**Sexual Assault Bibliography**

- "Same Sex Dating Violence." Brown University Health Education. [http://www.brown.edu/student_services/Health_Education/sexual_assault/](http://www.brown.edu/student_services/Health_Education/sexual_assault/)
- "Sexual Assault: Myths & Realities". Women's Center: Sexual & Domestic Violence Services. [http://womenscenter.virginia.edu/sdvs/assault/myths.htm](http://womenscenter.virginia.edu/sdvs/assault/myths.htm)
- "Sexual Assault: After a Sexual Assault". Women's Center: Sexual & Domestic Violence Services. [http://womenscenter.virginia.edu/sdvs/assault/after.htm](http://womenscenter.virginia.edu/sdvs/assault/after.htm)
- "Rape & Sexual Assault Policies & Procedures." Lynchburg College. [http://www.lynhburg.edu/x717.xml](http://www.lynhburg.edu/x717.xml)
- "Travis AFB: Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program." w3.travis.af.mil/sapr/index.htm
**Definition**

Rape is defined as sexual intercourse that is perpetrated against the will of the victim or without the victim’s consent. This definition applies whether the assailant is a stranger to or is known by the victim.

Sexual assault is defined as sexual contact against the will of the victim or without consent. Sexual assault may include the following forms of contact:

- Intentional touching, either of the victim or when the victim is forced to touch directly or through clothing, another person’s genitals, breasts, groin, or buttocks
- Attempted rape
- Sodomy (oral sex or anal intercourse)
- Sexual penetration with an object

Lack of consent exists when one or more of the following factors are present:

- Force
- Intimidation or threat
- Temporary or permanent mental incapacity on the part of the victim
- Temporary or permanent physical helplessness on the part of the victim
- Incapacity to consent due to the youth of the victim

Rape and sexual assault are acts of violence.

**Reporting Procedure**

Victims are encouraged to report any sexual assault, rape or any sexual offense/contact, either forcible or non forcible.

Victims of sexual assault are urged to contact law enforcement and/or medical personnel as soon as possible following the occurrence to receive guidance in the preservation of evidence needed for proof of criminal assaults and the apprehension and prosecution of assailant(s).

A victim of, or witness to, a sexual assault (including rape, acquaintance rape, and other sex offenses) should report the incident to the police immediately. Solano Community College Police Department can be contacted in room 1109 or at emergency phone number 911. The non-emergency extension number is 131 and (707) 864-7131 respectively.

If the crime occurred off campus, call the 911 police emergency number.

It is important to report the incident immediately and to preserve all physical evidence of the sexual assault. Do not wash, take a shower, or change your clothing because by doing so you may destroy important evidence. Sexual assault victims will be transported to the nearest hospital for examination and collection of important evidence by trained medical personnel.

**What to Do**

**If You Are Sexually Assaulted**

Get to a place where you will be safe from further attack. For your own protection, call the police immediately, especially if the assailant is still nearby. The police will help you whether or not you choose to prosecute the assailant.

Call a friend.

Get medical attention immediately. The primary purpose of a medical examination following a rape/sexual assault is to check for physical injury, the presence of sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy as a result of the rape/sexual assault. The secondary purpose of a medical examination is to aid in the police investigation and legal proceedings. So, get medical attention as quickly as possible.

Don’t shower/bathe or douche. Showering/bathing or douching might be the first thing you want to do. However, you will be literally washing away valuable evidence. Wait until medical personnel have examined you.

Don’t brush your teeth or gargle. Don’t eat or drink anything.

Don’t put on makeup

Save your clothing. Don’t remove, change, throw away, or wash any clothes worn during the sexual assault. If you have already or must change clothes place each item of clothing in a separate paper bag (plastic destroys evidence). Ideally, keep on the original clothes & bring an extra set to wear home from the hospital.

Don’t clean or straighten up the crime scene.

Report the incident to the police. It is up to you, but reporting a rape/sexual assault is not the same thing as prosecuting a rape/sexual assault. Prosecution can be determined later. To contact the Police Department, call 911. A number of campus personnel (including a police officer trained in sexual assault investigation and during the spring & fall semesters a nurse in Bldg. 1400) are willing and able to assist victims in reporting assaults to the proper authorities.

If you are a victim of rape/sexual assault and decide not to notify the police, please secure medical attention and contact any of the victim support resources listed below. The campus will also assist the victim with contacting any of these supporting agencies. The Rape Crisis Hotline for Solano County is (707)422-RAPE or (707) 644-RAPE.

**How to Help a Friend Who is a Victim of Sexual Assault**

Remain calm
Believe the victim
Give the victim control
Encourage medical attention
Remember…the victim did nothing wrong
Let the victim express feelings
Encourage counseling
Be supportive without being judgmental:
- Do not ask for details about what happened
- Do not ask probing questions
- Do not tell them what to do…they need to feel in control of what is happening
- Do not gossip

**Prevention/Red Flags**

Approximately 83% of victims know their attacker and alcohol/other substance use is generally a contributing factor. Trust your instincts and be alert if the person you are with:

- Ignores, interrupts, or makes fun of you
- Sits or stands too close to you or stares at you
- Has a reputation for being a player
- Drinks too much alcohol or uses drugs
- Pressures you to drink alcohol or take drugs
- Tries to touch or kiss you or get into your “personal space” without your consent
- Tries to separate you from your friends
- Pressures you to be alone with him/her
- Gets angry, sulks or manipulative if he/she does not get his/her way
- Pressures you to have sex…tries to make you feel guilty for saying “no”

**Becoming a Survivor**

Recognize that healing from rape takes time
Seek help from the resources available to you
Know that it is never too late to ask for help
Many victims do not seek assistance until months or years later.