

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Getting to a safe place and calling for help promptly after an attack is extremely important. Call the police, a friend, a rape crisis service, or a member of the Gustavus Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).

It is important to receive medical aid promptly. Not only can internal and external injuries be treated, but measures can be taken to combat possibilities of sexually transmitted disease and pregnancy. It is also an opportunity to collect evidence.

Make a report to local law enforcement.

It is important that you seek psychological support as well as medical attention. Services from Counselors, Crime Victim Services or Chaplains are available.

REPORTING AN INCIDENT

If you are assaulted or harassed, you are strongly encouraged to tell a member of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). SART members can help you access the many resources that Gustavus has to support you. They can help by attending to your security concerns, connecting you with a counseling service, arranging academic accommodations and/or alternative housing options. They will also support you if you decide to report the incident officially to the College and/or local law enforcement.

The decision to make a report can be an extremely difficult one for sexual assault survivors, especially when the attackers are known. Sometimes survivors also fear making a police report because they may have been drinking or engaged in some other illegal activity. You should know that on-campus Safety and Security will not issue citations for underage drinking if there is a greater crime involved, such as sexual assault. Reporting the assault can be a way for you to take back control in your life, it can help to protect the greater community, and it can also be a way to ensure that your assailant can get help and treatment.

If you decide to report the incident to the police, you can use the support of a SART member. This person, at your request, can accompany you to the police station or hospital and be present throughout the conversation or exam.

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM (SART)

The Sexual Assault Response Team consists of Gustavus staff who have been trained in responding to victims of sexual assault. SART members will work with you to keep you safe, advocate for you and help you access resources both on and off campus. They will keep the circumstances of the assault as confidential as possible.

If you have been sexually assaulted you are strongly encouraged to contact a SART member directly or by calling Safety and Security (x8888) and asking to speak with a SART member — 24 hours a day.

SART MEMBERS

Patty Dawson, SART Leader
Licensed Practical Nurse
Health Services
(507) 933-7165

Sara Sletten
Community Service Center
(507) 933-6018

Andrea Junso
Student Activities Office
(507) 933-6282

Jason Stratman
Environmental Health and Safety
(507) 933-7494

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Matt Grochow, Detective
St. Peter Police Department
(507) 931-1550

Crime Victim Services, Inc.
1-507-233-6662
1-800-630-1425 (24-hour Crisis Safeline)
www.crimevictimservices.org

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WHAT EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT

GUSTAVUS 
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

WHAT IS A SEXUAL CRIME?

Sexual assault is a criminal act of violence. It is perpetrated primarily by men against women, but it can happen to anyone regardless of gender, age, race, strength, sexual practice/orientation, or size. People don't talk about it, so the survivors of this "crime that didn't happen" can feel alone and isolated as they struggle to heal from the trauma. Survivors often experience a second victimization when they are told it was their fault for "asking for it" or "letting it happen."

Statistics show that sexual assault, particularly acquaintance rape, happens on all campuses and in communities of all sizes.

At Gustavus, we believe that every student needs to know what constitutes a sexual crime, what precautions should be taken, and how survivors can get help.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

If a person engages in non-consensual sexual intercourse due to physical force, coercion or threat – actual or implied – the act is considered either first or third degree criminal sexual conduct in the State of Minnesota. A person who is mentally incapacitated, asleep, physically helpless or impaired due to drug or alcohol consumption or unconscious is considered unable to consent.

If a person is forced to engage in any form of sexual contact other than intercourse, under the circumstances mentioned above, it is considered criminal sexual conduct in the second or fourth degree. Any form of sexual contact against a person's will is against the law.

DATE OR ACQUAINTANCE RAPE

Date or acquaintance rape can happen in all types of environments. With its high number of social activities, the campus setting may offer opportunities for date rape to occur.

Contrary to the common stereotype of an unknown stranger attacking in a dark alley, acquaintance rape—also known as date rape—is a more widespread phenomenon. Research studies have found that 1 in 4 college women have experienced rape or attempted rape, and 90% of the victims knew their assailant (Crime Victim Center and Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 1992).

We encourage you to be cautious even if your date happens to be an old acquaintance, classmate, teammate or even a "friend". That same person may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or may misread or imagine that a desired "silent message" or attitude is being communicated. The offender may also not care at all about your wishes.

REDUCING DATE OR ACQUAINTANCE RAPE

- ♦ Meet new acquaintances in public places.
- ♦ Be aware of how much alcohol is being consumed, if any. It's best to avoid using alcohol and drugs entirely. While not a direct cause of date rape, drugs and alcohol can increase your vulnerability by lowering your alertness and ability to make decisions.
- ♦ Make known your sexual limits clearly. If someone starts to offend you, be direct. Say "no" when you mean no.
- ♦ Convey strongly that you expect your rights to be respected.
- ♦ If you feel that you are being pressured into unwanted sex, say something as soon as you can, before it goes any further.
- ♦ It's okay to criticize your date's actions and still like him/her. However, if you don't say anything, he/she won't understand what behavior to stop.
- ♦ If your date doesn't listen to you, leave.
- ♦ Embarrassment should not keep you from doing what is right for you. Don't hesitate to raise your voice, stand up abruptly, or scream, if the situation warrants it.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Conduct or communication of a sexual nature, whether physical, oral or written, that is perceived as threatening, intimidating or humiliating to a person or group is considered sexual harassment. Acts of harassment can range from verbal suggestion or innuendo to offensive physical contact.

Sexual assault and sexual harassment are against the law and against the Gustavus Adolphus Student Code of Conduct. Anyone who has been sexually assaulted or harassed is strongly encouraged to discuss the incident with a member of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). This discussion will give you an opportunity to say what happened and to think about how you want to proceed.

The SART member will review options with you for reporting the incident and provide you with access to medical and counseling resources. SART members will work with you in a confidential manner, in whatever decisions you make.

PREVENTION AND RISK REDUCTION

Preventing sexual assault is different from reducing the risk that you will be assaulted. Prevention focuses on the potential perpetrator, and risk reduction focuses on the potential victim.

Truly preventing sexual assault means sending a clear message to potential perpetrators that it will not be tolerated, down played, or joked about, and that we, as a community, will react decisively if it does happen. It means talking about sexual assault and teaching everyone that sexual assault is never okay. It means informing ourselves about the issues and learning what we can do.

Risk reduction includes a wide variety of personal safety methods aimed at reducing the risk of being assaulted. It can be argued that risk reduction measures are unfair because they restrict freedom about where to go, what to wear, how to act, and what to do. They are often exclusively applied to women, and any man who does all these things would be considered paranoid.

- ♦ Familiarize yourself with security services available to you - phones, escort services, and emergency phones.
- ♦ Travel with friends in well-lit spaces.
- ♦ Be careful about giving out your contact and location information to someone you don't know and trust.
- ♦ Use paths that are well populated and well lit when you walk or bike.
- ♦ Use the "Buddy System".
- ♦ Don't tag keys with easy-to-decipher labels or locations.