

## 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

**CONTACT** of Huntington, Inc.  
Rape Crisis Center  
Huntington  
1-866-399-7273

**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  
304-234-8519

**Shenandoah Women's Center**  
Martinsburg  
304-263-8292

**Women's Aid In Crisis**  
Elkins  
1-800-339-1185

**Women's Resource Center**  
Beckley  
304-255-2559

Or

**The National Sexual Assault Hotline**  
**1-800-656-HOPE**



## What Every Student Should Know...



**West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services**

[www.fris.org](http://www.fris.org)



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# Defining Sexual Violence on Campus

Sex and gender-based 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, depending on the facts, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking may also be forms of sexual harassment. ([www.notalone.gov](http://www.notalone.gov))



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

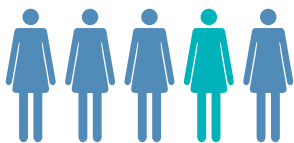
For more information, review your institution’s Sexual Misconduct Policy. If a student reports and believes the college has not sufficiently addressed their complaint related to sex or gender-based harassment, they can contact the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights at [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

# 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 are sexually assaulted on campus.



**1 in 16** men are sexually assaulted on campus.



**60%** of campus sexual assaults occur at the victim’s residence.

# 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

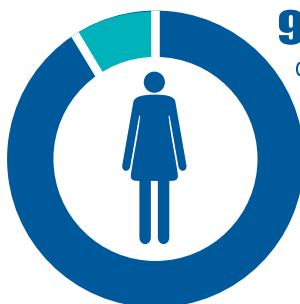
Data sources include research by A. Abbey; Campus Answers, 2014; OJP Bureau of Justice Statistics; CDC NISVS; Forge; International Journal of Transgenderism, and are available upon request.



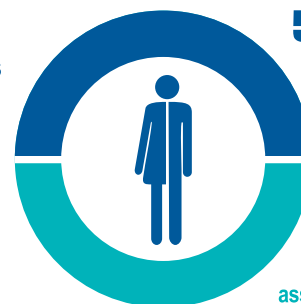
# Most sexual assaults are planned in advance and committed by someone the victim knows and trusts.

Women between the ages of 18-24 are more likely to experience sexual assault.

**[18-24]**



**90%** of females know their attacker.



**50%** of transgender people will experience sexual violence in their lifetime. LGB individuals experience sexual assault at rates equal to or higher than heterosexuals.

**75%** or more of campus sexual assaults involve alcohol.

