

15 THINGS EVERY MAN NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT DATE AND ACQUAINTANCE RAPE

Did you know that one out of every six women will be raped at some point in her life? And, though the majority of rape victims are women, men can be raped too. Every man needs to know about date and acquaintance rape – for himself and for the women he cares about.

1. Rape is when one person forces another person to have sex.

Date rape is when someone is forced to have sex by a person he or she is dating. Acquaintance rape is when the rape is committed by someone the victim knows but isn't necessarily dating.



2. Most rapes are committed by someone the person knows.

Seventy-five percent of women who have been raped were raped by a current or former husband, live-in partner or date.

3. Most men don't rape.

Most men care about the women in their lives and would never do anything to hurt them.



4. The force used in rape can take many forms.

- Including:
- Using physical strength or a weapon.
 - Getting a person high or drunk in order to have sex.
 - Not listening when the person says no.
 - Threatening the person with physical harm.
 - Threatening the person by saying things like, "I'll hurt myself (or someone else) if you don't have sex with me."
 - Saying something bad will happen – like you'll say things to ruin her reputation – if she doesn't give in.



5. A person always has the right to say no to sex.

There is no such thing as "earning the right" to have sex. A person has the right to say no even if:

- She has been drinking.
- She is dressed in sexy clothes.
- You spent a lot of money.
- She said yes before.
- You have been making out.
- You have been dating for a long time.



6. Silence isn't consent.

Don't assume that if you want to have sex, it's also what the other person wants. To be safe, ask clearly. Say, "I'd like to have sex. Is that what you want too?" Then listen to the answer.

7. If a woman is hesitant, don't try to pressure her into having sex.

If you do, you may be coercing her to have sex when she doesn't want to. This can be considered rape.

8. A woman may feel afraid or intimidated without your realizing it.

You may not mean to frighten her. A woman may feel afraid because you are bigger or stronger. Or she may be fearful because she has had a bad experience in the past.



9. Getting a woman drunk or high in order to have sex is rape.

If you have sex with someone who is too high or drunk to consent, it is legally rape – even if she never said no.

10. Rape is against the law.

Date and acquaintance rape have the same legal consequences as stranger rape. A person who is convicted of rape could go to prison for a long time.

11. Men can be raped too.

Studies show that about ten percent of all sexual assault victims are men or boys.

12. No always means no.

If someone says no and you don't listen, it is rape. Even if you thought she was just playing hard to get, it is rape.



13. When a person is raped, life changes forever.

Rape is devastating. A person who has been raped may have long lasting physical and emotional troubles.



14. If you know someone who has been raped, the most important thing you can do is to believe her.

Most men know someone who has been raped – a sister, mother, wife or friend. If you know someone who has been raped, be there as a support person and a friend.



15. You can make a difference.

All men, even men who would never rape, can do something to stop rape. You can speak up if people act as if rape is a joke. You can speak out against rape – making it clear that rape is never OK.

