

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 thing you can do is 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., "Did you tell him to stop?")
- Encourage them to call the local rape crisis center.
- Allow them to make decisions without feeling judged.
- Do not tell others what happened without your friend's permission.
- Take **ACT**ion. If you notice a situation that has the potential to become unsafe, trust your instincts and take action to 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, Inc.
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)



Sexual assault 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

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.

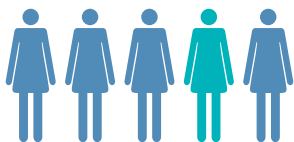
Proceed with Caution

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

Facts About Sexual Assault

1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted on campus.



1 in 16 men are sexually assaulted on campus.



Nearly **60%** of sexual assaults occur in the victim's residence hall.

75%

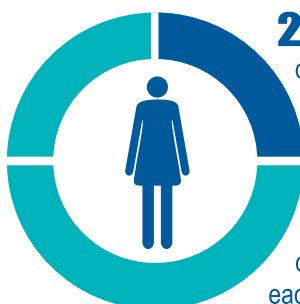
of campus sexual assaults involve alcohol.



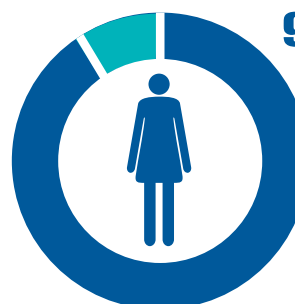
Most sexual assaults are planned in advance and committed by someone the victim knows and trusts.

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

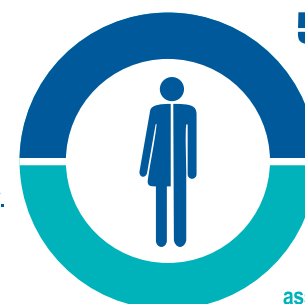
(18-24)



20-25% of females will be victims of rape or attempted rape on campus each year.



90% of these victims 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.