

STUDENTS OF COLOR

The University recognizes that some members of the Lehigh community may experience harassment and sexual misconduct differently due to their identities, which may lead to additional challenges in reporting incidents. We are committed to fostering an inclusive environment and embracing academic, cultural, economic, and physical differences. We recognize that in some situations, these differences can affect access to resources and willingness to report incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct.

- Women of color from all races and ethnicities are less likely than white women to find help and access support services.
- Women of color from all races and ethnicities share commonalities such as strong loyalty to family, race, and culture, distrust of law enforcement, reluctance to discuss “private matters,” and fear of rejection by family, community, etc. that often impact an individual’s willingness to report incidents and seek support.
- Intimate partner violence (IPV) occurs among women of color of all races and ethnicities, with Native American/Alaskan Indian women experiencing the highest rates of IPV at 37.5%.
- Lifetime prevalence of rape of women of color is greater than that of white women:
 - Black women: 21%
 - Native American/Alaskan women: 27.5%
 - Multi-racial women: 32.3%
 - White women: 20%

Resources and support are available to all students, faculty, and staff. We recognize that reporting incidents and utilizing resources may be particularly challenging for some identities, and the Equal Opportunity Compliance Coordinator (EOCC) and Office of Gender Violence Education & Support (GVES) strive to assist individuals to address those challenges. The University works with each individual to identify resources and support that are specific to each person’s needs. More information can be found at eocc.lehigh.edu or at lehigh.edu/go/gves or you can contact GVES or the EOCC directly to learn more.



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