
Information about:

SEXUAL ASSAULT

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Sexual assault can take many forms such as: rape, or attempted rape or any unwanted sexual contact. Typically, sexual assault occurs when, without the person's consent, someone touches their body in a sexual way. The types of sexual acts that would be considered sexual assault include: forced sexual intercourse (rape), sodomy, child molestation, incest, or inappropriate touching of private/sexual parts without mutual consent and attempted rape. Assaultants could be anybody: acquaintances, strangers, friends or family members. Assaultants typically commit sexual assault by way of violence, threats, coercion or manipulation.

Types of Sexual Assault

Rape is the forced sexual intercourse (penetration) of a victim by an individual. Penetration may be made by a body part or an object.

Acquaintance Rape is the coercion of sexual activities on an individual without the consent of the victim. These sexual activities are imposed upon by the victim by a friend, date or acquaintance.

WHAT TO DO?

If you feel as though you have been sexually assaulted the most important thing to remember is that abuse is in no way your fault. Ensure you find a safe place far away from your attacker. No one chooses to be assaulted, but if it happens you have options:

Consult a Trusted Friend or Relative.

After being sexually assaulted many feel a rush of emotions. Having someone to talk to can help a victim sort through these emotions and determine a necessary plan of action. It might also be helpful to consult a counselor, a sexual assault hotline or a support group.

CONFIDENTIAL NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT HOTLINE:

Confidential 24/7 Support

Phone: 800-656-4673

Chat Online at online.rainn.org

File a Police Report.

Should you decide to report an incident of sexual assault to the police, it would be most beneficial to not alter or destroy any evidence. This includes: not bathing, not washing or combing your hair or not changing your clothing. Important evidence may be on your body or clothing. This can be collected during the medical examination and may be useful to the police should you decide to press charges.

Get Examined.

Go to a health clinic or emergency room as soon as you can after being assaulted. Being treated following a case of abuse is important to tending to possible injuries, receiving medication and preventing STDs.

Sexual assault is one of the most under reported crimes, with makes being the least likely to report a sexual assault (RAINN).

Recent research has found that rape survivors who have the assistance of an advocate were significantly more likely to have police reports taken and were less likely to be treated negatively by police officers. These victims also reported that they experienced less distress after their contact with the legal system.

MYTH

REALITY

A woman who gets raped usually deserves it, especially if she has agreed to go to a man's house or park with him.

No one deserves to be raped. Being in a man's house or car does not mean that a woman has agreed to have sex with him.

If a woman agrees to allow a man to pay for dinner, drinks, etc., then it means she owes him sex.

Sex is not an implied payback for dinner or other expense no matter how much money has been spent.

Acquaintance rape is committed by men who are easy to identify as rapists.

Women are often raped by "normal" acquaintances who resemble "regular guys."

Women who don't fight back haven't been raped.

Rape occurs when one is forced to have sex against their will, whether they have decided to fight back or not.

Intimate kissing or certain kinds of touching means that intercourse is inevitable.

Everyone's right to say "no" should be honored, regardless of the activity which preceded it.

Once a man reaches a certain point of arousal, sex is inevitable and they can't help forcing themselves upon a woman.

Men are capable of exercising restraint in acting upon sexual urges.