

According to the Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault, sexual assault is any sexual activity that is against another person's will including: rape (attempted rape), sodomy/aggravated sodomy, child molestation, fondling, sexual harassment, indecent exposure, stalking, peeping toms, sexual battery.

What is Sexual Assault?

Any sexual activity that is against another person's will.



Types of Rape

While the following list of types of rape is by no means comprehensive, we hope this page will provide you with a general overview of the variety of circumstances in which rape occurs. Additional forms of rape include, but are not limited to, prison rape, incest, sexual exploitation, and gang rape or multiple offender rape.

Drug-Facilitated Rape

A drug-facilitated assault is one in which drugs or alcohol is used to compromise an individual's ability to consent to sexual activity. Drugs and alcohol also minimize the victim's memory and ability to resist the perpetrator. Several substances are being used by perpetrators against rape victims including Rohypnol, GHB, and GBL, but alcohol remains the most commonly used chemical in crimes of sexual assault. (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network)

Marital or Spouse Rape

No means no and Rape is rape regardless of the relationship between the victim and the

perpetrator.

While several states make exceptions for marital rape, the state of Georgia removed marital rape exemptions in 1996 and currently makes no distinction between marital rape and stranger rape. Marital rape can be defined as any unwanted intercourse or penetration (vaginal, anal, or oral) obtained by force, threat of force, or when the wife is unable to consent. (Bergen, 1996; Pagelow, 1984; Russell, 1990).

Research suggests that marital rape accounts for 25% of all rapes. Research indicates that between 1/3 and 1/2 of battered women are raped by their partners and that sexual abuse is characteristic of most violent relationships.

Acquaintance or Non-Stranger Rape

Sexual Assault stories that feature strangers hiding in bushes garner a great deal of attention. While these instances are traumatic, far more rapes are committed by acquaintances of the

victim (a friend, date, neighbor, acquaintance, etc.) than most people realize. In fact, seventy-seven (77) % of completed rapes are committed by non-strangers (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1997). A woman is four times more likely to be raped by an acquaintance than by a stranger. (Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 2002).

Instances of acquaintance rape are particularly difficult for the victim, who may encounter the perpetrator at school, work, around town, or socializing with friends and suffer feelings of humiliation and fear. Victims of acquaintance rape are far less likely to report the assault and may feel inclined to blame themselves for the assault. Less than 2% of acquaintance rape victims reported the assault whereas 21% of women raped by strangers reported the crime to police (Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 2002).

Acquaintance rape is often referenced as 'date rape' when the perpetrator and victim are

dating. Regardless of whether a rape occurs on the first date or years later, rape is rape. Often, date rape is a factor in an unhealthy relationship. Below is a widely published account of the Dater's Bill of Rights.

A Dater's Bill of Rights

1. I have the right to refuse a date without feeling guilty.
2. I can ask for a date without feeling rejected or inadequate if the answer is no.
3. I do not have to act macho.
4. If I don't want physical closeness, I have the right to say no.
5. I have the right to start a relationship slowly, to say, "I want to know you better before I become involved."
6. I have the right to be myself without changing to suit others.
7. I have the right to my own body, thoughts, opinions, and property.
8. I have the right to change a relationship when my feelings change. I can say, "We used to be close, but I want something else now."
9. If I am told a relationship is changing, I have the right not to blame or change myself to keep it going.
10. I have the right to an equal relationship with my partner.
11. I have the right not to

dominate or to be dominated.

12. I have the right to choose and keep my friends.

13. I have the right to change my goals whenever I want to.

14. I have the right to change my mind about having sexual contact, and I have the right to stop sexual contact at any time.

15. I have the right to tell someone I do not like the way I have been treated and to end the date or relationship.

16. I have the right to be treated with respect

Elder Abuse/Sexual Assault

The dependent status of some elders makes them especially vulnerable to sexual assault.

The Atlanta Legal Aids Society defines elder abuse/sexual abuse, a form of physical abuse, as non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an elder. Sexual contact with any person incapable of giving consent is also considered sexual abuse. It includes unwanted touching, all types of sexual assault or battery, such as rape, sodomy, coerced nudity, and sexually explicit photographing.

Only 30% of rape/sexual assault victims age 65 or older reported to the police. During a three year study of elder sexual abuse, it was more common for there to be at least one witness to the sexual abuse (76.2%) than for it to

occur without being witnessed (23.8%).

During a three year study of elder sexual abuse, 16.7% of elder sexual abuse victims lived with family members while the majority (83.3%) lived in a nursing home or other adult care facility.

Male Rape

Acts of sexual violence are weapons used by the perpetrator to assert dominance, power, and control while attempting to humiliate the victim. Men of all shapes, sizes, colors, and sexualities are sexually violated, but often do not report the incident or seek help in healing because they struggle with how their masculinity will be perceived or even question their masculinity themselves.

Both adult males and children are victims of sexual assault. Assaults can and do happen anywhere: homes, schools, prisons, public places, etc. 92,700 men are forcibly raped each year in the United States. (Tjaden, P. and Thonnes, 1998)

Boys are less likely than girls to report sexual abuse because of fear of retribution, the social stigma against homosexual behavior, the desire to appear self-reliant, and the concern about loss of independence following disclosure. (Holmes, W., Slap, G. 1998)

Rape crisis counselors estimate that while only one in 50 raped women report the crime to police, the rates of under-reporting among men are even higher (Brochman, 1991).

Case research suggests that male victims of sexual violence experience many of the same reactions that female victims experience including depression, anger, guilt, self-blame, sexual dysfunctions, flashbacks, and suicidal feelings (Isley, 1991). Other problems facing men include an increased sense of vulnerability, damaged self-image and emotional distancing (Mezey & King, 1989).



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