

# Gender Based Violence Consortium

*May 2022*

## Utah State-Wide Needs Assessment

**Domestic Violence, Sexual  
Violence & Human  
Trafficking – 2022  
Report**

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# Research

## **Rape Culture & Sexual Violence in Pacific Islander Communities: An Oral History Project**



**Gender-based Violence Consortium**

### **Introduction to the project**

Gender and sexual violence within the US Tongan diasporic communities is often a taboo topic and a difficult subject matter to discuss for many Tongans and other members of the Pacific Island community (Thomas, 9). In December 2020, Eleni 'longi Alaalatoa had post a live video speaking on her own rape story as well as mentioning other girls who have suffered sexual violence. This went on to create an upsurge of other Tongans publicly sharing their testimonies. Although Eleni opened a door for other Tongans to share their own experiences and for other Tongan to listen and grapple with certain behaviors that might have enabled rape culture. Eleni and many other Tongan girls who shared their stories often found their stories were doubted, invalidated, and gaslighted. In response to the community's challenges with violence, the Tongan community counters abuse with fundamental values in the Tongan culture of love, respect, humility, loyalty, and building relationships (these values are also known as the Faa'i Kavei Koula, The Four Core Values (To'o Folau, and Tonga, 31).

This is furthered by stereotypes surrounding Pacific Islanders ....

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# SEXUAL ASSAULT AMONG UTAH WOMEN

## OVERVIEW

Sexual assault is a serious concern in Utah and the nation.



will experience sexual violence victimization during her lifetime.

### Sexual violence includes:

Unwanted sexual acts (including flashing)

Being forced to observe sexual behavior

Being coerced to show their own body parts

Being aggressively harassed in public

## HOW DOES UTAH STACK UP?

Sexual assault is the only violent crime where Utah's rate is above the national average.

### Sexual Assault Reported to the Police:



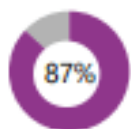
In Utah, **R A P E** is well above the national average.

All other violent crimes (murder, robbery, assault) are lower than average.

Utah has the **12th highest** sexual assault rate in the nation.

## NEED TO KNOW

Common beliefs about sexual assault don't tell the whole story.



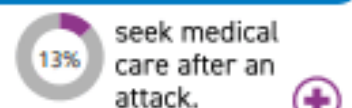
are assaulted by someone they know.

27% of sexual assaults include additional physical injury.



Survivors seek counseling.

**10%** of sexual assaults include weapons.



seek medical care after an attack.



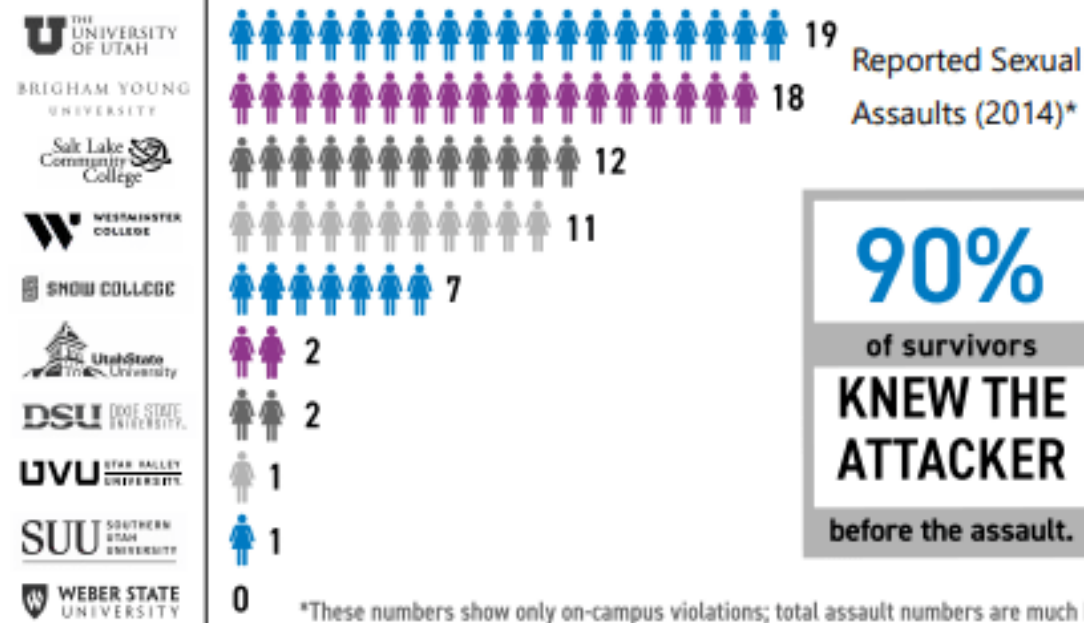
**1%** contact a rape crisis line.





## CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault is of particular concern on college campuses.



Reported Sexual Assaults (2014)\*

**90%**  
of survivors  
**KNEW THE ATTACKER**  
before the assault.

The **majority**  
of college rapists are  
serial perpetrators  
who commit an average of  
**6 RAPES**  
before being caught.

## COSTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

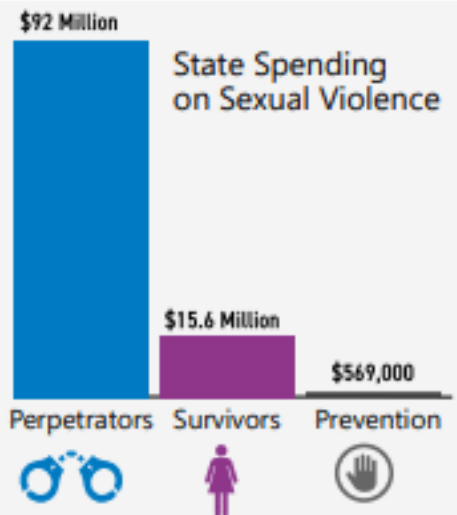
Sexual assault costs billions each year, but public spending is more reactive than proactive.

Women with less  
income & education



Hence, public services are critical to support survivors.

Each year, sexual violence costs Utah



## WHAT CAN WE DO?

We must all do our part to reduce sexual violence in Utah.

Teach children about consent and healthy relationships.

Support agencies working to help survivors.

Believe and assist women who report sexual assault.

Seek stronger investigation and enforcement efforts.

**UTAH WOMEN & LEADERSHIP Project**

Click [here](#) for the full report.

**UTAH WOMEN & LEADERSHIP PROJECT**  
Jon M. Huntsman School of Business  
Utah State University Extension  
uwlp@usu.edu • www.utwomen.org

# Events

## 2022 University of Utah Summer Institute for Women's and Reproductive Health June 6 – July 31

This 8-week series offers undergraduate, graduate, nursing, physician assistant and medical students goal-oriented research, education, and clinical opportunities in the field of sexual and reproductive health at the University of Utah. The **Women's and Reproductive Health Summer Institute** offers engagement with the University of Utah's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division of Family Planning, Departments of Sociology, Political Science, and College of Nursing to explore pressing issues surrounding women's health, reproductive health and family planning. This program provides an opportunity to develop research skills and engage in mentored research, as well as explore new topics, engage with advocacy and garner clinical experience. All meetings will occur remotely for the 2022 program. **There is no cost for this program.**

Participants will attend the weekly meetings on Monday's from 1pm-3pm with self-guided work throughout the week, including the expectation of watching didactic lectures with follow up activities and reflections. All participants will be encouraged to participate in a project that will yield an abstract or brief presentation brief, published Op-ed in a local newspaper, or contribution to a publishable manuscript. Additionally, participants are invited to submit to the Utah's Women's Health Review (a regional peer-reviewed open-access journal focused on local and regional issues). Commitment will vary between 5-20 hours per week depending on individual interest, requirements from programs, and mentor agreement.

### Examples of Topics Covered

- Values clarification and social science perspectives on reproductive health
- The Life of a Research Project
- Reproductive Justice Framework
- Qualitative Survey Methods
- Project Evaluation
- Reproductive Health for Sexual Minority Women
- Sexuality, Pleasure and Reproductive Health
- Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Provision
- Contraception and Chronic Disease
- Dissemination: Publishing, Presenting, and Beyond
- Civic Engagement & Patient Advocacy

***Application Deadline: May 6th, 2022***

**[Apply here](#)**

# Resources

## USU study exposes human trafficking in Utah



[Click here to watch video](#)



# Human trafficking isn't just a problem elsewhere. It's happening in urban, rural Utah, new report says



Police officers are seen at Small Rainbow in Orem on Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021. At least six people were arrested following an investigation into several massage parlors in Utah County that police say were fronts for human trafficking and prostitution. Despite public perceptions that human trafficking is an "international problem," it is occurring in urban and rural areas of Utah, according to a new report by the Utah Women & Leadership Project at Utah State University. | Stuart Johnson, Deseret News

[Click here](#)

# Report: Utah can do more to prevent human trafficking and help survivors



[Click here](#)



# Utah Women & Leadership Podcast



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**Gender-based Violence Consortium**

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