

SEXUAL ASSAULT

SAFETY AWARENESS TIPS



Sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient. Sexual assault can occur by force, coercion, pressure, intimidation, fear, threat and/or extortion. It includes but is not limited to rape, attempted rape, incest, fondling, sexual harassment and other forms of unwelcome/non-consensual sexual activity.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the United States, **376,038 WOMEN** and **104,979 MEN** reported being raped or sexually assaulted in 2023.

– rainn.org –

Victims of sexual assault and rape under the age of 18

34%

under the age of 12

64%

ages 12-17 years old

– rainn.org –



The majority of sexual assaults

55%

occur at or near the victim's home.

– rainn.org –



EVERY 68 SECONDS

another American is sexually assaulted.

– rainn.org –

More than 50% of college sexual assaults occur in either

August, September, October, or November.

– rainn.org –

PREVENTION



Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault. Always have a plan to protect yourself and your loved ones if you are ever in a victimization situation.

- **Protect yourself and loved ones:**
 - **Be Prepared** – Learn self-defense techniques, travel in groups and keep your cellphone charged and with you at all times.
 - **Be Alert** – Exercise caution when drinking and never leave your drink unattended.
 - **Be Vigilant** – Look around, make eye contact with others and be aware of individuals that have had too much to drink or look uncomfortable.
 - **Be Assertive** – Do not feel obligated to do anything you are not comfortable with and do not hesitate to yell, scream and/or make yourself “big”/ draw attention to yourself in a potentially dangerous situation.
 - **Trust Your Gut** – It is your top safety asset!
 - **Step In** – Intervention can be a great line of defense! If you feel safe, ask your friend if they need help or if they feel uncomfortable.
 - **Distract** – You can sidetrack the perpetrator by joining in the conversation or changing the subject. Ex: “I’m not feeling well, we need to leave!”, or “Will you go to the bathroom with me?”.
 - **Enlist Others** – There is safety in numbers, enlist others in the area as reinforcement to defuse a dangerous situation.

CONVERSATION



Even minors can be sexually assaulted: Talking about relationships, anti-victimization, consent, setting & respecting boundaries should be an on-going conversation.

• ASK YOUR STUDENT:

- Do you know what to do if you are ever sexually assaulted? – *Move to a safe location as soon as possible, contact authorities, seek medical attention, and request a SANE or SAFE nurse, seek counseling, and file a protective order if needed.*
- What does consent mean? What is the legal age of consent in Texas? – *Consent is not the absence of no, but the continuous presence of yes. It is a mutual agreement between participants to engage in sexual activity. The legal age of consent in Texas is 17.*
- What can you do if someone makes you feel uncomfortable in any way? – *Be assertive and tell them NO or STOP. You are not obligated to do anything you are not comfortable with.*

• ASK YOURSELF:

- Do I respect people's boundaries?
- Do I have a safety plan to protect myself from a victimization situation?
- Do I know how to seek help if I am ever sexually assaulted?

WHERE TO REPORT



- If you are in immediate danger, Call **911**!
- Call the National Sexual Violence Assault Hotline **800.656.HOPE (4673)** or visit www.rainn.org

PARTNERS & RESOURCES



- **Harris County District Attorney's Office** – app.dao.hctx.net
- **Harris County Sheriff's Office** – www.harriscountytso.org
- **Houston Police Department** – www.houstontx.gov/police
- **Harris County Public Health** – provides cost free STD testing, education, and counseling. publichealth.harriscountytx.gov
- **YMCA** – www.ymcahouston.org
- **The Montrose Center** – empowers our community—primarily lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals and their families—to live healthier, more fulfilling lives. www.montrosecenter.org

LOCAL OFFICIALS



Officer

Detains individual and contacts DA to see if they will accept charges. If charges are accepted, arrest is made and officer books individual.



DA

Analyze and gather evidence to determine whether there are grounds for prosecution. Gives approval for arrest. Makes recommendations regarding bond



Magistrate

Appointed by the judge. Given authority to sometimes determine if individual will be released on bond or detained in Jail.



Judge

Appoints magistrates and oversees outcomes of court proceedings.