



**Fact Sheet
Sexual Assault Statistics
Reasons for increased vulnerability.**

- **90% of all people with developmental disabilities are likely to have experienced sexual assault. (2007 Bureau of Justice statistics special report on crime against people with disabilities)**
- **49% of people with developmental disabilities who have been sexually assaulted will experience 10 or more sexual assaults in their lifetimes. (according to Leigh Ann Davis, Director of the National Center for Criminal Justice and Disability)**
- **“These crimes go mostly unrecognized, unprosecuted, and unpunished” according to Joseph Shapiro, NPR Journalist, January 8, 2018.**
- **Individuals with developmental disabilities who live in private family homes are 7% more likely to be sexually assaulted than individuals without developmental disabilities. (Department of Justice statistics provided to NPR for the program, “The Sexual Assault Epidemic No One Talks About” January 2018)**
- **Some individuals with intellectual/ developmental disabilities require assistance with personal care (bathing and toiletry) which puts them in vulnerable situations.**
- **In some cases, individuals might be non-verbal, difficult to understand or lack the vocabulary or the understanding to be able to tell others.**
- **Individuals might have been taught to be compliant with family members and staff which makes them vulnerable to abuse.**
- **Individuals might not have had access to sexual education routinely provided to adolescents in public education and might not have a contextual understanding of sexual interaction in which to understand assault.**
- **Individuals with developmental disabilities have increased social isolation and sometimes have precarious living situations and a limited social support network.**

For People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities