

How can I help a friend?

Sexual assault is a traumatic experience. If a friend tells you they have been sexually assaulted, the most important response is to believe them. **It is never the victim's fault.**

- Encourage them to seek medical attention and **consider** reporting to law enforcement and campus officials.
- Be supportive by listening, and don't ask blaming questions (e.g., "What were you wearing?")
- Encourage them to call the local rape crisis center for support.
- Allow them to make decisions without feeling judged.
- Do not tell others what happened without your friend's permission.
- Be informed. Know what support is available on campus for victims of interpersonal violence.
- Take **ACT**ion. If you notice a situation that has the potential to become unsafe, trust your instincts. Take action to safely intervene.
 - ✓ Assume responsibility.
 - ✓ Consider your options.
 - ✓ Take action. Check in with friends. Your one action can help prevent violence.

Someone is waiting to listen and to help.

Resources for Victims of Sexual Violence and Stalking

AWAY-Advocating a Way for Adults and Youth
Beckley
304-255-2559

Centers Against Violence
Elkins
800-339-1185
Text line 304-840-SAFE

CONTACT Huntington
Huntington
1-866-399-7273

Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center
Martinsburg
304-263-8292

Family Crisis Center
Keyser
1-800-698-1240

Family Crisis Intervention Center
Parkersburg
1-800-794-2335

Family Refuge Center
Lewisburg
304-645-6334

HOPE, Inc.
Fairmont
304-367-1100

Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center
Morgantown
304-292-5100

REACH The Counseling Connection
Charleston
304-340-3676

Sexual Assault Help Center
Wheeling
800-884-7242

Stop Abusive Family Environments
Welch
800-688-6157

National Sexual Assault Hotline
1-800-656-HOPE (4673)



What Every Student Should Know...



West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services
www.fris.org

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Defining Sexual Violence on Campus

Sexual misconduct and harassment are not tolerated on college campuses, and students are protected under the Title IX Education Amendments Act of 1972.

"Sexual harassment" is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including but not limited to unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; or other verbal or nonverbal conduct of a sexual nature, including rape, sexual assault, and sexual exploitation. In addition, dating violence and stalking are covered under Title IX when they create or contribute to sex-based discrimination or limit a student's ability to access educational programs or activities.

Sexual violence is any unwanted sexual contact that lacks consent (e.g., attempted or completed intercourse, touching, etc.).



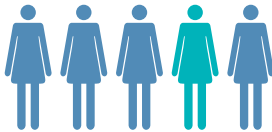
For more information, review your institution's Sexual Misconduct Policy. If a student reports and believes the college has not sufficiently addressed their complaint related to sex-based harassment, they can contact the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights at www.ed.gov.

What is Consent?

Consent involves an act of free will, absent of coercion, intimidation, threat or threat of force. A person cannot give consent if they are impaired by the influence of alcohol or drugs. The individual initiating an act is responsible for obtaining consent.

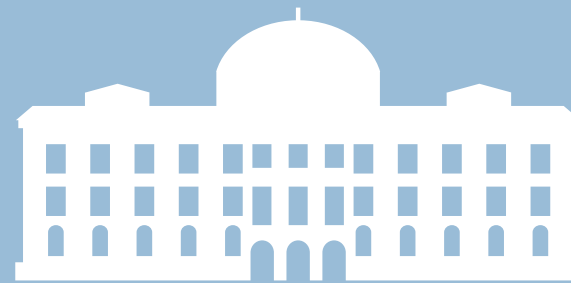
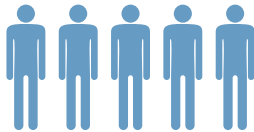
Facts About Sexual Assault

1 in 5 women experience sexual violence during college



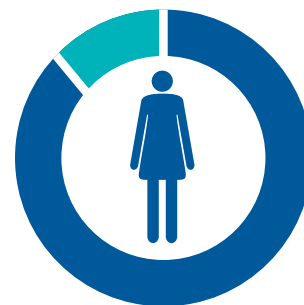
18-24 year old women are more likely to experience sexual assault

1 in 16 men experience sexual violence during college



60% of campus sexual assaults occur at the victim's residence

Most sexual assaults are planned in advance and committed by someone the victim knows and trusts.



80% of survivors know the perpetrator

Proceed with Caution

Be cautious of individuals who...

- act too jealous or possessive
- become aggressive when 'turned down'
- don't respect your opinions or choices
- encourage you to drink more than you want
- express sexist attitudes and behaviors
- ignore your personal space
- isolate you from friends
- try to make you feel guilty or that you 'owe' them something

Data sources include research by A. Abbey; Campus Answers, 2014; OJP Bureau of Justice Statistics; CDC NISVS; RAINN.org and are available upon request.



70% or more of campus sexual assaults involve alcohol

