

Sexual Assault

About Sexual Assault...

Sexual Assault is any forced or coerced sexual intercourse or contact. It is a crime of violence in which assailants, whether known to the victim or not, are motivated by a desire to humiliate and/or exert power over the victim. (Refer to Wisconsin State Statutes 940.225 and 948.02.)

Any sexual contact that is unwanted is sexual assault. This crime isn't limited to happening only by strangers as some may think. Often, the attacker is someone that the victim knows.

What to do if you are a victim of sexual assault...

- Get to a safe place and seek medical attention right away.
- Do not shower, bathe, or change clothes.
- Leave the area where the assault occurred. Do not attempt to clean it up.
- Report the crime to the police or campus security.
- Seek help from a counselor

The most important thing a sexual assault victim can do is to tell someone (the police, a friend, family member or a counselor). The victim should not be alone or feel guilty.

Alcohol and Sexual Assault

There is a dangerous connection between alcohol consumption and sexual assault. The majority of occurrences of sexual assault involve alcohol, especially on college campuses.

Alcohol has effects that can leave someone vulnerable to being involved in sexual assault, for both men and women. Some of these affects are impaired judgement, dizziness, confusion, drowsiness and even unconsciousness. Communication is affected with alcohol consumption and making decisions about sex when someone is intoxicated is dangerous. Alcohol can make it difficult to set

limits and keep them. Being intoxicated is NEVER an excuse for sexual assault!

Also, there are certain drugs that may be used in an assault such as Rohypnol and GHB. These drugs are sedatives and can make you unconscious. In some cases users may not be able to remember what happened for a period of time. This makes the users easy to be taken advantage of. They are often secretly dropped into beverages, which makes it very important to watch where and who you get your drinks from.

Helpful Tips for Safety

- Never walk alone at night
- Use the "buddy system." If you go out at night take a friend with you and watch out for each other.
- Be assertive in your relationships. Make sure your feelings about everything, especially sexual issues, are well communicated. It is okay for you to decide not to have sex.
- Be careful when drinking. Do not leave any beverages unattended.
- Only accept drinks from the bartender or server.
- Be aware of the behavior of your friends and have them watch out for you also. If you feel groggy after 1 or 2 drinks, call a friend, family member or the police to take you home or to a hospital.

Where can you go for help?

Here are some resources you can go to if you suspect that you have sexually assaulted and/or drugged...

UWSP Protective services, 346-3456
St. Michael's Hospital Emergency Room,
346-5100
Sexual Assault Victims Service, 345-6511
Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities,
346-2611
Office of Student Health Promotion, 346-4313

