A Fact Sheet
About Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is any unwanted sexual attention, contact, or activity.

Sexual violence may involve one or more persons forcing, pressuring, coercing, threatening or otherwise manipulating another person into sexual acts or activities against his or her will and without his or her consent.

Sex without consent is sexual assault. It is illegal and it is wrong. While there are many ways in which our culture places blame on the victim, it is always the perpetrator’s fault. If you are forced, pressured, coerced, or manipulated into sexual activity that you do not want, even if you had sex with the person before, know the person, trusted the person, didn’t fight back, were using drugs or alcohol, haven’t told anyone, or it happened a long time ago, support is available. Contact the VT Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence for a program near you.

Some Examples of Sexual Violence

- Harassing someone in a sexual way at school, home or work.
- Using sexual language to talk about someone in a way that makes them uncomfortable.
- Touching, grabbing, or groping someone in a way that makes them uncomfortable.
- Talking someone into doing sexual things that they don’t want to.
- Forcing someone into having sex with another person.
- Forcing someone to perform sex acts on themselves.
- Forcing someone to take sexual pictures or videos.
- Taking videos or pictures without the person’s knowledge and consent.
- Forcing someone to watch pornography or other sexual content.
- Using physical force to get someone to engage in sexual activity (including oral sex, intercourse, or penetration of any kind).
- Using pressure or threats to get someone to engage in any kind of sexual activity.
- Telling someone that if they don’t do something sexual, someone will hurt them or someone they love.
Victim Reactions

Sexual violence takes many forms and no reaction is “wrong.” Each person deals with her/his experiences in their own way and there is no typical reaction. Whatever the victim’s feelings, they should always be validated and respected. Contact the VT Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence for the name of a program near you.

Some Statistics

Vermont

- It has been estimated that 1 out of 7 adult women in Vermont has been a victim of rape sometime in her lifetime. (2003. Rape in Vermont: A Report to the State, Kilpatrick and Ruggiero)
- In 2010, there were 136 forcible rapes and 32 statutory rapes reported to law enforcement in Vermont. (2010 VT Crime Report)
- In 2012, member programs of the VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (VNADSV) served 1,527 victims/survivors of sexual violence. (2012 VNADSV Annual Report)
- Member programs of the VNADSV responded to over 12,500 hotline calls about domestic and sexual violence in 2012. (2012 VNADSV Annual Report)

National

- Rape is the most under-reported crime; 63% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police. (2002. Rape and Sexual Assault: Reporting to Police and Medical Attention. U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.)
- In the U.S., 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives. (2011. National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control)
- Nationally, 51.1% of women report being raped by an intimate partner and 40.8% by an acquaintance. (2011. National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control)
- Nationally, 52.4% of male victims report being raped by an acquaintance and 15.1% by a stranger. (2011. National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control)