

What Is Sexual Assault?

Definitions of Sexual Assault

- ♦ **Sexual Assault** Any non-consensual sexual act which is forced by one or more persons upon another
- ♦ **Rape** Forced or coerced vaginal, anus, or oral penetration. The weapon of intrusion used by the perpetrator may be a penis, tongue, finger, broom handle, soda bottle, or other objects.
- ♦ **Stranger Rape** Forced sexual activities by a person or persons unknown to the victim.
- ♦ **Acquaintance rape** Forced or coerced sexual activities by a person or persons who know the victim. In this type of assault, the trust of the relationship is often used to take advantage of another.
- ♦ **Date Rape** Date rape is one of the most confusing kinds of acquaintance rape because some teen and adult males believe that spending money on a woman means she owes them sex at the end of the evening.
- ♦ **Marital Rape** Forced or coerced sexual activities within a marriage.
- ♦ **Gang Rape** Forced or coerced sexual activities by two or more persons, known or unknown to the victim.
- ♦ **Sodomy** Forced anal and/or oral penetration.
- ♦ **Incest** The legal definition is often defined as sexual contact,

intrusion or penetration by an ancestor or descendent, father, mother, brother, or sister of whole or half blood, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, grandmother, or grandfather. Most service providers use a more global definition that includes sexual contact, intrusion or penetration perpetrated by anyone who holds a position of trust in the child's life.

◆ **Sexual Harassment**

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when any one of these three criteria is met:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the individual's employment;
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with the individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

EEOC Guidelines on Discrimination Because of Sex,' 29 C.F.R. 1604.11(a)

Two Types of Sexual Harassment:

◆ **Quid Pro Quo**

Submission to or rejection of unwelcome sexual conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual. A request for sexual favors as a condition for receiving tangible job benefits is the typical case.

◆ **Hostile Environment**

Unwelcome sexual conduct that unreasonably interferes with an individual's job performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

Facts About Sexual Assault

- ◆ Every 360 seconds a woman is raped.
- ◆ One in four women will be raped in her lifetime. One out of four Colorado women have been raped at some time during their lives.
- ◆ The 1998 Colorado Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey indicates an estimated 9,730 women and 1,710 men in Colorado have experienced a sexual assault in the prior 12 months.
- ◆ At most, only 16 percent of rapes in Colorado are reported to law enforcement. There were 1,794 sexual assaults reported to law enforcement in 1997 (about 16% of the BRFSS estimate of 11,440 sexual assaults on adult men and women per year). The actual reporting rate in Colorado is likely lower than 16% because, while law enforcement statistics include all ages, BRFSS estimates include only adults.
- ◆ NWS (National Women's Study, 1989-91) found that 16% of women who had experienced a **completed** sexual assault reported the incident to law enforcement.
- ◆ The 1998 BRFSS survey found that 24% (1 in 4) of Colorado women and 6% (1 in 17) of Colorado men had experienced a **completed or attempted** sexual assault. This is equivalent to an estimated 353,800 women and 85,440 men. Lifetime prevalence for **completed or attempted** assaults were 18% for women and 3% for men. Statistically, Colorado's prevalence rates for **completed or attempted** assaults are significantly higher.
- ◆ 14% of Colorado women had experienced a **completed** sexual assault at some point during their life. Nationally, the NVAW (1995-1996) and NWS (1989-1991) found that 15% and 13% of women had experienced a **completed** assault. **Completed** sexual assaults among men was 2%, the same as the NVAW.