Sexual Assault

Myths & Facts

**Myth:** Rape is a sexual crime.
**Fact:** Sexual assault is a violent assault acted out in a sexual way. It violates not only the victims’ bodies, but their integrity, safety and right to control their lives.

**Myth:** Rapists are creepy-looking men who hang out in dark alleys.
**Fact:** In 75 percent of sexual assaults, the attacker is someone the victim knows, including a friend, spouse or relative.

**Myth:** If people stay inside after dark, they are safe from sexual assault.
**Fact:** About 75 percent of sexual assaults occur at home or in a vehicle.

**Myth:** Sexual assault of males is rare.
**Fact:** Males and females are both vulnerable to sexual assault. Males are less likely to report or talk about sexual assault.

Who to Call for Help

- **UTEP Police Department**
  747-5611
- **El Paso Police Department**
  911 (for emergencies)
  832-4400 (for non-emergency assistance)
- **UTEP Dean of Students**
  747-5648
- **UTEP Counseling Services**
  747-5302
- **Sexual Trauma and Assault Response Services (STARS)**
  915-533-7700 or 915-779-1800 (24-hour hotline)

What is sexual assault?
- a crime of violence where sex is the means of assault
- any forced, unwanted and nonconsensual contact or activity, including touching, kissing, exhibitionism and intercourse
- a brutally destructive attack on the victim’s sense of personal integrity and competence

Where does sexual assault take place?
- About 75 percent of sexual assaults occur at home or in a vehicle, and the attacker is most likely someone the victim knows.

What are the effects experienced by victims of sexual assault?
- a state that resembles acute grief because of severe psychological loss
- the loss of confidence, wholeness, strength, trust and self-control
- feelings of powerlessness

Who are the victims of sexual assault?
- anyone, regardless of sex, race, class, religion, occupation or physical appearance
- most reported sexual assaults occur to women between the ages of 14 and 25

Staying safe on campus
- Always let people know where you are.
- Know where emergency phones are located.
- If you have a cell phone, have it readily accessible at all times.
- Use campus security escorts or arrange to walk with friends.
- Call police to report suspicious activity or suspicious people.

If you or someone you know has been assaulted:
- Seek medical attention at a hospital as soon as possible.
- Report the assault to University Police.
- Look for safety and support.
- Call a trusted friend.
- Call the rape crisis hotline.
- Talk to a university counselor who can help you deal with your feelings and help you heal emotionally.