Sexual Assault Awareness

Presented by
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When you hear the phrase ‘sexual assault’, do you think of a stranger jumping out of the bushes on a dark night and attacking someone?

MOST SEXUAL ASSAULTS ARE COMMITTED BY PEOPLE KNOWN TO THE VICTIM.
Criminal Code of Alabama

13A-6-61 Rape 1st Degree

(a) A male commits the crime of rape in the first degree if:

- (1) he engages in sexual intercourse with a female by forcible compulsion; or
- (2) He engages in sexual intercourse with a female who is incapable of consent by reason of being physically helpless or mentally incapacitated.
13A-6-62 Rape 2\textsuperscript{nd} Degree

(a) A person commits the crime of rape in the second degree if:

(1) Being 16 years old or older, he or she engages in sexual intercourse with a member of the opposite sex less than 16 and more than 12 years old; provided, however, the actor is at least two years older than the member of the opposite sex.

(2) He or she engages in sexual intercourse with a member of the opposite sex who is incapable of consent by reason of being mentally defective.
13A-6-65 Sexual Misconduct

(a) A person commits the crime of sexual misconduct if:

(1) Being a male, he engages in sexual intercourse with a female without her consent, or with consent using fraud or artifice.
Progress

- More and more victims are speaking out publicly, helping to lessen the stigma associated with sexual assault.
- Advocates, Prosecutors, and survivors are working together to change laws and statutes.
- Male groups are coming to the forefront to help with peer education.
“Date rape drugs” is the term coined to describe a assortment of drugs which are used to facilitate rape.

These drugs can lower sexual inhibitions, produce a severe state of intoxication, and, coupled with alcohol, cause blackouts, memory loss and possible death.
Tips

- Never accept open drinks, even from “friends”.
- Never drink from a communal source.
- If you leave your drink for any reason, get a new drink, the old one may have been tampered with.
- If you feel that you are getting intoxicated faster than normal, find a reliable/trusted friend to take you away, go to the hospital if necessary, and contact the police.
Dangerous Signals

- People who don’t listen to you, ignore what you say, talk over you, etc.
- People who ignore your personal space.
- People who express anger at women/men in general.
- People who do what they want regardless of your feelings.
Dangerous Signals

- People who try and make you feel guilty, or accuse you of being “uptight” if you resist their sexual overtures.
- People who act excessively jealous or possessive.
- People with unrealistic ideas about women.
- People who drink heavily can often become sexually aggressive, angry, or violent if rejected.
What to do if someone tries to force sex on you:

- Stay calm and think about your options.
- Say "NO" strongly; don’t try to be polite.
- Say something like “Stop, this is rape.”
- Look for an escape route.
- Act quickly.
- Ask yourself if it’s safe to resist; is he/she armed?
What to do if someone tries to force sex on you:

- People who fight back initially have a higher chance of avoiding the successful completion of the rape.
- If the person is unarmed, you have more options: fight back physically, run, shout ‘fire’, use passive resistance (throw-up, defecate, etc.), say you have V.D., talk to him, gain his confidence in order to escape, try to make him see you as a person.
What to do if someone tries to force sex on you:

- If the person is armed, your options are limited.
- Try and talk them out of it; try passive resistance.
- In this situation, you may be taking your life into your own hands if you resist. It may be possible to run away if they are distracted, but only if you are sure you can get away.
What if you are assaulted?

- Call the police and report the attack.
- Go to a friend’s place, or have one come to you.
- Resist the urge to take a bath or a shower. Preserve all evidence, such as your clothing, linens, etc.
What if you are assaulted?

- Go to the hospital. You don’t have to wait on the police, they can meet you at the hospital; your safety is priority.
- Get support, counseling (Women’s Resource Center).
- After the initial report, you can decide if you want to press charges.
What if you are assaulted?

You don’t have to press charges, but it is important that the Police know that the assault occurred in order to possibly prevent another assault from happening.
Sexual Assault Awareness

Making yourself aware of the possibility that you could become a target is a proactive way to combat sexual assault and live safer.