

Rape in Society Today

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Abstract

Sadly to say, rape has become such a common type of crime today. The first thing that is talked about, is how people get raped in their own homes. What do you do if you're not safe in your own home? Next there is date rape. Who gives someone the right to take advantage of a person's trust? Finally, there is the horrific rape by a total stranger. Why do people forcibly violate another person?

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We never know what happens behind closed doors. Many children will be raped or molested before the age of 18 and never report it. Will the outcome from it be a permanent scar that cripples them as adults? Will they take from this horrible experience and make themselves stronger? Will they develop a passion for protecting children, and do something in their life to try and make a difference? We will never know what someone could have really been in life if such a horrendous act was not put upon them. It is tragic that rape has become so common today.

Rape Committed by a Family Member

First, there is rape that is committed by a family member. This is the most common form of child abuse: molestation or rape by someone in their own family or close to them. Children get molested by uncles, grandpas, parents, cousins, and even their own siblings. Most times, this type of rape never gets stopped until the child becomes old enough to leave or fight back. These type of abuse is also greatly under reported. Parents need to be more observant of their children's behaviors caused by the molestation: depression, anxiety, weight loss, withdrawal, anger and acting out. Our children are so innocent, sometimes all they did is get born into the wrong family. How do we as a society protect our youth from a crime that never gets told?

Date Rape

Next, there is date rape. Women get raped while on dates with someone they know and trust. It is common knowledge that more people get raped by people they know versus complete strangers. Date rape could be from someone you're going out with for the first time, or someone you have been dating for a while. Date rape is sometimes hard to prove, especially if you've

been dating the offender for a while. Furthermore, victims blame themselves for being so naïve to go out with the person to begin with. The victim will often beat themselves up mentally by not trusting their judgment. Our justice and political systems also feeds into a woman's tendency to blame herself. Many women who report the crime often talk about being victimized twice—by the rapist and the justice system.

Rape from a Complete Stranger

Finally, there is rape committed by a complete stranger. Sometimes people get attacked or abducted in public. A victim could be walking on a side walk, in a parking garage, a Wal-Mart parking lot, and someone else walking past them from the other direction could just grab them. The offender is stronger and aggressive, often threatening the victim with bodily harm with a weapon. There is an incident that happen near my hometown a couple years ago. An elementary boy was walking home from school in broad daylight when three men in a van grabbed him. They raped the boy repeatedly, then dropped him off on the side of the road. As a human being, I felt sick to my stomach; as a parent I cried inside. What is this boy's life going to be like now? Will he ever trust again? Will he always associate sex with this kind of violence? I hear of similar stories happing all around our country on the evening news. When a crime like this is committed to someone by a complete stranger, what is the effect on society as a whole? It seems the violence and lack of trust become a self-reinforcing cycle.

What Happens Next?

Rape crimes are happening in our homes, when we're out with people we know, or while just walking on a public street. What are some things we could do in society to help reduce this crime? When did rape become so common in our society? Was it always like this? The causes

must lie deep within a society of greed, where some have it all and many have nothing. We also live in a society that enjoys and promotes violence. Ours is also a society that views women as objects and even sexualizes children. Until we address these underlying causes, rape as a violent crime is here to stay.