



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

1 in 5 Women in the U.S. Have Been Raped at Some Time in their Livesⁱ

Denim Day in LA - April 24, 2013

Special thanks to "Peace Over Violence" for providing this information.

www.peaceoverviolence.org

History: **Italy, 1990s** An 18-year old girl is picked up by her married 45-year old driving instructor for her very first lesson. He takes her to an isolated road, pulls her out of the car, wrestles her out of one leg of her jeans and forcefully rapes her. Threatened with death if she tells anyone, he makes her drive the car home. Later that night she tells her parents, and they help and support her to press charges. The perpetrator gets arrested and is prosecuted. He is convicted of rape and sentenced to jail.

He appeals the sentence. The case makes it all the way to the Italian Supreme Court. Within a matter of days the case against the driving instructor is overturned, dismissed, and the perpetrator released. In a statement by the Chief Judge, he argued, **"because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans, it was no longer rape but consensual sex."**

Enraged by the verdict, within a matter of hours the **women in the Italian Parliament launched into immediate action and protested by wearing jeans to work.**

"Denim Day" is a rape prevention education campaign where community members, elected officials, businesses and students are asked **to make a social statement** with their fashion statement **and on this day wear jeans as a visible means of protest against misconceptions that surround sexual assault.** If your organization has no policy regarding Denim Day, please consider adopting one.

Visit <http://denimdayusa.org/> and **pledge to wear jeans on Denim Day USA** and commit to educating yourself about sexual violence.

Learn more at the [CDC website](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf) and the [National Online Resource on Violence Against Women](http://www.nationalonlineresourceonviolenceagainstwomen.org).

ⁱ http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf