Sexual assault is any physical act of a sexual nature that is without consent or when the victim is unable to give consent. If you have been assaulted, or know someone who has, please contact us immediately at 336-841-9231 (during normal business hours) or 336-841-9112 (after hours and on weekends).

This is a traumatic event. Many thoughts and reflections will occur after the assault; sometimes, you may need additional services and there are many resources available to assist you with processing the traumatic nature of the event.

CONSIDERATIONS AFTER A RECENT SEXUAL ASSAULT

1. Seek medical attention immediately so that you know all of your options for the prevention of pregnancy and/or sexually transmitted infections. Even if you are not pursuing criminal charges, it is important to take care of your general health and assure that no injuries occurred. Also, you are able to have your evidence collected anonymously and it does not mean that you have to pursue criminal charges. The best evidence is collected within 72 hours of the assault.

2. Remember, sexual assault is a crime and against HPU Conduct policy. There is a difference between reporting to the local police department versus High Point University. When a sexual assault occurs and is reported to HPU personnel (security, RA, RD, staff and/or faculty), these individuals are required to report the matter to the appropriate authorities and a full investigation will be conducted immediately. Should the alleged perpetrator elect to appeal the charges made against them, a priority conduct hearing will be held. Students may review the process with the Director of Student Conduct.

3. Consider talking with a counselor. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, there are resources on campus as well as off campus. It is your choice to talk to someone about what happened.

4. If you want to avoid contact with the alleged perpetrator, interim measures will be made in regard to academic, social and living situations.

5. Retaliation by alleged perpetrator and/or friends and acquaintances. As soon as a student reports an alleged sexual assault and names the alleged student, the Office of Student Life will contact that individual and investigate the alleged event. Involved students will be advised that retaliation in any form (social media, written, indirect contact by friends) will not be tolerated and the student exhibiting this behavior risks immediate removal from the residential community.

HPU RESOURCES

Title IX Coordinators:

Gail C. Tuttle, Vice President for Student Life
336-841-9141
gtuttle@highpoint.edu
Slane Center, 338

Or

Captain Derek Stafford, Security Manager of Investigations, Compliance & Crime Prevention
104 N. College Admin Building
336-841-9433
dstaffor@highpoint.edu

Office of Counseling Services
336-888-6352 (during business hours – M-F 8:30 – 5 p.m.)
After hours and weekends, call 336-880-4409
Email: counseling@highpoint.edu

Free and confidential counseling is available.

Student Health Services
Wilson Hall, 1st floor (back of building)
336-841-4683
Email: studenthealth@highpoint.edu

HPU Security
336.841.9111

EXTERNAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES

High Point Regional Hospital
601 N. Elm Street
High Point, NC 27262
(336) 878-6000

Moses Cone Hospital
2630 Willard Dairy Road
High Point, NC 27265
(336) 884-3777

High Point Police Department
911 (Emergency)
336-883-3224 (Non-Emergency)

NC Crisis Rape Center
Family Service of the Piedmont
1401 Long Street
High Point, NC
336-889-6161
336-889-7273 (Crisis)

North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA)
www.nccasa.net

North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV)
www.nccadv.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline
24-hours: 800/799-SAFE (7233)

National Sexual Assault Hotline
24-hours: 800/656-HOPE (4673)

Office of Violence Against Women
www.ovw.usdoj.gov
Rape and sexual assault are crimes of violence and control. In many cases of sexual assault, a weapon is not involved. This “assumption of risk” wrongfully places the responsibility of the offender’s action with the victim. Even if a person went voluntarily to someone’s home or room and consented to engage in some sexual activity, it does not serve as blanket consent for all sexual activity. When in doubt if the person is comfortable with an elevated level of sexual activity, stop and ask. When someone says “no” or “stop,” that means “STOP!” Sexual activity forced upon another without valid consent is sexual assault.

MYTH: Victims provoke sexual assaults when they dress provocatively or act in a promiscuous manner.

FACT: Rape and sexual assault are crimes of violence and control that stem from a person’s determination to exercise power over another. Neither provocative dress nor promiscuous behaviors are invitations for unwanted sexual activity. Forcing someone to engage in non-consensual sexual activity is sexual assault, regardless of the way that person dresses or acts.

MYTH: If a person goes to someone’s room or house or goes to a bar, s/he assumes the risk of sexual assault. If something happens later, s/he can’t claim that s/he was raped or sexually assaulted because s/he should have known not to go to those places.

FACT: This “assumption of risk” wrongfully places the responsibility of the offender’s action with the victim. Even if a person went voluntarily to someone’s home or room and consented to engage in some sexual activity, it does not serve as blanket consent for all sexual activity. When in doubt if the person is comfortable with an elevated level of sexual activity, stop and ask. When someone says “no” or “stop,” that means “STOP!” Sexual activity forced upon another without valid consent is sexual assault.

MYTH: It is not sexual assault if it happens after drinking or taking drugs.

FACT: Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs is not an invitation for sexual activity. A person under the influence does not cause others to assault her/him; others choose to take advantage of the situation and sexually assault her/him because s/he is in a vulnerable position. A person who is incapacitated due to the influence of alcohol or drugs is not able to consent to sexual activity.

MYTH: Most sexual assaults are committed by strangers. It’s not rape if the people involved know each other.

FACT: Most sexual assaults and rape are committed by someone the victim knows. A study of sexual victimization of college women showed that about 90% of victims knew the person who sexually victimized them. Most often, a boyfriend, ex-boyfriend, classmate, friend, acquaintance or co-worker sexually victimized the person. It is important to remember that sexual assault can occur in both heterosexual and same-gender relationships.

MYTH: Rape can be avoided if women avoid dark alleys or other “dangerous” places where strangers might be hiding or lurking.

FACT: Rape and sexual assault can occur at any time, in many places, to anyone.

MYTH: A person who has really been sexually assaulted will be hysterical.

FACT: Victims of sexual violence exhibit a spectrum of responses to the assault which can include: calm, hysteria, withdrawal, anxiety, anger, apathy, denial and shock. Being sexually assaulted is a very traumatic experience. Reaction to the assault and the length of time needed to process through the experience vary with each person. There is no “right way” to react to being sexually assaulted. Assumptions about the way a victim “should act” may be detrimental to the victim because each victim copes in different ways.

MYTH: All sexual assault victims will report the crime immediately to the police. If they do not report it or delay in reporting it, then they must have changed their minds after it happened, wanted revenge or didn’t want to look like they were sexually active.

FACT: There are many reasons why a sexual assault victim may not report the assault to the police or campus officials. It is not easy to talk about being sexually assaulted and can feel very shameful. The experience of retelling what happened may cause the person to relive the trauma. Another reason for delaying a report or not making a report is the fear of retaliation by the offender. There is also the fear of being blamed, not being believed and being required to go through judicial proceedings. Just because a person does not report the sexual assault does not mean it did not happen.

MYTH: Only young, pretty women are assaulted.

FACT: The belief that only young, pretty women are sexually assaulted stems from the myth that sexual assault is based on sex and physical attraction. Sexual assault is a crime of power and control. Offenders often choose people whom they perceive as most vulnerable to attack or over whom they believe they can assert power. Men and boys are also sexually assaulted, as well as persons with disabilities. Assumptions about the “typical” victim might lead others not to report the assault because they do not fit the stereotypical victim.

MYTH: It’s only rape if the victim puts up a fight and resists.

FACT: Many states do not require the victim to resist in order to charge the offender with rape or sexual assault. Those who do not resist may feel if they do so, they will anger their attacker, resulting in more severe injury. Many assault experts say that victims should trust their instincts and intuition and do what they believe will most likely keep them alive. Not fighting or resisting an attack does not equal consent.

MYTH: Someone can only be sexually assaulted if a weapon was involved.

FACT: In many cases of sexual assault, a weapon is not involved. The offender often uses physical strength, physical violence, intimidation, threats or a combination of these tactics to overpower the victim. Although the presence of a weapon while committing the assault may result in a higher penalty or criminal charge, the absence of a weapon does not mean that the offender cannot be held criminally responsible for a sexual assault.