of Black women experienced some form of contact of sexual violence during their lifetime.¹
- **40-60%** of Black women report being subjected to coercive sexual contact by age 18.¹
- **17%** of Black women experienced sexual violence other than rape by an intimate partner during their lifetime.¹
- In a two-year review done by the FBI of all suspected human trafficking incidents, **40%** of victims of sex trafficking were African American.
 - African American children comprise **53%** of child prostitution arrests.²
 - *Note: “Child Prostitution” is a legal definition; child prostitution is human sex trafficking.*
- Black women experience significantly higher rates of psychological abuse—including humiliation, insults, name-calling, and coercive control—than do women overall.²
- A 2015 survey of Black Transwomen found that **53%** have experienced sexual violence.³
- Nearly half of all Black/African/African American transgender people, **47%**, have been incarcerated, and incarcerated transgender individuals are **10x** as likely to be sexually assaulted by their fellow inmates, and **5x** as likely to be sexually assaulted by staff.^{4,5}
- More than **20%** of Black Women are raped during their lifetimes—a higher share among women overall.⁴
- According to the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau, between the years 2005 and 2010, African American girls 12 years old and older experienced **higher rates** of rape and sexual assault than White, Asian, and Latina girls and women.⁶

¹ Barlow, J. (February, 2020). “Black Women, the Forgotten Survivors of Sexual Assault.” Retrieved from: <https://www.apa.org/pi/about/newsletter/2020/02/black-women-sexual-assault>

² Rights4girls, “Domestic Child Sex Trafficking and Black Girls,” <http://rights4girls.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/r4g/2019/05/Black-Girls-DCST-May-2019-pdf>

³ ACLU, 2020. The Legal System Has Failed Black Girls, Women, and Non-Binary Survivors of Violence. Retrieved from <https://www.aclu.org/blog/racial-justice/race-and-criminal-justice/legal-system-has-failed-black-girls-women-and-non>.

⁴ WOCN, inc. (2018). Retrieved from <https://wocninc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/LGBTQFAQ.pdf>

⁵ National Center for Transgender Equality. (2021). Police, Jails, and Prisons. Retrieved from Police, Jails & Prisons | National Center for Transgender Equality (transequality.org)

⁶ Spencer, K (February 5, 2020). It’s time to let black girls be black girls. Retrieved from <http://www.thefamuanonline.com/2020/02/05/its-time-to-let-black-girls-be-black-girls/>