



Sexual Assault Awareness Month

A large, stylized blue awareness ribbon is positioned on the right side of the image, partially overlapping the text. The ribbon is a solid blue color and is tied in a loop.

As student leaders, it is our responsibility to promote ethical, moral, and social justice for our community.

TW: THIS POST INCLUDES MENTIONS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

SA Month Background

Nationally observed in April, this year marks the official 21st anniversary of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Sexual assault advocacy stemmed from protests and activism around the topics of racial, social, and gender equality during the Civil Rights Era. As social activism regarding sexual assault heightened during the 1970s, it helped advocacy for legislation and funding that would support survivors, such as the Violence Against Women Act of 1993 (VAWA). The official color to represent SAAM is teal due to the color being associated with trust, devotion, and healing.

Denim Day

Denim Day is a campaign run by Peace Over Violence in honor of SAAM which began after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court when a rape conviction was overturned due to the justices thinking that since the survivor was wearing tight jeans, it helped the aggressor remove her jeans and imply consent. Denim Day in 2022 is on April 27th.

2022 Theme:

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Rise of Sexual Assaults on Campus

Definition: The term sexual assault refers to sexual contact or behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the victim. Some forms of sexual assault include:

- On December 17, 2021, The Herald-Times issued an article in which it stated that between the months of August and December, there were 41 reported sexual assault cases.
- Within the past 60 days, there have been 7 reported sexual assault cases, as seen in the IUPDs daily crime logs.

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Important Definitions

The state of Indiana defines rape as the act of “knowingly or intentionally having sexual intercourse with another person or knowingly or intentionally causing another person to perform or submit to other sexual conduct when:

- The other person is compelled by force or imminent threat of force;
- The other person is unaware that the sexual intercourse or other sexual contact is occurring; or
- The other person is so mentally disabled or deficient that consent to sexual intercourse or other sexual contact cannot be given,” (RAINN).

Indiana University defines consent as the “agreement or permission expressed through affirmative, voluntary words or actions that are mutually understandable to all parties involved, to engage in a specific sexual act at a specific time:

- Consent can be withdrawn at any time, as long as it is clearly communicated.
- Consent cannot be coerced or compelled by force, threat, deception or intimidation.
- Consent cannot be given by someone who is incapacitated, as defined below.

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Factors that Affect SA and Survivors

What is a bystander?

A person who is present when an act of sexual assault takes place but is not directly involved, or is present to witness acts that lead up to the crimes.

What is rape culture?

Rape Culture is an environment where rape and sexual violence is normalized and excused within societal normalities, popular culture, and the media.

Examples:

"She asked for it." and "Boys will be boys."

What is victim blaming?

Victim Blaming takes place whenever someone explicitly says or implies that an occurrence of sexual assault was the victim's fault. This happens in order for bystanders or third-party people to feel better about themselves and create a differentiation between them and the victim.

Examples:

"What were you wearing?" and
"You shouldn't have been drinking."

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How to Help

Bystander Intervention:

See something, say something.

Create a distraction:

Distracting is a subtle technique of intervention used in order to safely interrupt the incident.

- Example: "Let's get some food, I'm super hungry."

Ask directly:

Directly asking the person at risk if they are feeling uncomfortable can help a bystander understand if that person needs to be taken somewhere safe.

Gather others:

Since it can often be intimidating to face a situation alone, a bystander can ask another person to approach the situation with them.

- Example: "Can you come with me to check if this person is okay?"

Show support:

Be sure to provide them with resources and options as to how you can support them.

- Example: "What can I do to support you?" and "Would you like resources for support regarding this incident?"

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IU Resources for SA

Indiana University Police Department (IUPD)

Non emergency number IUPD dispatch (812) 855-4111
1469 E 17th St

IU Sexual Assault Crisis Services (SACS)

Can provide immediate medical care, help contact law enforcement, and provide immediate & ongoing psychological support if needed

IU Health Bloomington Emergency Department

Open 24 hours, 365 days a year

601 W 2nd St (at Rogers Street)

(812) 353-9515

IU Care Referral

A Care Referral can provide help with academic or administrative issues, personal issues, health or wellness issues, behavioral issues, and bias issues.

<https://studentaffairs.indiana.edu/student-support/get-help/submit-care-referral.html>

All IU Faculty, Staff, and Resident Hall Assistants (RAs) are obligated to report incidents of sexual assault



IU Offices for SA

Student Health Center

Specially trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners are available to make sure survivors receive correct care regarding sexual assault kits

600 N Eagleson Ave (at Tenth Street, across Wells Library)

Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

To schedule appointment and/or questions: (812) 855-7688

Office for Sexual Violence Prevention and Survivor Advocacy

Provides Confidential survivor Advocates that can help with living arrangements and schedule changes if the survivor is unable to avoid the person who hurt them within their day-to-day life

(812) 856-2469

cva@indiana.edu



National and Bloomington Resources for SA

National:

Sexual Assault Crisis Service
Line
(812) 855-8900

Bloomington:

Bloomington Police Department
(812) 339-4477
220 E 3rd St

Monroe County Sheriff's Office
(812) 349-2780 or 911
301 N College Ave

Middle Way House
(812) 336-0846
338 S Washington St

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Sources

Slide 2:

<https://www.nsvrc.org/saam>

<https://www.usbky.com/news/sexual-assault-awareness-month-wear-teal-day/>

<https://www.denimdayinfo.org/why-denim>

Slide 3:

<https://www.heraldtimesonline.com/story/news/local/2021/12/17/indiana-university-sees-increased-sexual-assault-reports/6416652001/>

<https://iupd.indiana.edu/clery/crimelogs/index.html>

Slide 4:

<https://www.rainn.org/laws-your-stateindiana>

<https://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu/policies-terms/consent.html>

Slide 5:

<https://www.rainn.org/articles/your-role-preventing-sexual-assault>

<https://inside.southernct.edu/sexual-misconduct/facts>

Slide 6:

<https://rainn.org/articles/practicing-active-bystander-intervention>