

## Introduction: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

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April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. In light of #metoo and #timesup, we are seeing that sexual assault, abuse, and harassment are extremely complex and pervasive issues, crossing many boundaries including gender and race.

While some may be engaging with this issue in more abstract and theoretical ways, I am hoping to push our boundaries by leaving our comfort zones/confines of academia and addressing it from both survivor and investigator standpoints.

We start with an interview with Jenna Quinn, survivor, author, and national recognized speaker/advocate. In 2009, she lent her name to nation's first child sexual abuse prevention/education law named after survivor. Then, Bernadette Makowski, research specialist for the Campus Sexual Assault Victims Unit of the New York State Police and Sarah Green, Title IX Investigator, address issues of gender-based violence in higher education. Together, Jenna, Bernadette, and Sarah give us insight into current issues, prevention, and ways to provide better help.

From there, in her view, Jenna pointed out that sexual abuse is "a silent epidemic." The crimes are severely underreported. Jenna added, "silence and shame are the predator's best friends."

With this in mind, I asked for anonymous testimonies. I hope that empowering and legitimizing voices may help some to break that silence and cycle of shame. I am extremely thankful and humbled that brave survivors are willing to share their stories.

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