## SEXUAL ASSAULT

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## WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT

- SEXUAL ASSAULT IS A FORM OF SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE, THAT IS, VIOLENCE ENACTED IN A SEXUAL WAY.
- LIKE MANY OTHER CRIMES, SEXUAL ASSAULT IS ABOUT POWER AND CONTROL.
- SEXUAL ASSAULT HAPPENS BECAUSE PERPETRATORS PUT THEIR DESIRES OVER THE SURVIVOR'S AGENCY TO CONSENT.

## WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT

- SEXUAL ASSAULT IS ANY TYPE OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY OR CONTACT, INCLUDING RAPE, THAT HAPPENS WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT.
- SEXUAL ASSAULT CAN INCLUDE NON-CONTACT ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS SOMEONE "FLASHING" YOU (EXPOSING THEMSELVES TO YOU) OR FORCING YOU TO LOOK AT SEXUAL IMAGES.
- SEXUAL ASSAULT IS ALSO CALLED SEXUAL VIOLENCE OR ABUSE. LEGAL DEFINITIONS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND OTHER CRIMES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE CAN VARY SLIGHTLY FROM STATE TO STATE. IF YOU'VE BEEN ASSAULTED, IT IS NEVER YOUR FAULT

## TYPES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

- SEXUAL ASSAULT INCLUDES:
- RAPE—SEXUAL INTERCOURSE AGAINST A PERSON'S WILL
- FORCIBLE SODOMY—ANAL OR ORAL SEX AGAINST A PERSON'S WILL
- FORCIBLE OBJECT PENETRATION—PENETRATING SOMEONE'S VAGINA OR ANUS, OR CAUSING THAT PERSON TO PENETRATE HER OR HIMSELF, AGAINST THAT PERSON'S WILL
- MARITAL RAPE

## TYPES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

- UNWANTED SEXUAL TOUCHING
- SEXUAL CONTACT WITH MINORS, WHETHER CONSENSUAL OR NOT
- INCEST (SEXUAL INTERCOURSE OR SEXUAL INTRUSION BETWEEN FAMILY MEMBERS.)
- ANY UNWANTED OR COERCED SEXUAL CONTACT

#### Women Ages 18-24 Are at an Elevated Risk of Sexual Violence

#### **COLLEGE-AGE WOMEN ARE AT RISK**

# All women 18-24 College women 18-24 Women not in college

National Sexual Assault Hotline | 800.656.HOPE | online.rainn.org

Please visit rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence for full citation.

### Sexual violence on campus is pervasive

- 11.2% of all students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation (among all graduate and undergraduate students).
- Among graduate and professional students, 8.8% of females and 2.2% of males experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation.

#### Women Ages 18-24 Are at an Elevated Risk of Sexual Violence

#### **COLLEGE-AGE WOMEN ARE AT RISK**

## women 18-24 College women 18-24 Women not in college National Sexual Assault Hotline | 800.656.HOPE | online.rainn.org se visit rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence for full citation. <sup>1</sup>

### Sexual violence on campus is pervasive.

- Among undergraduate students, 23.1% of females and 5.4% of males experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation.
- 4.2% of students have experienced stalking since entering college.

## BREAKDOWN OF LOCATIONS WHERE SEXUAL ASSAULT OCCURS



**55%** at or near the victim's home



15% in an open public place.



12% at or near a relative's home



10% in an enclosed but public area, such as a parking lot or garage



8% on school property



National Sexual Assault Hotline | 800.656.HOPE | online.rainn.org

Please visit rainn.org/statistics/scope-problem for full citation.<sup>7</sup>

## The Majority of Sexual Assaults Occur At or Near the Victim's Home

What was the survivor doing when the crime occurred?

- 48% were sleeping, or performing another activity at home
- 29% were traveling to and from work or school, or traveling to shop or run errands
- 12% were working
- 7% were attending school
- 5% were doing an unknown or other activity

## YES MEANS YES!

## What does "consent" mean?

- Consent is a clear "yes" to sexual activity. Not saying "no" does not mean you
  have given consent. Sexual contact without consent is sexual assault or rape.
- Your consent means:
  - You know and understand what is going on (you are not unconscious, blacked out, asleep, underage, or have an intellectual disability).
  - You know what you want to do.
  - You are able to say what you want to do or don't want to do.
  - You are aware that you are giving consent (and are not impaired by alcohol or drugs).
- Sometimes you cannot give legal consent to sexual activity or contact -- for example, if you are:
  - Threatened, forced, coerced, or manipulated into agreeing
  - Not physically able to (you are drunk, high, drugged, passed out, or asleep)
  - Not mentally able to (due to illness or disability)
  - Under the age of legal consent, which varies by state

## REMEMBER

- Consent is an ongoing process, not a one-time question. If you consent to sexual
  activity, you can change your mind and choose to stop at any time, even after
  sexual activity has started.
- Past consent does not mean future consent. Giving consent in the past to sexual activity does not mean your past consent applies now or in the future.
- Saying "yes" to a sexual activity is not consent for all types of sexual activity. If you
  consent to sexual activity, it is only for types of sexual activities that you are
  comfortable with at that time with that partner. For example, giving consent for
  kissing does not mean you are giving consent for someone to remove your clothes.

## What is NOT considered consent in sexual activity?

- Silence. Just because someone does not say "no" doesn't mean she is saying "yes."
- Having consented before. Just because someone said "yes" in the past does not mean that person is saying "yes" now. Consent must be part of every sexual activity, every time.
- Being in a relationship. Being married, dating, or having sexual contact with someone before does not mean that there is consent now.
- Being intoxicated or under the influence of drugs.
- Not fighting back. Not putting up a physical fight does not mean that there is consent.
- Sexy clothing, dancing, or flirting. What a woman or girl wears or how she behaves does not show consent for sexual activity.
- Only a verbal "yes" means "yes" to sexual activity.

## PREVENTION 8 SAFETY TIPS

If you assaulted, or if you find yourself in a situation that feels unsafe, it is not your fault. Sexual assault is never the victim's fault, no matter what she was wearing, drinking, or doing at the time of the assault. You can't prevent sexual assault, but you can take steps to be safer around others:

- Go to parties or gatherings with friends. Arrive together, check in with each other, and leave together. Talk about your plans for the evening so that everyone knows what to expect.
- Meet first dates or new people in a public place.
- Listen to your instincts or "gut feelings." Many victims who are sexually assaulted know the abuser. If you find yourself alone with someone you don't trust, leave. Don't worry about hurting someone's feelings or being disliked.
- If you feel uncomfortable in any situation for any reason, leave. If the person is preventing you
  from leaving, try to get someone else's attention who can help you get to safety. You are the only
  person who gets to say whether you feel safe.

https://www.emedicinehealth.com/sexual\_assault/article\_em.htm

## You can't prevent sexual assault, but you can take steps to be safer around others:

- Look out for your friends, and ask them to look out for you. You can play a
  powerful role in preventing sexual assault of other people.
- If a friend seems out of it and is acting out of character, or seems too drunk to stay safe in general, get your friend to a safe place. Ask your friends to do the same for you.
- Have a code word with your family and friends that means "Come get me; I need help" or "Call me with a fake emergency." Call or text them and use the code word to let them know you need help.

https://www.emedicinehealth.com/sexual\_assault/article\_em.htm

## You can't prevent sexual assault, but you can take steps to be safer around others:

- Download an app on your phone. Search in your phone's app store for free women's safety apps you can download and use if you feel unsafe or are threatened. Some apps share your location with your friends or the police if you need help. You can also set up an app to send you texts throughout the night to make sure you're safe. If you don't respond, the app will notify police.
- Be aware of how much you drink. Research shows that about half of sexual assault victims had been drinking when the attack happened. Drinking alcohol does not make the attack your fault, but alcohol -- and drugs -- can make it more likely that you will be drunk or high later on. If you are drunk or high, you cannot consent to sexual activity or you may not understand what is happening.
- Keep control of your own drink, because someone could add alcohol or date rape drugs to it.

https://www.emedicinehealth.com/sexual assault/article em.htm

## You can't prevent sexual assault, but you can take steps to be safer around others:

- Get help or leave right away if you feel drunk and haven't drunk any alcohol or if the effects of alcohol feel stronger than usual. This can happen if someone put a date rape drug or any kind of drug into your drink. Many drugs have no smell or taste and can cause you to pass out and not remember what happened.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- If you're <u>walking</u> alone, don't wear headphones so you can hear what's happening around you. Also, as much as you can, stay in busy, well-lit areas, especially at night. Have a plan to get home.
- If you plan to use a ride share service from an app, make sure your phone is charged or bring a charger. It can help to have a credit card or cash on hand if you need to leave quickly.

https://www.emedicinehealth.com/sexual\_assault/article\_em.htm

## **GET HELP**

After sexual assault, it's hard to know how to react. You may be physically hurt, emotionally drained, or unsure what to do next. You may be considering working with the criminal justice system, but are unsure of where to start.

#### Alliance against Violence and Sexual Assault

#### **Emergency Hotline**

The Alliance hotline is a confidential non-judgmental support service where staff and volunteers are available to provide emotional support, advocacy, information and referrals. If you or someone you care about has been a victim of sexual assault, domestic violence or stalking, please call our 24- hour crisis line.

- Toll Free: (800) 273-7713
- LGBTQ Hotline: (661) 322-2869
- 24-Hour Crisis Hotline: (661) 327-1091

If you are not from this region you can find help through dialing the national hotlines.

Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network (RAINN)

• 800.656.HOPE (4673)

National Domestic Violence Hotline:

- 800.799.SAFE (7233)
- 800.787.3224 TDD

https://kernalliance.org/get-help/

# TAFT COLLEGE SUPPORTS YOU!

• THE LINK BELOW WILL TAKE YOU TO THE INCIDENT REPORT ONLINE FORM. PLEASE USE THIS WEBSITE TO REPORT CRIMES.

 HTTPS://WWW.TAFTCOLLEGE.EDU/SAFETY/CAMPUS-SAFETY/INCIDENT-REPORTING-FORM/