



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The following toolkit has been created for organizations that want to reach the Latino community in order to raise awareness about sexual abuse, but cannot access tools that are culturally and linguistically appropriate due to lack of bilingual staff or budget.

Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center offers this material to be used in social media campaigns. Here you will find 30 posts with information and statistics for each day of the month of April. We invite you to use the hashtags #latinosenvirginia and # SAAM2021

### Day 1:

Sexual violence is an umbrella term that includes any type of unwanted sexual contact – either in person or online – including sexual assault, harassment, and abuse.

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### Day 2:

There are many forms of sexual violence:

- Rape or sexual assault
- Sexual harassment
- Sexual abuse
- Unwanted sexual contact/touching
- Sexual exploitation and trafficking
- Exposing one's genitals or naked body to others without consent
- Nonconsensual image sharing
- Words and actions of a sexual nature against a person's will and without their consent
- Sexual violence represents a range of behaviors

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### Day 3:

In study on sexual violence conducted in the United States, 13.6% of Hispanic women reported being raped in the past and 35.6% of Hispanic women said they experienced sexual violence other than rape during their lifetimes.

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**Day 4:**

An estimated 1 in 5 (18.3%) women and 1 in 71 men (1.4%) in the United States have been victims of rape within their lifetimes.

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**Day 5:**

In a study done on undergraduate women, 19% of them reported experiencing an attempted or completed sexual assault since entering college.

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**Day 6:**

37.4% of adult female rape victims report being raped for the first time between the ages of 18-24.

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**Day 7:**

51.1% of perpetrators of sexual violence against women are reported to be intimate partners of the victims, 12.5% being family members, and only 13.8% being strangers.

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**Day 8:**

Among female victims of intimate partner violence who filed a protective order, 68% reported being raped by their intimate partner and 20% reported a rape-related pregnancy.

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**Day 9:**

Rape leads to about unwanted 32,000 pregnancies in the United States each year.

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**Day 10:**

Among male rape victims, perpetrators were reported to be acquaintances 52.4% of the time and strangers only 15.1% of the time.

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**Day 11:**

Among sexual violence victims of adulthood rape, 31.5% of women and 16.1% of men reported experiencing a physical injury as a result of being sexually assaulted.

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**Day 12:**

Only 36.2% of injured female rape victims reported receiving medical treatment for their resulting physical injuries.

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**Day 13:**

In Latino communities, girls and women who seek help from formal services after an assault may be perceived as overly assertive and “Americanized,” and subsequently ostracized.

As a result, seeking assistance from a rape crisis center or other organization may be particularly challenging for Latinas.

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**Day 14:**

4,659 Hispanic victims of violence in Virginia called hotlines for services from April 2020 to March 2021. Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center answered 17% of them.

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**Day 15:**

Latina women are less likely to report sexual violence and seek help than women of other ethnicities.

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**Day 16:**

629 Hispanic victims of sexual violence called hotline services from April 2020 to March 2021. Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center responded to 29.57% of these calls.

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**Day 17:**

In the United States, 12.3% of female rape victims and 27.8% of male rape victims were first raped when they were 10 years old or younger.

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**Day 18:**

Children are often reluctant to speak up about being sexually abused out of fear that they will not be believed, or will be blamed and get in trouble, or that the abuser may hurt them or their families.

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**Day 19:**

Most common signs of possible sexual abuse cases:

- Sudden changes in behavior and mood
- Physical injuries such as bruises, hickies, and other wounds, especially around the breasts and genitals
- Stained, torn, and damaged clothing
- Unexplained behavior issues
- Sadness, isolation, depression, and suicidal thoughts
- Substance abuse, whether it be drugs, alcohol or medication
- Changes in sexual behavior, whether it increases or decreases

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### Day 20:

Child sexual abuse is more common than one might imagine. Studies show that as many as 1 out of 4 girls and 1 out of 6 boys will experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18.

However, because child sexual abuse is by its very nature secretive, many of these cases are never reported.

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### Day 21:

There are many reasons children do not disclose being sexually abused, including:

- Threats of bodily harm (to the child and/or the child's family)
- Fear of being separated from their families
- Fear of not being believed
- Shame or guilt

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### Day 22:

Children are most often sexually abused by someone they know and trust. Approximately 75% of reported cases of child sexual abuse are committed by family members or other individuals who are considered part of the victim's "circle of trust."

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### Day 23:

Children who have been sexually abused may display a range of emotional and behavioral reactions, many of which are characteristic of children who have experienced other types of trauma.

These reactions include:

- An increase in nightmares and/or other sleeping difficulties
- Withdrawn behavior
- Angry outbursts



- Anxiety
- Depression
- Not wanting to be left alone with a particular individual(s)
- Sexual knowledge, language, and/or behaviors that are inappropriate for the child's age

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#### **Day 24:**

Children of all ages, races, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds are vulnerable to sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse affects both girls and boys in all kinds of neighborhoods and communities, and in countries around the world.

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#### **Day 25:**

If a child discloses abuse, it is critical to stay calm, listen carefully, and NEVER blame the child.

Thank the child for telling you and reassure him or her of your support. Please remember to call for help immediately.

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#### **Day 26:**

Child sexual abuse is any interaction between a child and an adult (or another child) in which the child is used for the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator or an observer. Sexual abuse can include both touching and non-touching behaviors. Touching behaviors may involve direct physical touch, kissing, caressing, rubbing, oral sex or penetration.

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#### **Day 27:**

Abusers often do not use physical force to abuse, but may use play, deception, threats, or other forms of coercion to engage children and maintain their silence.

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**Day 28:**

In general:

- Girls are more likely to disclose than boys
- School-aged children tend to tell a caregiver
- Adolescents are more likely to tell friends
- Very young children tend to accidentally reveal abuse, because they don't have as much understanding of what occurred or the words to explain it

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**Day 29:**

375 Hispanic children received advocacy services related to sexual violence. Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center provided 10.6% of those services.

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**Day 30:**

I believe you. Support survivors.  
Sexual Abuse Awareness Month.

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**Video:**

This video shows the testimony of a survivor of sexual violence committed by her father. Later in her life, she was able to move to the United States and start her life over. Now, she tells her story.

**Check our website for more resources:**  
<https://www.latinosenvirginia.org/recursos>