

Does it affect you?



What to do

How to Prevent Acquaintance Rape:

- * Know your date well before saying yes to the date.
- * Make sure you and your family know in advance where you are going.
- * Go out with other couples and stay in public places until you can trust him.
- * Make it clear to your date if you do not intend to become sexually involved.
- * Trust your instincts. If it feels wrong, it probably is, and you should go to a safe place.
- * Be suspicious if your date orders you around or makes a conversation too personal or sexual.

What to Do if Attacked:

- * Tell him you have your period or a sexually transmitted disease.
- * Scream and run.
- * Act crazy.
- * Show no resistance if it is the only way you will survive.

If You Are Raped:

- * Call the police.
- * Call the Rape Crisis Line to talk to 24 hour volunteer staff at 273-RAPE.
- * Go to the hospital and get immediate medical attention.

Date rape stirs controversy

By Emily Duquette
Reporter

Date rape. The meaning is often misunderstood, but the term is undeniably related to violence, anger, hurt, and abuse. Date rape can happen to people of all sexes, races, socio-economic position, or ages. As early as the 1950's, nearly 33% of females on one college campus had experienced "attempted intercourse," according to the American Journal of Sociology. A more recent study from the late 1980's showed that of these rape victims, 90% knew their attacker.

Sexual contact becomes abusive when it is not consented to. Although controversial, rape can occur in marriages and long-term relationships, even if the partner had agreed to sex in the past. This fact is arguable, because many do not understand why a woman would say "no" if she agreed to many times before. Consequently, many victims don't feel they were raped, and neither do other people.

Many people argue that the definition of consensual sex depends on the situation.

Says John Cloward, a junior, "It's wrong, but she should tell him ["no"] at the very beginning, not just before it happens."

Still many people counter that the situation should not make a difference. "In a situation like that, NO means NO," said Bobby Key, a junior.

Zac Johnson, also a junior, says, "If one doesn't want to, then it is rape if they are forced to do it."

Yet another problem rape victims face is the decision to prosecute. Although legal action can be taken against the assailant to prevent further violence, many times this results in emotional trauma for the victim. Patty Yu, a senior, said, "It seems most girls would beforehand respond yes [to prosecuting their attacker], but it changes once you're in the situation. I think it would be really traumatic and the girl wouldn't know what to do."

Upon being asked what he would do if a friend were raped, Logan Barber, a junior said, "I'd tell her to take him to court."

In her book "Warning! Dating May Be Hazardous to Your Health," Claudette McShane reports that perhaps the most frightening statistic is this: a woman is more likely to be a rape victim if she is between the ages of 15 and 24. This means that it is more than likely that date rape occurs at Grimsley High School. Lindsay Kuhn, a junior, says, "I think it goes on, but I think they're a lot of people who don't realize it's rape."

"It goes on everywhere," said Cloward. There are many forms of sexual abuse, from an unwanted touch to forced sex. But if it is hurtful or unwanted, it is always abuse. This presents a challenge, because many people argue over what is "abuse." Many people feel that verbal threats or remarks should not be taken seriously but physical contact (like violence and rape) should be considered.

Anyone can be a victim. Date rape sometimes occurs with no prior warning, but being aware of aggression, constant jealousy, misogyny (a strong hate of women), or controlling behavior and making decisions at that point will help prevent it.

The Facts...

- *At least one woman is raped every minute in the U.S. -- 683,000 women are raped every year
- *A woman's risk of being raped by someone she knows is four times greater than being raped by a stranger.
- *55% of stranger rapes are reported to the police, while 19% of acquaintance rapes are reported. Of acquaintance rapes, only 2% of rapes were reported when the perpetrator was a friend of the family or a date.
- *Once every 15 seconds in the United States a woman is beaten by her husband or boyfriend.
- *Rape is the fastest growing crime in America