

U.S. Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights

Dear Colleague Letter: Sexual Violence
Background, Summary, and Fast Facts
April 4, 2011

Sexual Violence Statistics and Effects

Acts of sexual violence are vastly under-reported.¹ Yet, data show that our nation's young students suffer from acts of sexual violence early and the likelihood that they will be assaulted by the time they graduate is significant. For example:

Recent data shows nearly 4,000 reported incidents of sexual battery and over 800 reported rapes and attempted rapes occurring *in our nation's public high schools*.² Indeed, by the time girls graduate from high school, more than one in ten will have been physically forced to have sexual intercourse in or out of school.³

When young women get to *college*, nearly 20% of them will be victims of attempted or actual sexual assault, as will about 6% of undergraduate men.⁴

Victims of sexual assault are more likely to suffer

of their responsibilities to take immediate and effective steps to respond to sexual violence in accordance with the requirements of Title IX. In the context of the letter, sexual violence means

¹ For example, see HEATHER M. KARJANE, ET AL., SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS: WHAT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARE DOING ABOUT IT 3 (Nat'l. Institute of Justice, Dec. 2005).

What does the DCL do?

Provides