Sexual Assault/Date Rape

**Sexual Assault** is any forced sexual contact from unwanted touching to penetration.

**Rape**, a felony, is a sexual assault in which a man uses his penis to commit vaginal penetration of a victim against her will, by force or threats of force, or when she is physically or mentally unable to give her consent (this could include being under the influence of alcohol). Forced oral or anal copulation or penetration by a foreign object however slight for the purpose of sexual arousal, gratification or abuse may also meet the definition of rape.

Rape can also refer to sexual acts with a consenting person that the law defines as too young to legally consent. This is **statutory rape**.

When most of us think of rape or sexual assault we think about the unkempt stranger who jumps out of the bushes to attack us. However, the truth is that most sexual assault and rape are committed by someone the victim knows. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1997, indicate the 77% of rapes are committed by someone known to the person. It may be a classmate, the guy who lives down the street, a friend, or a blind date.

Although both men and women can be raped, 91% of the victims of rape are female, 9% are male, and 99% of the offenders are male (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1999).

The number of sexual assaults on college campuses is unknown as victims rarely report the crime to authorities. However, of those crimes that are reported, women in the age range from 18-24 are at the greatest risk of being raped. All women are vulnerable to rape no matter what their age, race, class, or physical appearance. An overwhelming majority of the rapes occur when the rapist, victim, or both are under the influence of alcohol.
What To Do If You Are Raped

1. Get to a safe place. If you choose to do so, call the police.

2. Contact someone for help and support. This may include a trusted friend or family member, or a counselor from University Counseling Services or a rape treatment center.

3. Do not bathe, douche, or change clothes if you have been raped or sodomized. If you choose to pursue legal action, evidence will need to be preserved.

4. Go to a hospital emergency room for medical care. If the police take you there, they are required to make a report. However, in most cases, charges will only be pursued if you elect to do so.

5. Write down as much as you can remember about the circumstances of the assault and the identity of your assailant.

6. Seek counseling, information, and legal assistance from a rape treatment center.

Resources

Police

911
University Counseling Services
520 Bayramian Hall
(818) 677-2366, TTY (818) 677-7834

Valley Trauma Center
(818) 886-0453 (V/TTY)

Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center
(310) 319-4000

Pacific Asian Rape and Battering Hotline
(213) 653-4042

L.A. Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW) Rape and Battery Hotline
(213) 626-3393
(310) 392-8381

Student Health Center
(818) 677-3666
TTY (818) 677-3692

CSUN Women's Center
On Campus Safety Escort Service

Available from dusk to 11 p.m. weekday nights

(818) 677-5042/5048

Resources

Women’s Rights Handbook—Chapter 7; Violent Crimes

http://caag.state.ca.us/publications/womensrights/ch7.htm#1b

CSUN Sexual Assault/Date Rape Handout

Date Rape/Sexual Assault Policy Committee

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