

South Africa Fact Sheet

RAPE

- South Africa has the highest number of rapes per capita in the world.
- According to a 2009 study, one in four men in South Africa have admitted to rape; one in twenty say they have raped someone in the past year.
- One in ten men say they have been forced to have sex with another man.
- In May of 2006 Jacob Zuma, the current President of South Africa, and then Deputy President was acquitted of rape charges after a high profile public trial.
- It is estimated that every 26 seconds a woman is raped in South Africa.

HIV/AIDS

- It is estimated that there are 5.7 million people living with HIV in South Africa. There are an addition 1,500 new infections every day.
- AIDS infections are down 17% over the past eight years.
- Any woman raped by a man 25 or older has a 1 in four chance of her attacker being HIV positive.
- Women who have experienced violence are at a higher risk of HIV infection: a survey among 1,366 South African women showed that women who were beaten by their partners were 48 percent more likely to be infected with HIV than those who were not.

LAWS

- In Africa, only South Africa has enacted all relevant laws to the UN Convention to Eliminate all Forms of Violence against women.
- Only 7% of reported rapes are estimated to lead to a conviction.
- South Africa has passed laws protecting women from violence including the Domestic Violence act of 1998 and the Children's Act of 2005.
- South Africa is the only country in Africa that has legalized same-sex marriages.

(Sources: The Guardian, BBC, Doctors Without Borders, Amnesty International, South African Government, feministing.com, The Washington Post)