

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month



Goal is to increase awareness about the causes and risk factors for sexual assault and empower individuals to take steps to prevent it in their communities. It is an opportunity to promote education and the prevention of sexual violence. It also advocates providing counseling and advocacy to survivors and educating the community

The Violence Against Women Act strengthens protections for sexual assault victims and requires law enforcement to treat domestic violence as a crime rather than a “private matter.”



Hostile work environment sexual harassment can happen in two ways:

Someone you work with makes you the target of unwelcome sexually suggestive or demeaning comments, repeated and unwelcome requests for dates, offensive gestures, offensive touching, jokes or pranks, intimidating behaviors, or pornographic materials.

These offenses must be severe and/or pervasive. This means that the harassment occurs often enough to affect your ability to do your job well OR the level of harassment is so bad that even one incident is enough to affect your ability to do your job well.

You must also show that your employer is responsible for the harassment (either directly or indirectly). Most individuals stay quiet because they don't want to lose their employments.



Victims of sexual violence are at risk of an array of physical, psychological, and emotional problems – especially if the violence occurred while they were children. Documented consequences of sexual violence include:

- Direct physical damage such as bruising and other injury.
- **Depression**
- **Suicide**, suicidal ideation, and self-harming behaviors
- Anxiety
- Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
- Chronic gynecological (females), gastrointestinal, and cardiovascular health problems.
- Diminished work performance
- Problems in personal relationships
- Learning difficulties

Increased incidence of behaviors such as:

- **Alcohol use**
- Drug use
- Tobacco use
- Risky sexual activity
- Disordered eating
- Increased risk of experiencing additional sexual violence
- Increased risk of experience domestic partner violence

