

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sexual Victimization on Campus

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SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION ON CAMPUS: Awareness & Prevention Seminar

Discussion Focus:

Acquaintance Rape

- ⌘ **Defining sexual assault**
- ⌘ **Stranger vs. acquaintance rape**
- ⌘ **Motivation behind rape**
- ⌘ **How often does it occur on campus**
- ⌘ **Vulnerability factors**
- ⌘ **Facts about sexual assault**
- ⌘ **What to do if an assault takes place**
- ⌘ **Whether to report crime to the police**
- ⌘ **Resources available on & off campus**



DEFINING SEXUAL ASSAULT



Under Massachusetts general law, there are two major categories of sexual assault against adults:

⌘ Rape

⌘ Indecent assault & battery

DEFINING RAPE



- ⌘ Sexual intercourse or unnatural intercourse with a person,
- ⌘ by force against his/her will or threat of bodily injury.
- ⌘ Inability to give consent due to intoxication, unconsciousness, or mental impairment also would be classified as non-consensual.

DEFINING INDECENT ASSAULT & BATTERY



- ⌘ Intentional physical contact of a sexual nature,
- ⌘ without consent
- ⌘ Contact may include the offender touching a women's breast, or the buttocks or pubic area of a man or woman.

STRANGER OR ACQUAINTANCE?



STRANGER RAPE



- ⌘ Attacker is not known to the individual
- ⌘ Most likely to be reported to authorities
- ⌘ Most likely to result in injury (overt physical force to subdue the victim)
- ⌘ Most likely to result in adverse publicity and civil litigation
- ⌘ Extremely rare on most college campuses

ACQUAINTANCE RAPE / SEXUAL ASSAULT



- ⌘ Also known as date rape, social rape, silent rape and cocktail rape
- ⌘ Victim knows the assailant - dating relationship/ family / neighbor / friend / classmate / social acquaintance
- ⌘ Most commonly occurs on weekends & takes place in the assailants room or apartment
- ⌘ Less likely to involve a weapon
- ⌘ Assailant most likely will use verbal threats, physical strength and/or intimidation
- ⌘ Assailant takes advantage of victim's intoxication

WITH ACQUAINTANCE RAPE



- ⌘ Increased tendency to feel:
Guilt, shame, anger, depression, betrayal
- ⌘ Reduces sense of trust and integrity
- ⌘ Lack of peer support
- ⌘ ACQUAINTANCE RAPE IS STILL RAPE

WHAT MOTIVATES A RAPIST



- ⌘ Hostility
- ⌘ Fear of inadequacy
- ⌘ Need to control

They use sex as a weapon to:

- ⌘ Hurt
- ⌘ Humiliate
- ⌘ Intimidate

CAMPUS CRIME STATISTICS

Accuracy & Accountability at Northeastern University



THE CLERY ACT



- ⌘ Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, 1990
- ⌘ Federal law mandates colleges and universities to collect violent crime statistics and distribute an annual report to all students at the beginning of each academic year
- ⌘ Northeastern's Annual Safety and Security Report is available on the Public Safety Division website
- ⌘ Crime statistics include on campus incidents and crimes in the immediate campus neighborhood

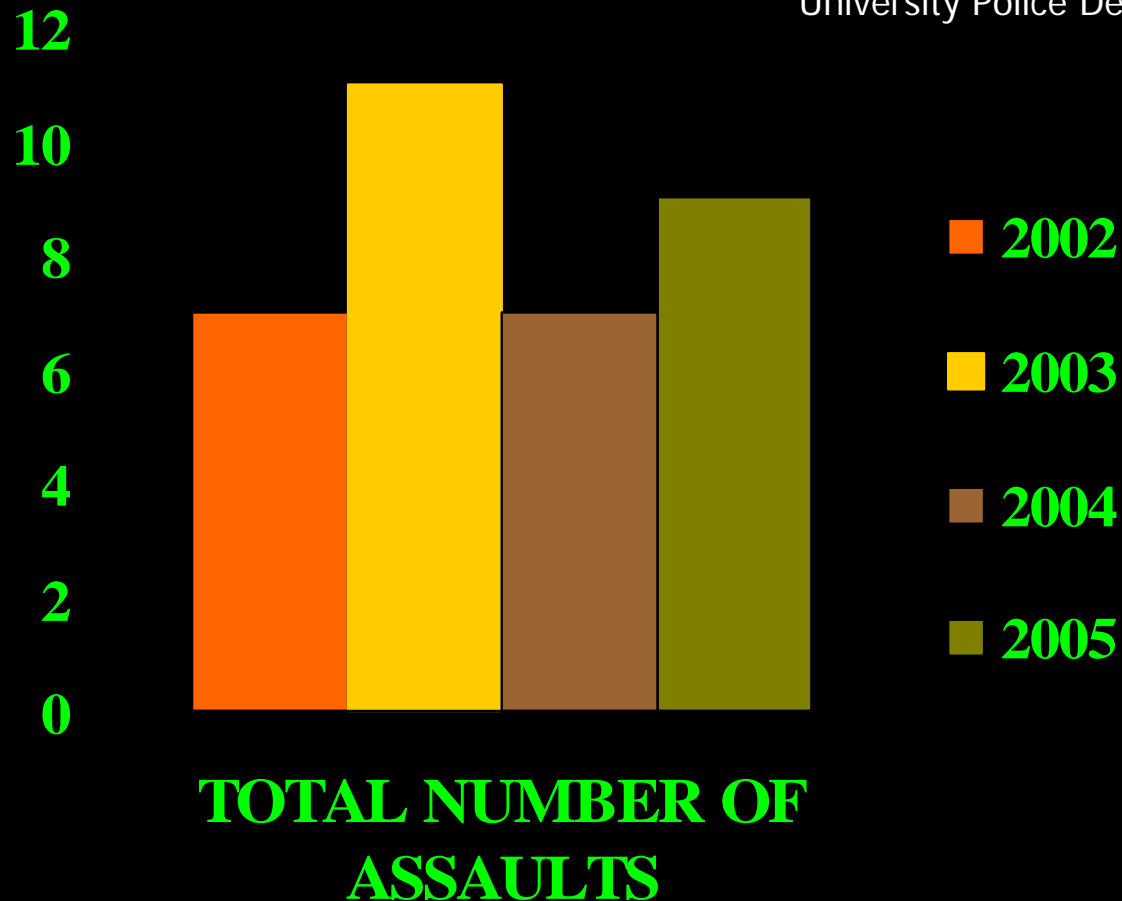
CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM RIGHTS



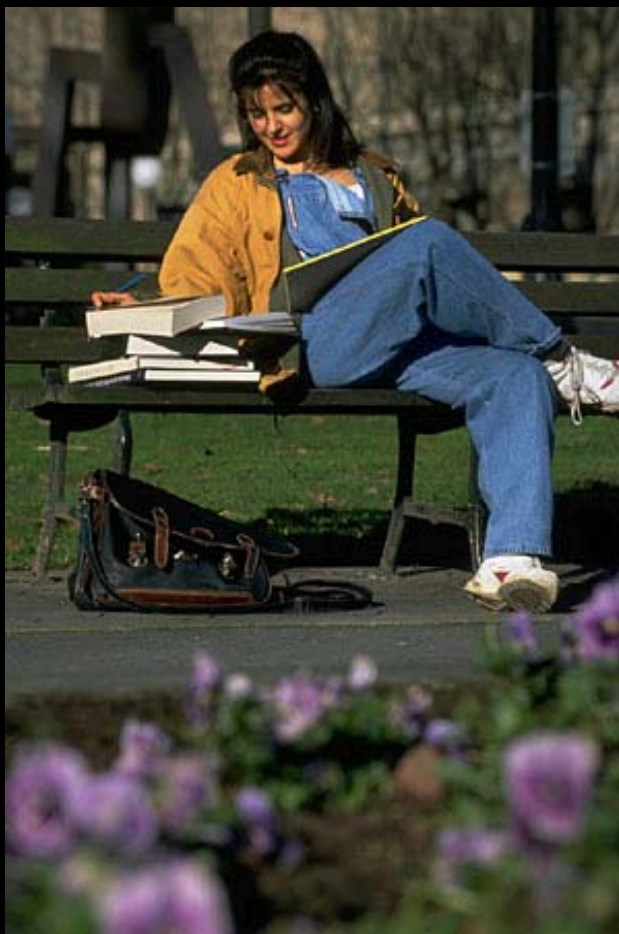
- ⌘ Student sexual assault victims have the right to pursue criminal prosecution of their assailant and/or campus discipline if the assailant is also a student, or neither
- ⌘ Student victims have the right to request to be relocated to another residence hall after reporting a sexual assault
- ⌘ Student victims have the right to request changes in their class schedules after reporting a sexual assault

RAPES & SEXUAL ASSAULTS REPORTED ON CAMPUS

Statistics gathered from Northeastern University Police Department Official Records



PUTTING THE MYTHS ASIDE



**What do the facts
say about
sexual assaults**

FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT



- ⌘ Persons between the ages of 15 and 25 are the most vulnerable to rape and sexual assault by acquaintances
- ⌘ Sexual assault can happen to anyone
- ⌘ Most college students who report being sexually assaulted are first-year students
- ⌘ Many college women victimized by sexual assault had been victimized before entering college.

FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT

- ⌘ More than 90% of campus women who report sexual assault were acquainted with their assailant.
- ⌘ Many assailants are surprised to learn that a police report was filed and claim the sex was consensual.
- ⌘ False reports to police are rare. Research surveys indicate that campus rapes are usually not reported to police at all
- ⌘ Filing a report with NUPD does not mean the victim has to press criminal charges

ARE YOU AT RISK?



**Identifying
vulnerability
factors that
may put you
at risk**

VULNERABILITY FACTORS FOR CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT

- ⌘ Freshman women are the most likely to be victimized.
- ⌘ Alcohol is a factor in over half of all reported cases of campus sexual assault. Usually by both parties.
- ⌘ Usually occurs in his or her room or apartment.
- ⌘ Assailant is frequently a user of alcohol or drugs and has an aggressive personality - aspires to be "popular".
- ⌘ Victim frequently sends "mixed messages", also aspiring to be accepted and popular

PLAYING IT SAFE



Learning how to avoid potentially dangerous situations

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO AVOID SITUATIONS THAT MIGHT LEAD TO SEXUAL ASSAULT OR RAPE

- ⌘ Examine your feelings about sex.
- ⌘ Set sexual limits.
- ⌘ Decide early if you would like to have sex.
- ⌘ Do not give mixed messages, be clear - Say "Yes" when you mean "Yes" and "No" when you mean "No".
- ⌘ Be alert to unconscious messages you may be giving.
- ⌘ Be forceful and firm- Don't worry about being "polite".
- ⌘ Be independent and aware on your dates.
- ⌘ Do not do anything you don't want to do to avoid a scene or unpleasantness.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



- ⌘ Be aware that the use of alcohol, even in small amounts, reduces inhibitions and clouds judgement.
- ⌘ Be aware of specific situations in which you do not feel relaxed and in charge.
- ⌘ If things start to get out of hand, be loud in protesting, leave, go for help.
- ⌘ Trust your gut-level feelings.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



- ⌘ Avoid falling for such lines as “You would if you loved me”.
- ⌘ If you are not sure of a new acquaintance, go on a group or double date.
- ⌘ Use the buddy system - Look out for each other in social settings, especially where alcohol is being served.
- ⌘ Have your own transportation, if possible, or taxi fare.
- ⌘ Avoid secluded places where you are in a vulnerable position.
- ⌘ Be careful when you invite someone to your home or you are invited to his home.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



- ⌘ Examine your attitudes about money and power.
- ⌘ Socialize with people who share your values.
- ⌘ Be self-assured, forthright and definite in your encounters with others, especially men.
- ⌘ Learn conventional self defense & assertiveness skills such as RAD – Rape Aggression Defense

AFTER THE ASSAULT HAS OCCURED



**If you or a
friend you know
has been
sexually
assaulted...**

IF YOU ARE ASSAULTED



- ⌘ Get to a place where you will be safe from further attack.
- ⌘ Call a friend, family member, Residence Director or support group for support.
- ⌘ Call the University Police and/or University Health Center to obtain medical attention and counseling
- ⌘ Do not drink, bathe, douche, brush your teeth, change clothing or comb your hair before a medical exam, to preserve evidence in case you decide to press charges

NUPD SERVICES AND PROCEDURES

- ⌘ NUPD has many officers specially trained in sexual assault victimology and investigation – immediate medical and emotional well being are priorities
- ⌘ The officer will want to obtain the basic facts of the assault in order to provide information and support so the survivor can make informed decisions. No decisions about prosecution have to be made immediately.
- ⌘ NUPD can arrange for immediate temporary relocation to a “safe” room in a residence hall

NUPD SERVICES AND PROCEDURES



- ⌘ An NUPD Detective will be assigned as the case manager to oversee the investigation and ensure the survivor is supported with medical, counseling and security services
- ⌘ The NUPD Detective will ensure the survivor is fully aware of options for pursuing University disciplinary action and/or criminal charges against the assailant.
- ⌘ The NUPD Detective will accompany the survivor at all hearings and court sessions.

NUPD SERVICES for OFF CAMPUS ASSAULTS

- ⌘ Students assaulted off campus are encouraged to contact NUPD to obtain emergency medical, counseling and housing relocation services.
- ⌘ NUPD Detectives will work with the police agency with primary jurisdiction to support the survivor and provide support and information as the investigation proceeds
- ⌘ NUPD will assist in preparing OSCCR charges if the survivor chooses that option

WHEN SOMONE YOU KNOW IS ASSAULTED



- ⌘ Listen, believe them, and let them talk about what happened.
- ⌘ Encourage the person to seek medical or counseling support and urge them to notify the police.
- ⌘ Offer support. Tell them it is NOT their fault.
- ⌘ Be available for shelter and companionship.

WHEN SOMONE YOU KNOW IS ASSAULTED



- ⌘ DON'T touch or hug them unless you are sure they want physical contact.
- ⌘ Help them know that they can recover from this experience.
- ⌘ Take care of yourself. You may feel scared, angry, helpless or sad after hearing that someone has been assaulted is upsetting.

MAKING THE DECISION TO REPORT



WHETHER TO REPORT THE CRIME TO POLICE

- ⌘ Reporting a sexual assault does NOT commit you to future legal action.
- ⌘ Your name will NOT be made public. Massachusetts law requires that the identity of a sexual assault survivor be kept confidential.
- ⌘ Promptness in reporting aids in police investigation & possible prosecution.
- ⌘ Prosecution of the case is your choice.
- ⌘ Police and the District Attorney's Office handle legal proceedings with no expense to you. There is no need for you to hire an attorney.

WHETHER TO REPORT THE CRIME TO POLICE

- ⌘ Northeastern University Police Department has both male and female police officers who have undergone special training and are certified by the state in sexual assault victimology and investigation.
- ⌘ Survivors may decide to pursue their case through the University disciplinary system, the criminal court system, both or neither – the decision does not have to be made until after receiving medical and counseling services. University Police are trained to support survivors and provide them with the information necessary to help them make the best decisions

RESOURCES AVAILABLE

On & Off Campus



RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY



⌘ Northeastern University Police	373-2121
⌘ University Health and Counseling Services	373-2772
⌘ OSCCR	373-4390
⌘ Affirmative Action	373-2133
⌘ Residential Life	373-4016
⌘ Spiritual Life	373-2728

RESOURCES AVAILABLE OFF CAMPUS



- ⌘ Boston Police Department 343-4250
- ⌘ Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (24 Hours) 492-7273
- ⌘ Your Local Police Department
- ⌘ Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center 667-3337
- ⌘ Beth Israel Rape Crisis Intervention Program 667-4654
- ⌘ Boston Medical Center 534-4075
- ⌘ Brigham and Women's Hospital 732-5636
- ⌘ Cambridge City Hospital 665-1000

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

“Your safety is our reward”

