

Sexual Violence

Sexual Violence and LGBT People

Rape and sexual assault can happen to anyone, regardless of their sex, gender, race, class, age, size, appearance, or sexual orientation, what they look like. They are violent crimes used to exert power, humiliate, and control.

- "Sex" requires your consent.
- "Rape" and "Sexual Assault" are violent crimes and are motivated by anger, hatred, and aggression. Being forced to have unprotected sex or to engage in more sexual activity than you had wanted also constitutes rape or sexual assault. People of all genders can commit sexual assault.
- No one asks to be raped. Even if you picked someone up or were already engaged in sexual activity, you always have the right to say no.
- Laws regarding rape and sexual assault can be very confusing, especially if the survivor is male or the attacker is female. Legal definitions for what happened may not match our definitions. See local statutes for laws governing sexual assault and rape where you live. While legal definitions vary, AVP defines sexual assault and rape in the following ways:
- If you could not say no because you were drunk, high, or unconscious, or have a disability, it is still considered rape or sexual assault. If you had your boundaries violated in a "scene" or your "safe words" were not respected, it is still considered rape or sexual assault. If are a sex worker and someone forced you to do something you did not agree to, it is still considered rape or sexual assault.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual violence, contact the Anti-Violence Project Crisis Line at 773-871-2273.