

Sexual Assault

URL of this page: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/sexualassault.html>

Also called: Rape

Sexual assault is any sexual activity to which you haven't freely given your consent. This includes completed or attempted sex acts that are against your will. Sometimes it can involve a victim who is unable to consent. It also includes abusive sexual contact. It can happen to men, women or children.

The attacker can be anyone - a current or former partner, a family member, a person in position of power or trust, a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger.

Sexual assault can affect your health in many ways. It can lead to long-term health and emotional problems. It is important to seek help if you have been assaulted. First, get to a safe place. Then dial 911 or go to a hospital for medical care. You may want to have counseling to deal with your feelings. The most important thing to know is that the assault was not your fault.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Start Here

- Sexual Assault [<http://womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/sexual-assault.cfm>] (Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health)
- Understanding Sexual Violence [http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/SV_factsheet-a.pdf] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - PDF

Overviews

- Rape [http://kidshealth.org/teen/safety/safebasics/rape_what_to_do.html] (Nemours Foundation)

Latest News

- Sexual Problems May Linger After Rape [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_137640.html] (06/07/2013, Reuters Health)
- Group Therapy Helps Rape Victims in Poor Countries [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_137549.html] (06/05/2013, Reuters Health)

Prevention/Screening

- Self-Defense [http://kidshealth.org/teen/safety/safebasics/self_defense.html] (Nemours Foundation)

Coping

- Common Reactions After Trauma [<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/common-reactions-after-trauma.asp>] (National Center for PTSD)
- If Your Child is Raped [<http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/talk/rape.html>] (Nemours Foundation)

Specific Conditions

- Military Sexual Trauma [http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/mst_general_factsheet.pdf] (Department of Veterans Affairs) - PDF

Related Issues

- Club Drugs (GHB, Ketamine, and Rohypnol) [<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/club-drugs-ghb-ketamine-rohypnol>] **NIH** (National Institute on Drug Abuse)
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.drugabuse.gov/es/publicaciones/drugfacts/las-drogas-de-club-ghb-ketamina-y-rohipnol>]
- Date Rape Drugs [<http://womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/date-rape-drugs.cfm>] (Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health)

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov. Rape [<http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Rape%22>] **NIH** (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov. Sex Offenses [<http://clinicaltrials.gov/search/open/condition=%22Sex+Offenses%22>] **NIH** (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Controlled trial of psychotherapy for Congolese survivors of sexual violence. [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23738545?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: War and sexual violence—mental health care for survivors. [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23738543?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Article: When pregnancy is an injury: rape, law, and culture. [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23607144?tool=MedlinePlus>]
- Sexual Assault – see more articles [[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=rape\[majr\]+AND+english\[la\]+AND+humans\[mh\]+NOT+\(letter\[pt\]+OR+editorial\[pt\]+OR+case+reports\[pt\]\)+AND+%22last+1+Year%22\[edat\]&tool=MedlinePlus](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=rape[majr]+AND+english[la]+AND+humans[mh]+NOT+(letter[pt]+OR+editorial[pt]+OR+case+reports[pt])+AND+%22last+1+Year%22[edat]&tool=MedlinePlus)]

Directories

- Violence against Women: Resources by State [<http://womenshealth.gov/violence-against-women/get-help-for-violence/resources-by-state-violence-against-women.cfm>] (Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health)

Organizations

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [<http://www.cdc.gov/>]
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/>]
- Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women [<http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/>]
- MaleSurvivor: National Organization against Male Sexual Victimization [<http://www.malesurvivor.org/>]
- National Center for PTSD [<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/>]

Statistics

- National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) [<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Highlights [http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/NISVS_FactSheet-a.pdf] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - PDF
- Rape and Sexual Assault [<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=317>] (Department of Justice)
- Sexual Violence [<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/SV-DataSheet-a.pdf>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) - PDF

Teenagers

- Date Rape [http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/relationships/date_rape.html] (Nemours Foundation)
Also available in Spanish [http://kidshealth.org/teen/en_espanol/mente/date_rape_esp.html]
- What Is Rape and Date Rape? [<http://www.girlshealth.gov/safety/saferrelationships/daterape.html>] (Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health)

Men

- Male Sexual Victimization Myths & Facts [<http://www.malesurvivor.org/myths.html>] (MaleSurvivor: National Organization against Male Sexual Victimization)
- Men and Sexual Trauma [<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/men-sexual-trauma.asp>] (National Center for PTSD)

Women

- Sexual Assault against Females [<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/sexual-assault-females.asp>] (National Center for PTSD)

Patient Handouts

- Rape [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001955.htm>]
Also available in Spanish [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish/ency/article/001955.htm>]

You may also be interested in these related encyclopedia pages:

- Rape [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001955.htm>]
- Rape prevention [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/007461.htm>]

You may also be interested in these related MedlinePlus topics:

- Domestic Violence [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/domesticviolence.html>]
- Injuries and Wounds [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/injuriesandwounds.html>]
- Social/Family Issues [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/socialfamilyissues.html>]
- Women [<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/women.html>]

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