

THE FACTS ABOUT TEEN SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual Assault can include any of the following:

- Rape
- Attempted rape
- Sexual Coercion
- Unwanted sexual touching
- Any sexual contact with someone who cannot consent, such as someone who is underage or unable to respond

Reasons a teen may not report:

- ◆ “I was drinking.”
- ◆ “I don’t remember all the details.”
- ◆ “I wonder if I didn’t do enough to stop it.”
- ◆ “People might say it’s my fault.”
- ◆ “It happened so long ago, it’s too late to tell.”
- ◆ “Nobody will believe me.”
- ◆ “I just want to forget about it.”
- ◆ “Nothing will be done about it anyway.”
- ◆ “My parents will be angry with me.”

Teen sexual assault is very common.

- ◆ 1 in 4 teen girls were verbally or physically pressured into having sex during the past year.
- ◆ 1 in 10 high school girls – and 1 and 20 high school boys – reported being forced into sex.
- ◆ More than 1/3 of acquaintance rape victims are between the ages 14 and 17.
- ◆ Almost 20% of college women reported experiencing sexual assault on campus.

You can help.

- ◆ Talk to your kids openly about consent. You can find tips and resources at: www.childmind.org/article/how-talk-kids-sex-consent-boundaries and www.teachconsent.org.
- ◆ If a teen discloses to you, listen calmly. Assure them that you believe them, it is not their fault, and you will work with them to get support and help.
- ◆ Focus on the lack of consent, not the teen’s behavior (i.e., where they went, what they were wearing, how much they drink, etc.)
- ◆ Understand that disclosing is often a process, not a single event. A teen may first provide hints, and then if the response is supportive, they may share more information with you. Listen without judgment.



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