

Note from Jaime Yahner, Voca Grant Monitor, District Attorneys Council:

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and I dyed my gi the official awareness color, teal! I am over the moon for my two biggest passions, Jiu Jitsu and sexual violence prevention, to come together.

Before my work in the crime victim services field, I had no idea how prevalent sexual assault is. 1 in 3-5 girls and 1 in 7-10 boys will be a victim of sexual abuse before they even turn 18. Not only do statistics tell us this, I've seen it in the thousands of sexual abuse victims we serve in our community.

In addition, 85% of sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows. A WHOPPING 68% of sexual assaults are NOT reported (mostly due to social stigmas created by rape myths) and only 2-8% of reported rape cases are false (consistent with false reporting of most crimes).

The best thing to do when someone discloses rape is to start by believing.

www.startbybelieving.org

Call the National Sexual Assault Telephone Hotline 800-656-HOPE (4673) to be connected to free, confidential services in your area.

