

What is Sexual Assault?
Sexual assault is non-consensual sexual conduct, including but not limited to oral copulation, penetration by a foreign object, sexual touching/battery of a person’s genitalia or other “sexual” areas, attempted assault with the intent to commit rape, etc. People of all genders, sexualities, abilities, races, ages and marital statuses can be perpetrators and survivors of sexual assault.

What is Rape?
Rape is a non-consensual act of sexual intercourse, including sexual penetration, under any of the following circumstances: 1) by force, violence, duress, menace or fear of immediate and unlawful bodily injury to the survivor or another; 2) when under the influence of any intoxicating and anesthetic substance 3) when a person is unconscious of the nature of the act and the rapist knows it; 4) when a person is incapable of giving legal consent because of a disorder, disability, intoxication, or is underage. People of all genders, sexualities, marital statuses, abilities, races and ages can be perpetrators and survivors of rape.

Things to keep in mind:
Rape and sexual assault are never the fault of the survivor. It is the behavior of the perpetrator that is wrong. Sexual assault and rape can happen to people in all contexts, including marriage, dating relationships, friendships, child-parent interactions, employer-attendant relationships and stranger interactions. 80% of sexual assault and rapes are perpetrated by someone known to the survivor. On college campuses, 90% of survivors know their attacker.

Issues unique to LGBTQ Individuals:
- Survivors who are not “out” may find sharing and/or reporting the sexual assault difficult or impossible
- Due to lack of awareness of same-sex assault, the LGBT community may make silence appear as the only option
- If the survivor’s community is small, the fear of other’s skepticism and/or people “taking sides” may cause the survivor to keep silent
- Guilt and self-blame may lead to questioning one’s sexual identity and sexuality
- One’s own internalized homophobia may further complicate the situation
- Gay/Bi male survivors may be apprehensive to report due to fears of being ignored and/or rejected as overly sensitive due to the stereotype that they are promiscuous and invited upon themselves
- Lesbian/Bi women survivors may face being ignored or having their claims discarded if their attacker is a female because women are not socially seen as sexual perpetrators.

Safety Tips
- **Be alert when you’re on a date or at a party.** 1) Know your alcohol tolerance level and try not to exceed it; 2) Never let your drink out of your sight; 3) Use the buddy system and watch out for each other; 4) Decide now what your sexual and relationship boundaries are and communicate your feelings and sexual expectations clearly; 5) Decide now how to handle situations when someone is not respecting your boundaries; 6) If you see a person attempting to have sex with someone who is intoxicated, try to intervene or call 911.
• **Be safe while you’re on the streets.** 1) Walk in well-lit, public areas; 2) Walk confidently and at a steady, brisk pace; 3) Travel with a friend or call the night escort service; 4) Walk close to the curb and avoid bushes, doorways, and alleys where someone could hide; 5) Carry your keys ready at all times (they can be used as weapons if necessary)

• **Take self defense classes and know how to respond if you are attacked**

• **Make sure your home and vehicle are secure** 1) Lock all doors and windows when you leave and lock the doors when you are inside; 2) Leave lights on in your home if you plan to return after dark; 3) Check inside and around your car before getting inside and after entering, and immediately lock the doors once you are inside.

• **See our “Safe Partying” Info Sheet for more safety tips.**

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### What can I do if I am raped and/or sexually assaulted?

• **Don’t blame yourself**—it was not your fault

• **Go to a safe place as soon as possible** (ie: police station, hospital, public place, etc.)

• **Preserve all physical evidence.** Don’t wash, shower, or brush your teeth. If you have to change, keep the clothes you were wearing in a paper bag.

• **Contact someone you trust to help you through it.**

• **Get medical attention.** You can call any hospital’s emergency room. Make sure they test you for pregnancy and all STDs.

• **If you want to, ask for a rape crisis counselor to be with you at the hospital or police station** (these are licensed counselors who offer support and confidentiality to survivors)

• **Find out your options** - contact the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Center or the Campus Assault Resources and Education office.

• **Call a counselor.** UCI Counseling Center: http://www.counseling.uci.edu/

• **Call the police.** If you do not wish to press charges, you can file an anonymous report. This is extremely important: filing a report is not the same as pressing charges, but will allow the police to have the name of the accused on file. This also helps the police to understand how prevalent these crimes are in your area.

• **If you were raped or sexually assaulted a long time ago (ie: as a child), find a counselor who can help you decide if you can still report it and can help you work through it.**

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### What to do if someone confides in me?

• Believe them

• Listen to them and ask how you can assist

• Respect their confidentiality - Do NOT tell anyone unless they ask you to

• Do not judge them - Keep in mind that they came to you because they trust you

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### Resources:

**Student Health Center**
501 Student Health
Irvine, CA 92697-5200
Phone: (949) 824-5301

**UCI Police Safety Escorts**
(949) 824-SAFE (7233)

**Peace Over Violence**
http://peaceoverviolence.org/

**Campus Assault Resources and Education (CARE)**
(949) 824-7273

**Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**
(24 hours a day, 7 days a week) at 1-800-273-TALK.

**UCI Counseling Center**
M-F. 8AM-5PM: (949) 824-6457
http://www.counseling.uci.edu/

**When Counseling Center is closed**
- Dial 911, or
- UCI PD: (949) 724-7000

**Safe Youth**
http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/topics/rape.asp

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**Lebanon Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Center**
949.824.3277
lgbtrc@uci.edu
www.lgbtrc.uci.edu