

Sexual Assault

Awareness, Safety
and Reporting



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

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.

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

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.

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)

The University of Texas at El Paso

University Police Department • 3118 Sun Bowl Drive, El Paso, Texas 79968
Phone: 915-747-5611 • Fax: 915-747-5636 • www.utep.edu/police

