



**Be Peace. Choose Peace. Create Peace.**

## DO SOMETHING ABOUT ASSAULT

### What is assault?

Assault is commonly described as the intent to cause harmful, unwanted, and/ or offensive contact with another person. Physical injury is not required, and often apprehension of contact is enough to warrant assault. Aggravated assault is a sub classification of assault, and generally indicates that the aggressor attacked, or meant to attack, with a weapon.<sup>1</sup>

### How widespread is assault in the United States?

- In 2019 aggravated assault cases accounted for 68% of violent crimes reported in the United States.<sup>2</sup>
- Those assaulted tend to be female with the majority of their assaulters personally known to them such as a spouse or family member.<sup>3</sup>

### What culture changes and public policies are necessary for preventing assault?

While assault tends to occur for many different reasons, most agencies only track statistics related to assault in domestic abuse cases. Creating a better tracking system for all assault cases might give us a better idea of why assault occurs, and what steps we can take toward decreasing it.

### What practical solutions are effective for preventing assault?

Conflict resolution trainings, counseling services, and other early interventions have been shown to aid in decreasing assault in domestic situations, and these programs help keep offenders from reoffending after they are released.

### What can I do to prevent or stop assault?

- Domestic Abuse —If you or someone you know is involved in domestic abuse you can find both local and national resources by visiting: [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org).
- Women's Resources for Domestic Abuse— national and local information and resources on women's shelters and 24/7 support: [www.womaninc.org](http://www.womaninc.org).
- In case of emergency—If you are experiencing or witnessing an emergency, call 911 or try to get to a location where others can observe your distress and intervene.

### Where can I find statistics about assault?

- For national-level statistics about assault, go to <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov>.
- For state and sub-state level statistics about assault, go to <https://ncadv.org/state-by-state>.

### Where else might I go to learn more about assault?

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<sup>1</sup> Cornell Law School. (n.d.). Assault. *Legal Information Institute*. Retrieved from: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/assault>.

<sup>2</sup> FBI: UCR. (2019). Violent Crime. *2019 Crime in the United States*. Retrieved from: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/violent-crime>.

<sup>3</sup> Victims of Crime. (2015). Assault. *NCVRW Resource Guide*. Retrieved from: [https://victimsofcrime.org/docs/default-source/ncvrw2015/2015ncvrw\\_stats\\_assault.pdf?sfvrsn=2](https://victimsofcrime.org/docs/default-source/ncvrw2015/2015ncvrw_stats_assault.pdf?sfvrsn=2).

### Do Something About Assault

- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence - Coalition leading the fight to change conditions which lead to domestic abuse and assault, <https://ncadv.org/>.
- National Center for Victims of Crime – Advocates for stronger protections, rights, and services for victims, <https://victimsofcrime.org/about-us/our-work>.
- Joyful Heart Foundation- Supports victims of sexual assault, domestic abuse and child abuse, <http://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org/>.
- RAINN- The nation's largest sexual assault hotline operating 24/7, <https://www.rainn.org/>.

### About Peace Through Action USA

Peace Through Action USA activates and equips Americans to implement practical peaceful solutions to aggression and violence in their communities and our country. We are a national-scope, charitable, social capital-building organization. Learn more at [www.PeaceThroughAction.org](http://www.PeaceThroughAction.org).

*Have a suggested addition to this information sheet? Send it to [inbox@peacethroughaction.org](mailto:inbox@peacethroughaction.org). If you found this information beneficial, [please give](#) a gift of money to support our creation and maintenance of similar resources.*