

Drugs Used to Facilitate Rape

Sexual assaults can be facilitated by the use of drugs, both "street" and legal. While alcohol is often a factor in sexual assaults, illegal drugs (also called "club drugs") can be a factor.

Drugs used to commit rape include Ecstasy, GHB, Ketamine and Rohypnol.

Ecstasy (MDMA) is a small colored pill with an imprint that is rarely used with alcohol. Users drink large amounts of water to prevent side effects. It is a stimulant that can cause teeth grinding, sweats, chills, dehydration, heart or kidney failure due to the increased heart rate and blood pressure. It can damage parts of the brain that are critical to thought and memory. It is commonly found at all night dance parties known as "raves". Ecstasy can suppress the need to eat, drink or sleep and can reduce sexual inhibitions.

GHB (Liquid G, Scoop) has a salty or plastic taste. GHB is often disguised in margaritas and other fruity drinks. This drug can cause nausea, respiratory problems, seizures, involuntary muscle jerking, sudden vomiting, loss of consciousness, coma and death.

Ketamine (Special K, Vitamin K, KitKat) is a close relative of PCP and can cause similar violent behavioral effects. Ketamine is used as a general anesthetic in veterinary surgeries and for burn dressing changes. It can cause slurred speech, an unsteady gait, mechanical movements, monotone speech and hallucinations.

Rohypnol (Roofies, Ruffies, R-2, Roaches) is illegal in the U.S. It is available only in pill form that is odorless and tasteless. It dissolves quickly in liquids and is 7-10 times stronger than valium. Effects begin within 20-30 minutes of ingestion. The strongest effects occur within 1-2 hours. This drug can cause amnesia for up to 8 hours after 1 dose. It also causes slurred speech, loss of muscle control, decreased pulse and increased blood pressure.

The Law

Someone who is drunk or drugged cannot give consent to sex. If someone has sex with you while you are in such an incapacitated condition, it is sexual assault.

Simple possession of drugs used to facilitate sexual assault is punishable by up to 3 years in prison and a fine.

Administering these drugs to another person without their knowledge and with the intent to commit a violent crime (including rape) is punishable by up to 20 years in prison and a fine.

**Call
us.**

**Someone is waiting
to listen and to help.**

**For more information contact one of the
following centers in your area.**

**CONTACT Huntington
Rape Crisis Counseling**

Huntington
304-399-1111

Family Refuge Center

Lewisburg
304-645-6334

Family Service REACH Program

Charleston
304-340-3676

Hope, Inc.

Fairmont
304-367-1100

**Rape and Domestic Violence
Information Center**

Morgantown
304-292-5100

**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

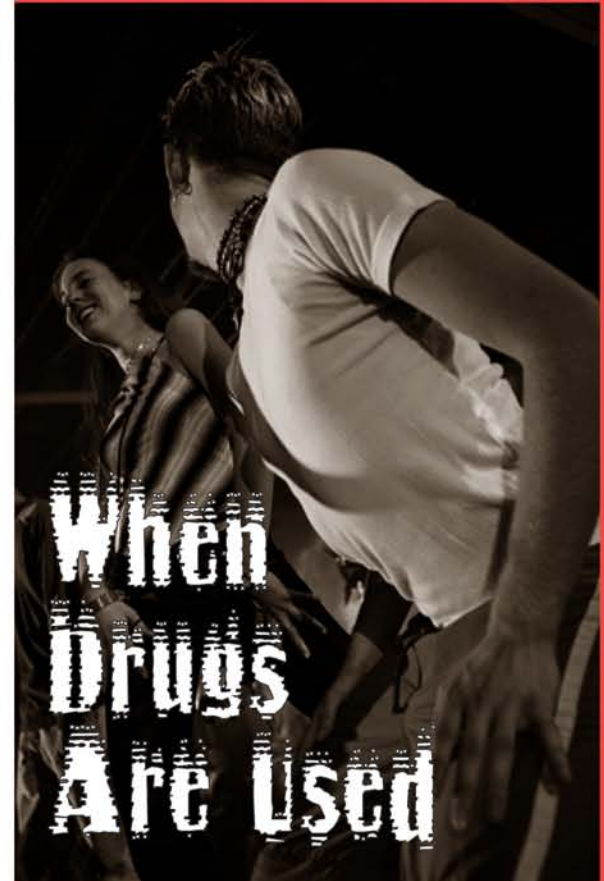
Or

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



West Virginia Foundation for
Rape Information and Services, Inc.

112 Braddock Street, Fairmont, WV 26554
304-366-9500 FAX 304-366-9501



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www.fris.org

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75% of all acquaintance rapes involve alcohol and/or drugs.

How Does It Happen?

Someone secretly drops a drug in your drink. When the drug dissolves, it is colorless and odorless. It may also be tasteless. As you consume the drink, the drug takes effect.

Effects from the drug can begin within 15 to 30 minutes of ingestion. You may experience drowsiness, dizziness, confusion, lack of coordination, slurred speech, loss of inhibition, impaired judgment and reduced levels of consciousness. You are incapacitated and physically helpless. You cannot escape, resist or even call out for help. You are incapable of giving consent. You are raped.

You may be unconscious during all or part of the act. You may have amnesia even when conscious. You may appear to “participate” at some stages. Afterwards, you may not remember what happened or who participated and therefore may not immediately report that you have been raped.

These drugs are especially dangerous when combined with alcohol or other drugs. The mixture can be lethal.

It happened to me.

What do I do now?



It Could Happen To You.

You May Have Been Drugged If...

You feel more intoxicated than your usual response to the amount of alcohol you consumed.

You wake up very hung over, feeling “fuzzy,” experiencing memory lapse, and can’t account for a period of time.

You remember taking a drink but cannot recall what happened after you consumed the drink.

You think someone had sex with you but you can’t remember little, if anything, about what happened.

Reduce the Risk... Take Care of Yourself.

- Don't drink beverages that you did not open yourself.
- Don't share or exchange drinks with anyone.
- Don't take a drink from a punch bowl.
- Don't drink from a container that is being passed around.
- If someone offers you a drink from the bar at a club or a party, accompany the person to get your drink, watch the drink being poured and carry the drink yourself.
- Don't leave your drink unattended while talking, dancing, using the restroom or making a phone call.
- If you leave your drink unattended, discard it.
- Don't drink anything that has an unusual taste or appearance (e.g., salty taste, excessive foam, unexplained residue).
- Don't mix different types of alcoholic beverages.
- Don't mix drugs and alcohol.
- Limit alcohol consumption so you are better able to assess your surroundings, especially if you are in a group setting or with someone you do not know well or trust.
- When drinking alcohol in social settings, make arrangements with a friend to leave together.

If You Think You've Been Drugged and Sexually Assaulted...

Get help immediately.

Get to a safe place.

Ask a trusted friend to stay with you and assist you in getting the help you need.

Call 911.

Preserve as much physical evidence as possible. Do not urinate, shower, bathe, douche or throw away the clothing you were wearing during the incident. If possible, save any other materials that might provide evidence, such as the glass that held your drink.

Get medical care.

Go to a hospital emergency department as soon as possible for an examination and evidence collection.

Request that the hospital take a urine sample for drug toxicology testing to be done by your law enforcement agency's crime lab. A special test must be conducted to detect any date rape drug in a urine specimen.

The first urine after the assault should be saved in a clean container. Preferably the urine should be collected at the hospital. The likelihood of detecting drugs used to commit the assault lessens each time you urinate.

Most importantly, remember that whether you follow these tips or not, if someone sexually assaults you, it's not your fault. You are never to blame for someone else's actions.

Call your local rape crisis center or the **National Sexual Assault Hotline (1-800-656-HOPE)** for information and support.

The National Sexual Assault Hotline

1-800-656-HOPE