

Understanding Sexual Violence against Women

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Sexual Violence is a heinous and violent type of crime that was previously thought to be an infrequent crime as stated in the findings of the annual National Crime Survey report conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics of 1974. In fact in 1984 NCS rape was the rarest of NCS measured violent offenses. Important research in the field of sexual violence that have shown that Sexual Violence is much more prevalent than we had thought. In 2006 Tarana Burke founded the MeToo movement to reach out to survivors and let them know they are not alone. The movement went viral in 2017 and has reported that since 1998 17,700,000 women have reported being sexually assaulted. The social movement also highlighted the need to include a broader definition of what is considered sexual violence in order to encapsulate the true scope of the the issue. This project focuses on the city of Los Angeles that describes the scope of violence through a statistical analysis of Los Angeles Police Departments police reports to investigate the following questions: Which is the most common type of incident? Are there trends in the location of such incident? Are there periods throughout the year where incident count increases or decreases? Is there a subgroup most at risk for incidents? This research will define sexual violence as sexual assault or rape, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, stalking, indecent exposure, voyeurism, cyber harassment, trafficking, and sexual exploitation.