

"I don't know if what happened to me was rape..."

What is Rape?
What is Sexual Assault?

- ◆ The Harvard College definition of rape, which is very similar to the Massachusetts state definition, is "any sexual intercourse that takes place against a person's will or that is accompanied by physical coercion or the threat of bodily injury. Rape may also include intercourse with a person who is incapable of expressing unwillingness or is prevented from resisting, as a result of conditions including, but not limited to, those caused by the intake of alcohol and other drugs. Rape includes not only unwilling or forced vaginal intercourse, but also the sexual penetration of any bodily orifice with a body part or object."
- ◆ Harvard College defines sexual assault as "any unwanted touching or fondling of a sexual nature that is accompanied by physical force or threat of bodily injury."

If you have questions about an experience you had or need advice for a friend, call the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
24-Hour Info & Support Line:
(617) 495-9100

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24-Hour assistance, including:

- ◆ information and support for students who have experienced any kind of sexual assault or relationship violence
- ◆ accompaniment for reporting or to medical care at UHS / Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital (for medical evidence collection)
- ◆ information and support for friends, blockmates, and partners of survivors

Also available:

- ◆ Educational workshops on sexual violence and related topics. Workshops are facilitated by professionals and tailored to the specific needs and interests of the audience.

Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
Harvard University

340 Holyoke Center
1350 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

24-Hour Info & Support: (617) 495-9100



The mission of the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response is to provide leadership in creating a Harvard community free from sexual and interpersonal violence and harassment. We are committed to supporting and empowering survivors of violence. We believe in preventing violence through education, personal and collective accountability, and social change.

Rape on Campus

Information for Harvard Students

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340 Holyoke Center
1250 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138
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Rape Happens In College

- ◆ Every two minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted. (RAINN calculation based on 2002 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice.)
- ◆ It is estimated that 20–25 percent of college women will be victims of an attempted or completed rape during their college careers. (Fisher, Bonnie, Francis Cullen, Michael Turner. *The Sexual Victimization of College Women*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000.)
- ◆ In 9 out of 10 cases, the offender is known to the victim, usually a classmate, friend, or acquaintance. (Fisher, Bonnie, Francis Cullen, Michael Turner. *The Sexual Victimization of College Women*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2000.)
- ◆ There is limited information about the frequency of rape or sexual assault in Harvard College. However, 2.4% of Harvard students reported (on the National College Health Association Survey) that they were victims of attempted sexual penetration against their will in 2002. Harvard University Police Department reports that 32 “forcible sexual offenses” occurred on the Cambridge campus and were reported formally or confidentially to the police. (www.fas.harvard.edu/~osapr/facts.html, www.hupd.harvard.edu/crime_statistics.php)



What to Do If You Are Sexually Assaulted:

1. Get to a safe place.
2. If you think you want evidence collected do not bathe, shower, brush your teeth or go to the bathroom. This is important for preserving evidence.
3. Do not change your clothes (if you already have, put your clothes in a clean paper bag such as a grocery store bag and bring them with you to the emergency room).
4. Go to the emergency room at Beth Israel Hospital, 1 Deaconess Way, Boston, (617)754-2400. This must be done within 5 days of the assault. If you would like someone to go with you to the hospital, call the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, 5-9100, or Boston Area Rape Crisis Center hotline, (617) 492-RAPE (7273).
5. The emergency room will page the on-call nurse examiner. The nurse examiner will complete a rape evidence collection kit and treat any injuries that you may have sustained.
6. If you suspect you were given any type of drug you should be tested, ideally within 24 hours of ingestion.
7. If you want to have a pill to prevent pregnancy ("Morning After Pill"), you must begin the medication within 72 hours.
8. If you are concerned about HIV, you can begin a regimen of preventive medication within 36 hours of exposure.



24 Hour Hotline: 5-9100

9. The rape evidence collection kit will be held anonymously at the state crime lab (regardless of whether you choose to make a police report) for 6 months. If you make a report within 6 months, the kit is analyzed when it is needed for the investigation. Both the prosecution and defense will have access to the results.
10. If you think you want to make a police report, the sooner you report the better. Legally, you have *three years to file a civil suit and 15 years to file a criminal suit*. To file a police report call HUPD, 5-1212, or the Cambridge Police Department at (617) 349-3300.
11. If you make a police report or file a restraining order within 5 days, you can file for victim compensation to cover medical costs. A victim compensation claim must be filed *within three years* of the assault. Once a victim compensation claim is open you can request expenses be reimbursed at any time in the future. (Note: it is a good idea to open this claim even though you may not feel you need it now. By having the claim, you can be assured that unforeseen expenses will be reimbursable.)
12. *Get support.* No matter what decisions you make, you have done the best you can. You deserve to have all resources available to you. Contact the Office of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response at 5-9100 or Boston Area Rape Crisis Center at (617) 492-RAPE (7273).

All calls are free and completely confidential. You are not alone.