

Violence Against Women Act 2005:

Grants to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus Program

What is the Grants to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus Program?

First authorized in the Higher Education Act of 1999, the Grants to Reduce Violent Crimes Against Women on Campus Program (Campus Program) was reauthorized in VAWA 2005 for \$12 million for fiscal year 2007 and \$15 million for fiscal years 2008 - 2011. In reauthorizing this program, Congress recognized the significant impact of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking on students, faculty and staff on America's higher education campuses.

Why is the Campus Program Important?

The campus program creates a unique balance between prevention, services, and training, providing assistance to institutions of higher education - both public and private - to support enhanced collaboration between campuses and community law enforcement, prosecution and victim services agencies.

In the federal fiscal year 2006, the Office on Violence Against Women received 105 applications. Out of the \$9.1 million appropriated, 40 institutions received funding. Congress must continue to fund the Campus Program and make it available to a greater number of higher education institutions by funding the program at \$15 million.

A Campus Snapshot

- One in four college-aged women is sexually assaulted.¹
- The most recent research on sexual assault on college and university campuses estimates that institutions with a student population of 10,000 might expect more than 350 rapes per year.²
- Half of all stalking victims are between the ages of 18 and 29 years old.³
- Women ages 16 to 24 years experience the highest rate of domestic violence victimization.⁴
- Research also has demonstrated that women are most at risk of being victimized by someone known to them, as either a current or former intimate partner or more casual acquaintance.⁵

(1) Robin, Warshaw, *I Never Called it Rape: The Ms. Report on Recognizing, Fighting and Surviving Date and Acquaintance Rape*, New York: Harper Perennial, 1994.

(2) Bonnie S. Fisher, Francis T. Cullen and Michael G. Turner, *The Sexual Victimization of College Women*, Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice, December 2000.

(3) Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes, *Prevalence, Incident, and Consequences of Violence Against Women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*, Washington, D.C.: U.S Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, November 1998.

(4) *Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends and Girlfriends*, Bureau of Justice Statistics Factbook, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, March 1998.

(5) Robin Warshaw, *I Never Called it Rape: The Ms. Report on Recognizing, Fighting, and Surviving Date and Acquaintance Rape*, New York: Harper Perennial, 1994.

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