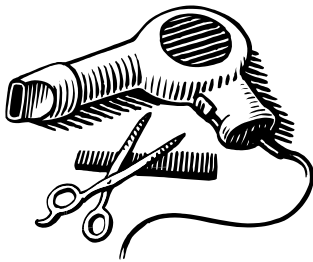


African Americans discuss sexual assault:

An African American sexual assault survivor requires assistance from the African American community. A minority race in Iowa - whose population in Polk county will double to more than 6 million individuals by the year 2050 - must have this issue handled in a non-judgmental and compassionate manner. A survivor may try to delay dealing with the sexual assault for being fearful or suspicious of others "lack of cultural competence." Survivors need to know the sexual assault was not their fault. African American beauticians and barbers can reach out to the community in various ways - be it faith, family or friends - to break the silence around sexual assault and encourage survivors to seek support.



Sexual Assault is:

An act between persons that is done by force or against the will of the other.

Sexual assault includes:

- ◆ Sexual assault by acquaintances, friends, and strangers
- ◆ Child sexual assault and incest
- ◆ Marital/partner rape
- ◆ Sexual exploitation by counselors, therapist, teachers, and others in positions of power over a survivor

If someone has been recently assaulted:

It is important for the survivor to receive law enforcement, medical and legal assistance.

- Make sure the survivor is in a safe place.
- Suggest immediate medical attention *if she/he chooses.*
- Suggest reporting to law enforcement *if she/he chooses.*
- Refer them to resources within their community.

Exhibit non-judgmental compassion and understanding.

Offer understanding, be quietly present, and give reassurance that the assault was not their fault.

The survivor's family will also need a great deal of emotional support during the aftermath of the crime.

Feelings a survivor has may vary from day-to-day, even minute-to-minute. It is important to allow, and not dismiss, any feelings the survivor is experiencing. Every person (survivor, family member) responds differently to abuse.

Professional services may be necessary for survivors.

Be aware that there are therapists who specialize in sexual assault issues, especially for sexually abused children and also adults sexually abused as children. There are also rape crisis centers located throughout Iowa who provide support, support groups, and other assistance.

**Iowa Sexual Abuse
Hotline
1.800.284.7821**



Rights of survivors under Iowa law:

- ◆ To receive written notification of legal rights, in English/Spanish, from law enforcement;
- ◆ To request the presence of a victim counselor at any proceedings related to the offense including medical exams, law enforcement investigations, and court hearings;
- ◆ To have a sexual abuse examination performed at state expense;
- ◆ To request that an officer assist in obtaining transportation to the nearest hospital or medical facility;
- ◆ To file a complaint for threats, assaults, or other related crimes;
- ◆ To receive information from law enforcement about how to register as a victim with the county attorney;
- ◆ To contact the county attorney or local law enforcement to determine case status; and
- ◆ To apply for victim compensation with the Iowa Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division.

What to Say and Not to Say to a Survivor:

Do Communicate:

“It’s not your fault”
“I’m sorry this happened”

Do:

- Believe the survivor
- Express support
- Respect their right to privacy or to refuse help
- Be a good listener
- Respect their confidentiality
- Assist the survivor in getting the help they need/want

Don’t:

- Blame the survivor
- Give advice to or make decisions for the survivor
- Prod for details about the sexual assault
- Be judgmental



Why Barbers and Beauticians?

The relationship between a client and a salon professional is usually based on trust built up over time. Because of the intimate and nurturing nature of the relationship, a salon professional may be someone the client feels comfortable confiding in.



Important to Know:

- ▶ For each year since 1997, the largest number of sexual assault victims in Iowa were females age 13-17.¹
- ▶ Among women who experienced sexual violence before the age of 18, the perpetrator was most commonly a family member or friend, acquaintance, or a date.²
- ▶ Overall, the prevalence of having been forced to have sexual intercourse was higher among black (12.3%) and Hispanic (10.4%) than white (7.3%) students; higher among Hispanic female (13%) than black female (12.9%) and white female (11.2%) students; and higher among black male (11.7%) and Hispanic male (7.6%) than white male (3.7%) students.³
- ▶ In a study of African American women, a large percentage (43%) of respondents reported being verbally or emotionally abused as a child. Approximately 20% indicated being physically abused as a child, and 22% reported being sexually abused as a child. Of the women who had experienced abuse, approximately 60% indicated they discussed abuse with someone.⁴

¹ 2003 Crime Report, Iowa Department of Public Safety.

² Iowa Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey, calendar year 2001, Iowa Department of Public Health.

³ Kaba, Mariame. 2004. *Dating Violence and Forced Sex Among Teenagers*. 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System.

⁴ Beech, Bettina M., and Isabel C. Scarinici. 2001. *The Impact of Psychosocial Factors on Health: A Study of African American Women*.

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