

What are the facts about sexual assault?

- Rape is a serious problem in the United States today. The U.S. has the highest rape rate among countries which report such statistics. It is 4 times higher than that of Germany, 13 times higher than that of England and 20 times higher than that of Japan
- There were an estimated 188,960 rapes / sexual assaults nationwide in 2005. Sexual assaults have decreased by two-thirds since 1993. (Criminal Victimization in the United States 2005. Washington, D.C: Bureau of Justice Statistics, NCVS)
- Tucson Police Department reported 347 sexual assaults in 2007 (TPD Crime Statistics, UCR Descriptions)*
- Youth, ages 12-17, were 2.5 times as likely to be victims of a rape or sexual assault. 15 % of sexual assault and rape victims are under age 12 (Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report, NCVS)
- About 3% of American men (or 1 in 33) have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime

*Only about four of every ten victims report their rape to police, according to the Justice Department

Important phone numbers

Emergency	911
SACASA	327-7273
OASIS Center	626-2051
Help On-Call	323-9373
S.A.M.H.C. (24hr mental health)	622-6000
AZ Resource Database	211
Crime Victim Compensation	724-5525
T.P.D. Non-emergency	791-4444
T.P.D. Records	791-4462
Victim Notification	741-7344
Sheriff Department Records Info	351-4650
Pre Trial Services	724-3310
Superior Court Calendar	724-4240
Davis Monthan AFB SARC (for military personnel)	228-2104

Case # _____



Pima County Attorney's Office
Victim Services Division

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After Sexual Assault



Pima County Attorney's Office
Victim Services Division

What is sexual assault?

Rape and sexual assault are terms used interchangeably to describe crimes that involve unwanted and illegal sexual acts. The legal definitions of rape and sexual assault vary from state to state. Most commonly, a rape involves the use or threat of force to penetrate a victim's vagina, mouth, or anus. A sexual assault involves the use or threat of force but may not involve penetration. Fondling someone's breasts or genitals without consent is an example of sexual assault.

Many of the assumptions people make about sexual assault and rape are not true. Some people think that if sexual assault or rape happens to you, you must have "asked for it." The truth is that no one asks to be raped or sexually assaulted. You have the right to say "no" at any time to any sexual act. "No" means no. Power, anger, and control are the motives for rape- not sex.

Some people think that you will be sexually assaulted only if you act or dress a certain way or go to certain places. That's not true. These crimes can happen to anyone, no matter how old you are, what your racial or cultural background may be, what type of education you have, or how much money you make.

Some people think that you can be raped only by strangers. The truth is that only 22 percent of rape cases involve strangers. The rest are committed by someone the victim knows well. Rape by someone you know is still rape, and it is still a crime. Even in marriage, when a spouse is forced to have sex against her will, it is a crime of rape.

Some people think that you cannot be forced to have sex against your will. The truth is that you can be, either by physical force or threat of injury or death. Cooperation does not mean consent. Fearing serious injury or death during a rape, many victims do not resist the attack and do not sustain any bruises, marks, or other visible physical injuries. You cannot always tell someone has been raped just by looking at them.

Can men be raped or sexually assaulted?

Men can be raped or sexually assaulted and are less likely to report their assaults than women. Many men feel their community would ostracize them if it were known that they were sexually assaulted or raped. Many men deny or hide the crime. Being raped or sexually assaulted by another male does not mean a victim is bisexual or homosexual or that he will become bisexual or homosexual. Heterosexual and gay men alike are victims of sexual assault. However, most abusers of adolescent and adult males are heterosexual men. If you are a male who has been raped or sexually assaulted, you are not to blame. The offender has full responsibility for the assault.

If you are a survivor of sexual assault...

If you do not have visible physical injuries from the assault, friends and family may think you are okay. Many people do not understand the extent of trauma endured by rape and sexual assault victims. Your body may look fine, but you still need time for emotional and spiritual healing.

As time passes, you may have a variety of feelings, thoughts, and reactions to what has happened--most rape and sexual assault victims do. At times, you may feel guilty about what happened, even though you did nothing wrong. You may feel shocked that something so terrible could have happened to you, and sometimes you may even pretend or deny that it happened at all. You may feel embarrassed that you are a victim of rape or sexual assault, and you may worry that people you do not want to know will find out what happened.

At times, you may feel very angry--angry at the person who hurt you, angry at the police and court system for not doing enough about what happened to you, angry at your family and friends for not understanding, and maybe even angry at the world for letting such a terrible thing happen. Sometimes you may feel depressed or hopeless and lack interest in people or things you once enjoyed.

You may have nightmares or flashbacks about the assault or rape. Certain sounds, smells, or other sensory experiences may trigger these feelings and fears. You may be afraid of being alone, or you may fear being in crowds. You also may fear that the offender may have infected you with a sexually transmitted disease, such as HIV/AIDS, or that you may become pregnant.

Whatever your reactions or fears may be, support and help are available for you. The Pima County Attorney's Victim Witness Program will assist you, regardless of whether you decide to report the assault to the police. You may experience changes in your eating and sleeping patterns.

How Victim Services can help...

- Crisis intervention.
- Counseling referrals
- Courtroom advocacy.
- Information and referral.



Arizona has a crime victim compensation program that can assist you with ongoing medical and counseling expenses and other expenses related to the assault. To be eligible for these funds, you must report the crime to the police within 72 hours, cooperate with the criminal justice system, and document your expenses. Victim Witness Advocates can provide more information about this process and your rights as a crime victim.

If you want to report a sexual assault...

- Get to a safe place.
- Call 911.
- Call SACASA or a local hospital.
- Don't take a shower or comb your hair.
- Preserve the clothes worn at the time of attack.
- Get a medical exam.
- Inquire about tests for possible pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and sexually transmitted diseases.