

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS



Compiled by Shavonne J. Moore
(2009) Michigan State University
Sexual Assault Program



Did You Know That...

- Women ages 16 to 24 are 4 times more likely to be raped than other women
- 71% of rapes are planned in advance
- Rape is the most common violent crime on American college campuses today

U.S. Department of Justice COPS Publication: Acquaintance Rape of College Students

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Did You Know That...

- Alcohol is the #1 date-rape drug used to facilitate sexual assault
- College women are more at risk than other women the same age NOT in college
- An estimated 25% of college women have been victims of rape or attempted rape since age 14

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Definitions

SEXUAL ASSAULT: Any type of sexual **conduct or contact** that is nonconsensual, forced or coerced, or when the victim is incapable of giving consent because of her/his temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity or because of her/his youth.



Definitions

RAPE: Nonconsensual, forced or coerced sexual **penetration** against the will of the victim or when the victim is incapable of giving consent because of her/his temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity or because of her/his youth.



Definitions

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: Unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome requests for sexual favors, and other unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature.



Definitions

RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE: A pattern of power and control that one person exercises over another in an ongoing, intimate relationship. Many tactics are used in relationship violence, including emotional, physical or sexual abuse; isolation; economic control; threats; abuse of animals; and using children.



Definitions

CONSENT: To agree or willingly engage in an activity. To give permission or approval.

According to Michigan law, a person who is intoxicated is considered to be incapacitated and therefore unable to give consent.



RAPE CULTURE

RAPE CULTURE: A complex belief system that encourages male sexual aggression & supports violence against women.

(Buchwald, E., et al, Transforming A Rape Culture, 1993)



Rape Culture

- Where violence is seen as sexy and sexuality as violent.
- Women experience a continuum of violence.
- Where physical and emotional violence against women is accepted.
- When both men and women assume sexual violence is a fact of life, inevitable.



- Myth:

- Most rapes occur because of how the victim dressed or behaved.

- **FACT:**

- A PERSON'S ACTIONS AND BEHAVIORS DO NOT PROVOKE OR INVITE RAPE. RAPES ARE MOST OFTEN PREMEDITATED CRIMES.**



- Myth:

- Men are not raped.

- **FACT:**

- 1 IN 6 MEN WILL BE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED IN THEIR LIFETIME (NIJ, 2002). MEN ARE RAPED FOR VERY SIMILAR REASONS AS WOMEN ARE RAPED: POWER AND CONTROL. MEN CAN BE ASSAULTED BY WOMEN AND BY OTHER MEN.**



- Myth:

- Rapes are committed by strangers at night in dark alleys.

- **FACT:**

- **IN 3 OUT OF 4 RAPES, THE VICTIM KNEW THEIR RAPIST (NIJ, 2002). RAPE CAN OCCUR IN ANY SETTING AND AT ANY TIME.**



The Function of Rape Myths

- Myths prevail because they serve a social function.
- Myths allow people to feel safe.
- Myths enable us to believe we live in a just world.
- Myths allow us to believe we can prevent future rapes.

Date Rape Drugs

Types of drugs:

- Rohypnol
 - Powerful benzodiazepine (depressant). 4 x stronger than Valium
- Ketamine
 - Dissociative anesthetic that has combination of stimulant, depressant, hallucinogenic and analgesic properties.
- GHB
 - Powerful central nervous system depressant used for its euphoric and sedative effects
- Soma/Flexeril
 - A common prescription muscle relaxant and central nervous system depressant



Date Rape Drugs

Some signs of being drugged:

- Intoxication that does not correspond to amount of alcohol consumed.
- Unexplained gaps in memory.
- Altered levels of consciousness.

**If you suspect you have been drugged,
get medical attention immediately.**



Barriers of Reporting to Law Enforcement

**Approximately 70% of victims do not
report the crime to law enforcement.**

Promising Practices: Law Enforcement Responses (2000)

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Barriers of Reporting to Law Enforcement

- Fear of retaliation
- Very personal violation/embarrassed
- Fear of being blamed/judged
- Family/community pressure
- Re-victimization navigating the criminal justice system
- Low prosecution rates

Barriers of Reporting to Law Enforcement

- Limited access to resources
- Caregivers are often perpetrators
- Institutionalized homophobia
- Language barriers for international students
- Words like “rape” or “sexual assault” may not exist in other languages
- Fear reporting will jeopardize visa or status in country



Personal Risk Reduction

- Trust your instincts and intuition. If a situation doesn't feel right, it probably isn't!
- Avoid being alone in an isolated location (residence hall, apartment, or car) with someone you don't know well.
- Be sure you have ways to get out of a situation independent of your date.
- Use your voice. Set boundaries, say "no," and speak out.
- Go to parties in groups and return with everyone.



Personal Risk Reduction

- Monitor & limit alcohol consumption, especially with new people or in an unfamiliar setting.
- Don't drink from any container that you haven't opened yourself
- Keep your doors locked, particularly when you are not in your room or when you are sleeping
- Do not prop open doors to the outside of any building.



Community Accountability

- Be an informed and vigilant member of your community
- Seek consent for all sexual contact.
- If a friend or acquaintance talks about a plan to “trick” or force someone into sex, let them know that they are committing a felony crime: rape.
- Speak out for those who can’t speak. If you witness someone taking an intoxicated person to a private location, stop them.
- Call 911 if someone is in imminent danger and you are unable to safely intervene.


If you have been sexually assaulted...

- Know that it is not your fault. Nothing you did before, during, or after the assault can justify or condone the crime that was committed against you.
- The MSU Police's Sexual Assault Response Guarantee ensures that victims are treated with sensitivity and dignity. The Guarantee can be found at:
www.dpps.msu.edu/guarantee.asp
- Report any incident as soon as possible. Call the police, a friend, the **24-hour sexual assault hotline at 517-372-6666**.




If you have been sexually assaulted...

- Do not shower, brush your teeth, or change your clothes until evidence can be collected, even if you are not sure that you want to participate in a criminal investigation at this time.
- FREE evidence collection and medical examination can be completed at Sparrow Hospital's Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program by specially trained nurses (364-3641).
- Free and anonymous HIV testing is available through Olin Health Education (353-0718). Confidential STI testing is also available for a small fee.



If you know someone who has been sexually assaulted...

- Believe the survivor and tell the survivor that you believe him or her.
- Do not blame the survivor for the assault. Reassure them that this was not their fault.
- Encourage them to make their own decisions. Do not take control of the situation yourself.
- Listen to the survivor when they are ready to speak about what happened.
- Accept the survivor's reactions, whatever they may be. Know that each person will cope with the assault in their own way.



If you know someone who has been sexually assaulted...

- Address immediate concerns, particularly medical and legal issues. Help identify options and information.
- Help identify a support system for the survivor, and encourage her or him to seek counseling.
- Be patient and allow the survivor to recover at their own rate and in their own way.
- Get support for yourself. You have been impacted by the assault and will need to cope with it as well.
- Confront your own fears and prejudices about sexual assault.

Resources & Support



- **MSU Sexual Assault Program**
 - 24-hour hotline: 517-372-6666
 - Program office: 517-355-3551
- **MSU Counseling Center**
 - 517-355-8270
- **MSU Police & Public Safety**
 - 517-355-2221
- **Sparrow Hospital Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program**
 - 517-364-3641
- **Olin Health Center**
 - 517-355-4510
- **The Listening Ear**
 - 24-hour hotline: 517-337-1717
- **MSU Safe Place**
 - 517-355-1100
- **MSU Women's Resource Center**
 - 517-353-1635
- **East Lansing Police**
 - 517-351-4220
- **Eve, Inc.**
 - 24-hour hotline: 517-372-5572