

North America's legacy of slavery, racism, xenophobia, and discriminatory practices affect the willingness of sexual violence survivors who are people of Colour, immigrant/refugee and undocumented survivors to disclose.

Slavery rendering African Americans the "property" of Caucasians, and myths about the sexuality of African American women, condoned sexual violence against African American women and false convictions of African American men for sexual violence against Caucasian women. All of these factors create barriers to reporting by African American victims/survivors.^{1 2 3} Racism, xenophobia, and discriminatory practices affect the willingness of immigrant/refugee and undocumented survivors to seek assistance from outside agencies and can contribute to cultural freezing and community denial of sexual violence.⁴

¹ McMahon, S. (2011). Rape myth beliefs and bystander attitudes among incoming college students. *Journal of American College Health*, 59(1), 3-11.

² Long, L.M., Ullman, S.E., Starzynski, L.L., Long, S.M. & Mason, G.E. (2007). Age and educational differences in African American women's sexual assault experiences. *Feminist Criminology*, 2(2), 117-136.

³ Tillman, S., Bryant-Davis, T., Smith, K. & Marks, A. (2010). Shattering silence: Exploring barriers to disclosure for African American sexual assault survivors. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, 11(2), 59-70.

⁴ Family Violence Prevention Fund (2009). *Intimate Partner Violence in Immigrant and Refugee Communities: Challenges, Promising Practices and Recommendations*. Princeton, NJ: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.