Sexual assault is any assault of a sexual nature on another person. Sexual assault is an act of violence.

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

Although sexual assaults most frequently are by a man on a woman, it may be a man on a man, woman on a man, or woman on a woman. 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
- Sodomy
- Sexual penetration with an object

Prevention Tips

- Be aware of your surroundings. Knowing where you are and who is around you may help you to find a way to get out of a bad situation.
- Avoid isolated areas when you are alone. It is more difficult to get help if no one is around.
- Walk with purpose. Act like you know where you’re going at all times.
- Trust your instincts. If a situation or location feels unsafe or uncomfortable, it probably isn’t the best place to be.
- Don’t load yourself down with packages or bags as this makes you appear more vulnerable and helpless.
- Have your cell phone with you and make sure it is charged.
- Don’t isolate yourself from people you are with.
- Avoid playing music or other distractions in both ears so that you can be more aware of your surroundings, especially if you are walking alone.
National Statistics

Each year in the U.S., for every 5000 female students there are:

- 97 sexual assaults by force or threat of force
- 80 attempted sexual assaults by force or threat of force
- 121 sexual assaults by coercion
- 146 sexual contacts with force or threat of force
- 149 sexual contacts by coercion

- 90% knew their offender
- 52% took place after midnight
- 37% took place between 6 p.m. and midnight
- The majority took place in living quarters, both on and off campus
- Less than 5% of completed or attempted sexual assaults were reported to the police
- 2/3 victims told someone about the assault, but rarely was it a college official

Wisconsin Statistics

- Approximately 1 forcible sexual assault is reported every 7 hours, 42 minutes, 40 seconds.
- 88.9% of victims knew their assailants—6.5 were strangers.
- 32.7% of the time, sexual assaults happen at the victim’s residence.
- Use of a fire-arm, knife, blunt object, and/or drug were reported in 2% of the cases.

(Ref: “The Sexual Victimization of College Women”; National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics; December, 2000.)

Being Victimized

If you are the victim...

- Try to escape: RUN! Scream! FIGHT!
- Get to a safe place
- Stay ALIVE
- Try to preserve physical evidence
  - Save clothes, sheets, blankets that you may have come in contact with during or after the assault.
- Do not bathe, douche, use the toilet, or change clothing in order to preserve evidence
- Notify Public Safety and/or Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office
  - Public Safety: 414-456-8299
  - Milwaukee Co. Sheriff’s Office: 911
- Remember as much as possible about the assault and the assailant
- Call a close friend or family member to be with you
- Don’t blame yourself, it’s not your fault
- Get medical attention immediately

(Ref: 2004 Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance Report on Sexual Assaults in Wisconsin)

Local Resources

Milwaukee County:

Counseling Center of Milwaukee
2038 N. Bartlett Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Crisis Line: 414-271-9523
Phone: 414-271-2565
TTY: 414-271-0102
www.tcemilw.org

Sexual Assault Treatment Center
960 N. 12th Street
Room 2120
Milwaukee, WI 53201
Crisis Line: 414-219-5555
Phone: 414-219-5805
TTY: 414-219-7570
www.aurorahospital.org

The Healing Center
611 W. National Ave.
4th Floor
Milwaukee, WI 53204
Crisis Line: 414-671-4325
Phone: 414-671-4325
TTY: 414-671-6836
www.thehealingcenter.org

Waukesha County:

The Women’s Center
505 N. East Ave.
Waukesha, WI 53186
Crisis Line: 262-542-3828
Phone: 262-547-4600
www.twcwaukesha.org

Racine County:

Sexual Assault Services
1220 Mound Ave.
Ste 304
Racine, WI 53404
Crisis Line: 62-673-7323
Phone: 262-619-1634
TTY: 262-637-7233
tdewalt@lswis.org