

# Study of Sexual Assault in MT

## SJ 24

### LAW AND JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE

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# The Numbers

- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetimes. (NISVS 2010).
- Most victims are female (97%-99%)
- Most perpetrators are male (95%-99%)
- The economic cost of each assault ranges from ranging from \$87,000 to \$240,776 per rape. (White House 2014).

# **Native American Women are Particularly Vulnerable**

“A U.S. Department of Justice study on violence against women concluded that 34.1 per cent of American Indian and Alaska Native women – or more than one in three – will be raped during their lifetime. (Maze of Injustice 2005)

# Montana Data: YRBS

Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS) Administered to youth via paper survey

[www.opi.mt.gov/YRBS](http://www.opi.mt.gov/YRBS) or [www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs](http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs)

## Montana YRBS Data

Percentage of those responding, “yes” to the question, “Have you ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they didn't want to?”

2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013
8.8%	9.8%	10.2%	8.8%	9.2%	9.8%	8.7%

# Montana Data: BRFSS

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Administered to adults via phone

[www.brfss.mt.gov](http://www.brfss.mt.gov)

## Montana BRFSS Data

Percentage of those responding, “yes” to the question, “has someone attempted to have sex with you after you said or showed that you didn’t want to?”

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2014
7.2%	NA	NA	10%	9.1%	10%	9.4

Percentage of those responding, “yes” to the question, “Has someone completed sex with you after you said or showed that you didn’t want to?”

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2014
5.3%	NA	NA	8.3%	8.1%	8.3%	8.4%

# Montana Data: MBCC

Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC)

[www.mbcc.mt.gov/crimerport](http://www.mbcc.mt.gov/crimerport)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Offenses</u>	<u>Crime Rate per 100,000</u>
1979	183	23.7
1999	293	37.1
2004	324	35.5
2005	401	43.7
2006	383	41.2
2007	335	36.0
2008	345	36.5
2009	336	34.8
2010	293	30.0
2011	336	33.9
2012	342	34.2
2013	305	31.2

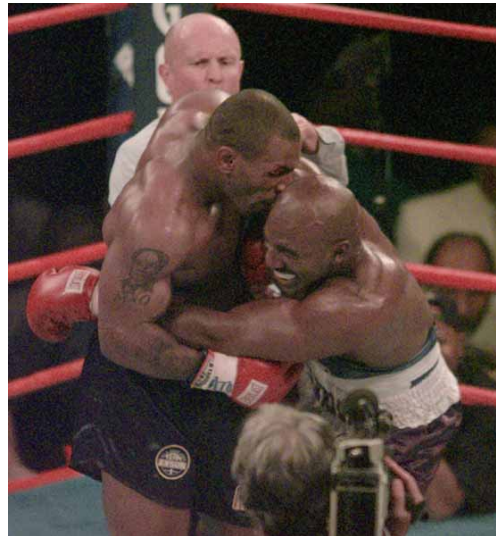
# The Problem

## Our Culture Glamorizes/Idolizes and Protects Rape and Rapists



**Kobe Bryant's apology: "I now understand how she feels that she did not consent to this encounter."**  
Vargas 2004.

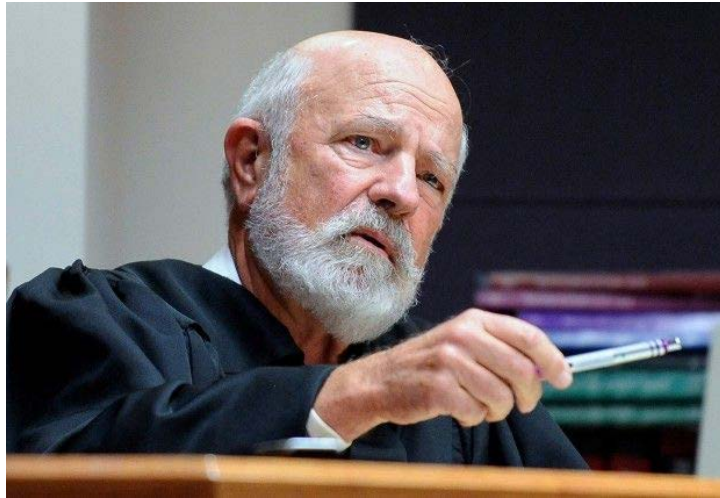
**Jerry Sandusky:  
Convicted in 2012  
of 45 counts of  
sexual assault.  
Serving 30- to 60-  
year sentence.**



**Mike Tyson:  
Convicted of  
sexual assault  
in 1992. He  
served two  
years in prison  
for the crime.**

# The Problem

Our culture blames victims



**Judge Todd Baugh Billings, MT: In 2013, he handed down a 30-day sentence to a former teacher convicted of raping a student. He said the 14-year-old victim was "older than her chronological age."**



**Bryant's accuser put on trial by media**



# The Problem: Rape Myths

- **Only strangers rape**
- **Perps are usually from another culture**
- **“Loose women” ask for it**
- **He’s only done this once (we don’t want to ruin his life)**

# Why Do We Believe These Myths?

- What we know about rape is from convicted rapists
  - limited information
- What we know about rape we learn from media
  - inaccurate information
- We prefer Black and White thinking
  - non information
- If we believe it's the victim's fault, then we can change things because she is sitting right here and the perpetrator is not **JUST WRONG**

# How Do We Stop this Epidemic?

1. Acknowledge we have an epidemic
2. Improve criminal justice tools to increase quality investigations, prosecutions, and jail sentences
3. Improve victim services, especially in rural areas (funded victim advocates, SANE Nurses, access to rape kits)
4. Invest in primary prevention: stopping a crime before it ever happens.

# Primary Prevention: Focus on Before the Crime

## **BEFORE THE CRIMES 2006- Present**

**Healthy relationship  
curriculum**

**Send healthy media  
messages**

**Model healthy  
relationships**

**Comprehensive  
Sex Ed for All**

**Bystander Education**

## **CRIMES**

Rape

Sexual Assault

Forced Fondling

Stalking

Dating Violence

Domestic Violence

## **AFTER THE CRIMES 1996-2005**

Advertise the Hotline

Teach self-defense

Teach “How to help a  
Friend” Workshops

Teach 1st responder  
workshops

DPHHS: Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Funds: \$225,000 annually

# References

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