

A Timeline of Guidance, Support Networks, and Rights for Sexual Assault Victims and Survivors

1970

1972-

The first three victim assistance programs are established: Aid for Victims of Crime in St. Louis, Missouri, (now the [Crime Victim Advocacy Center](#)). [Bay Area Women Against Rape](#) in San Francisco, California. [D.C. Rape Crisis Center](#) in Washington.

Title IX, clause of the 1972 Federal Education Amendments, signed into law on June 23, 1972, which stated that “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

1976-

Nebraska and Wisconsin become the first states to abolish the marital rape exemption.

1978-

The National Coalition Against Sexual Assault is formed to combat sexual violence and promote services for rape victims.

1980-90

1987-

Security on Campus, Inc. (now the Clery Center) is established following the robbery, rape, and murder of student, Jeanne Clery, at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. This was the first-time national awareness was raised about crime victimization on our nation’s campuses.

1990-

The Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act, requiring institutions of higher education to disclose murder, rape, robbery, and other crimes on campus, is signed into law by President George H.W. Bush.

1992-

Congress reauthorizes the Higher Education Bill, which includes the Campus Sexual Assault Victims’ Bill of Rights.

1996-

The Drug-Induced Rape Prevention Act is enacted to address the emerging issue of drug-facilitated rape and drug-facilitated sexual assault.

2000

2002-

The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 is enacted to track and address the issue of rape in correctional institutions and develop national standards aimed at reducing prison rape.

2005-

The U.S. Department of Defense announces a new sexual assault policy. The policy creates a military-wide definition of sexual assault, sets a baseline standard for prevention and response training for the armed services, and requires all military installations to have a sexual assault response coordinator with a staff of victim advocates

2009-

President Obama issues the first White House Proclamation of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

2012-

The Unified Crime Report (UCR) definition of rape changes to include any gender of victim or perpetrator, as well as instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity (including due to the influence of drugs or alcohol or because of age). The UCR definition is used by the FBI to collect information from local law enforcement agencies about reported rapes

Title IX shifts, as the Department of Education and OCR clarifies the responsibility and expansion of Title IX beyond sexual harassment for K-12 and college campuses.

2013-

Congress passes and President Obama signs the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA 2013). The measure expands protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender survivors, Native American and Native Alaskan survivors, and teens and young adults.

- It adds stalking to several grant programs, including Grants to Encourage Arrests, and to campus safety provisions for the first time. It ensures that sexual assault victims do not incur the cost of forensic exams by requiring jurisdictions to provide exams to victims free of charge and without any out-of-pocket expense (rather than victims being reimbursed after paying the cost themselves, permissible previously).

2014-

President Obama issues a Presidential Memorandum to establish the “White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault.”

In January 2014, the White House Council on Women and Girls releases its report, “Rape and Sexual Assault: A Renewed Call to Action.” This report analyzes the most recent data on rape and sexual assault in the United States.

2016-

The Bureau of Justice Statistics releases the “Campus Climate Survey Validation Study” in January 2016. This report presents the results of nine-school assessment of undergraduate sexual victimization during the 2014-15 academic year.

President Obama signs the Survivors’ Bill of Rights on October 7, 2016, which ensures that sexual assault survivors who fall under federal jurisdiction have access to sexual assault forensic exams and information about the testing and results of that evidence. The law allows survivors to request that their kits be stored until the statute of limitations expires

2017-

Trump Administration, Department of Education introduces interim guidance and proposed Title IX regulations aiming to increase the civil right protections from guidance to law.