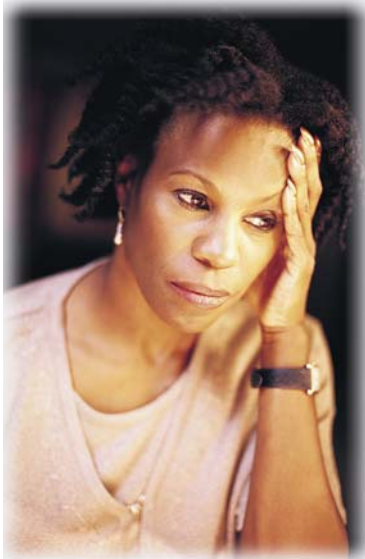


## EMPLOYERS PAY HIGH PRICE FROM THE ‘SILENT EPIDEMIC’ OF SEXUAL ASSAULT



Rape is both a crime and public health issue. The American Medical Association (AMA) calls sexual assault a "silent epidemic." The crime of rape, furthermore, is the most costly of all violent crimes to society because it has such profound and long-term effects on the victim.

Statistics about sexual assault paint a grim picture:

- Rape is the fastest-growing crime in America, claiming a victim every 45 seconds
- Sexual assault is the most under-reported crime in America. Less than 50 percent are reported
- 20 percent of adult women have been sexually assaulted in some form during their lifetime

### Costs

Total costs are estimated to be \$127 billion a year in the United States, excluding the costs of child sexual abuse.

The cost per sexual assault is \$110,000 and is broken down as follows:

- Short-term medical care \$500
- Mental health services \$2,400
- Lost productivity \$2,200
- Pain and suffering \$104,900

The pain and suffering cost is based on these facts:

- Up to half of all victims suffer from at least one symptom of rape trauma syndrome\*
- Rape victims are four times more likely to have an emotional breakdown than non-victims

- 25 percent to 50 percent of sexual assault victims are likely to seek mental health services, and victims often suffer from life-long physical manifestations of sexual trauma

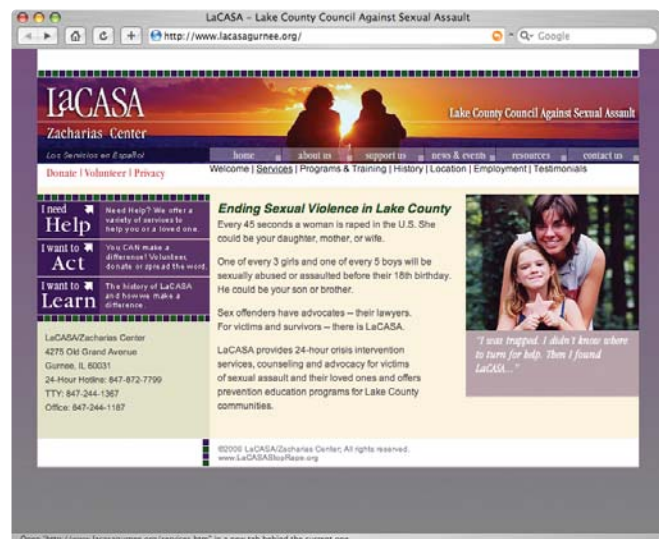
### Costs of Sexual Harassment

In 1988, sexual harassment cost the typical Fortune 500 Company \$6.7 million, or \$282 per employee.

Over a two-year period, the U.S. Government lost more than \$267 million in diminished productivity and turnover due to sexual harassment.

Ninety percent of surveyed Fortune 500 Companies received complaints of sexual harassment. More than one-third experienced lawsuits; more than one-quarter had repeated lawsuits.

For information on services available to victims of sexual assault and for risk reduction workshops for employees go to the Lake County Council Against Sexual Assault (LaCASA) website at [www.LacasaStopRape.org](http://www.LacasaStopRape.org).



Statistics in this article were compiled from: Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, "Economic Costs of Sexual Assault" and By the Number: Sexual Violence Statistics (April 2001)

\*The chances that a woman will develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) after being sexually assaulted are 50-90 percent. Sexual assault is also closely associated with depression and anxiety disorders.