



Denim Day 4.29.2020

Why we invite you to 'put some pants(jeans) on'
even if you are staying home

Sexual Violence

A Public Health and Safety Issue That Impacts All of Us

Sexual violence is difficult to discuss and often goes unmentioned. But shocking numbers of people have experienced some form of sexual violence: sexual interactions done to them without consent, whatever words are used (sexual assault, sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact), whether it was physical, verbal or digital. People who are seen as "different" or vulnerable are at the highest risk: it is estimated that 54% of boys who are Deaf have been sexually abused in comparison to 10% of boys who are hearing; 12 percent of transgender youth report being sexually assaulted in K-12 settings by peers or educational staff; about 80 percent of the time, the perpetrator of elder sexual abuse was their caregiver to the elder. Statistics from metoomvmt.org RAINN.org

It is also important to know that although most convicted perpetrators of sexual violence are male, people of all ages, all genders, all sexual orientations, of varying appearances, beliefs, and backgrounds, have sexually abused others. Teaching young people about sexual consent, and how to respond to nonconsensual interactions, is essential to prevent future sexual violence. **Safety and respect are determined not by our identities but by our behaviors.**

Why Denim?

Denim Day grew out of a specific rape case in Italy in 1998

Denim Day happens on the last Wednesday in April in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The campaign began after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans she "must have helped the person" who raped her remove her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim.

Since then Denim Day has grown into a global event raising awareness about victim blaming and the destructive myths that surround sexual violence. source:

denimday.org

#denimdaytompkins #actiontompkins #saamtompkins #saam #deminday