

# Sexual harassment and assault happen to males too!

## FACTS, MYTHS, AND SUPPORT

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# Content Warning

**\*\*SASH Club Power Topics may include sensitive content that may be difficult to present and may possibly be triggering to some participants.\*\***

**You may want to seek the support of an ally during this presentation, especially if you're a survivor of sexual violence.**



# What's Ahead:

- Who are the victims?
- Who are the abusers?
- What is the prevalence of educator abuse?
- How are male and female sexual abuse/assault different?
- What is male sexual abuse/assault and sexual harassment?
- Where does the sexual abuse occur?



“Males” refers to children and adolescents, heterosexual, gay, transmales, or gender nonconforming people identifying as male. This is a long presentation and may require two sessions to complete. You may want to go quickly through it and return for a second session.

**We highly recommend you hear Christopher Routenberg-Evans’s talk (6 minutes)**



# What's Ahead:

- What is hazing?
- What are some emotions and behaviors male survivors experience?
- What are some social myths male survivors face?
- Where can male survivors get help?
- How can survivors continue their education in a supportive environment?
- Discussion Topics
- Learn More



# Who are the victims?

## What do we know about sexual harassment and abuse of males?

- What percentage of males will be sexually assaulted by the age of 16 by an older person?
- What is the average age that boys first experience sexual abuse?
- What is the age range in which boys are first abused?



# Who are the victims?

- At least one in six males will be physically sexually assaulted by the age of 16.
- If we include abuse that doesn't involve touching (e.g the abuser exposes themselves or shows the victim pornography), then **one in five** males will have experienced sexual abuse by the age of 16.
- The average age a boy experiences sexual abuse is 10.
- The age range in which boys are first abused is from infancy to late adolescence.



Is this  
information  
astonishing?



# Who are the victims?

- Most research data focuses on heterosexual males. But we know that transgender and nonbinary adolescents are twice as likely to experience sexual violence than their cisgendered peers. See **GLSEN's The 2021 National School Climate Survey**
- Given these statistics for all males, it's likely that one of your male friends has been sexually abused by the age of 16.





# Who are the abusers?

- What percentage of abusers are male?  
What is their sexual orientation?
- How many males are sexually  
abused by females?
- How is the abuser typically related  
to the victim?



# Who are the abusers?

- It's estimated that between 50 to 75% of the abusers are other males who consider themselves heterosexual; most know the victim but are unrelated to him.
- Gender nonconforming people are “less likely to attempt rape or commit sexual assault, researchers have found.” **Trans Teens Less Likely to Commit Acts of Sexual Violence, Says New Study**
- Other abusers can also be family members, friends, peers, people in positions of power (scout leaders, club leaders, clergy), and strangers.



# Who are the abusers?

- The rate of female abuse of males is difficult to know since this abuse is often viewed as “sexual initiation” and it may be difficult for the male victim to identify it as abuse-- even after experiencing significant trauma from the abuse.
- Female abusers can be friends, romantic partners, and adults in positions of power like employers, teachers, or school staff. While a male may feel it’s cool to get sexual experience, having sex with a teacher or adult is always an abuse of power and can lead to feelings of shame, powerlessness, trauma, and more.

> **More female teachers caught having sex with students, experts say**



# What is the prevalence of educator abuse?

- Did you know that at least 10% of all students will be sexually harassed or assaulted by teachers /school staff before graduation?

> Learn more in **A Case Study of K–12 School Employee Sexual Misconduct**

- In another session you may want to watch the CBS documentary:

> **Pledge of Silence: Sex Abuse and Cover-Up in America's Schools | CBS Reports**  
(22 minutes)



The Seattle Times

**Ex-Sumner coach charged with child rape, molestation of players**

KSAT.com

**Texas student, 11, charged after 6-year-old boy sexually assaulted on school bus, reports say**

Suspect was charged with three counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child

5 CHICAGO

**Prosecutors: CPS gym teacher accused of sexually abusing elementary school students**

KRON 4

**14-year-old boy says he was sexually assaulted by 3 football teammates**

Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Department of Justice

**Former Elementary School Teacher Sentenced to Life in Prison for Sexually Abusing Children**

NEW YORK POST

**At least 6 female teachers arrested for sexual misconduct with students over two days across US**



# How are male and female sexual assault different?

PTSD: National Center for PTSD writes:

- Those who sexually assault men or boys differ in a number of ways from those who assault only females.
- Boys are more likely than girls to be sexually abused by strangers or by authority figures in organizations such as schools, the church, or athletics programs.
- Those who sexually assault males usually choose young men and male adolescents (the average age is 17 years old) as their victims and are more likely to assault many victims, compared to those who sexually assault females.



# How are male and female sexual assault different?

PTSD: National Center for PTSD writes:

- Perpetrators often assault young males in isolated areas where help is not readily available. For instance, a perpetrator who assaults males may pick up a teenage hitchhiker on a remote road or find some other way to isolate his intended victim.
- As is true about those who assault and sexually abuse women and girls, most perpetrators of males are men. Specifically, men are perpetrators in about 86 out of every 100 (or 86%) of male victimization cases.
- Despite popular belief that only gay men would sexually assault men or boys, most male perpetrators identify themselves as heterosexuals and often have consensual sexual relationships with women.



# What is male sexual abuse/assault?

## *Is force always involved?*

Male sexual assault is any non-consensual act of a sexual nature which involves domination and threatens the physical and/or psychological well-being of a male. These acts always are always an abuse of power but may or may not involve physical force. Sexual assault that doesn't involve physical force may occur through persuasion such as threats, intimidation, or substances like date-rape drugs.



# What is male sexual abuse/assault?

Sexual abuse that involves physical contact is referred to using different terms such as rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, unlawful sexual conduct, or criminal sexual conduct. The terms for legal purposes vary from state to state, but the abusive behavior includes, but is not limited to, unwanted sexual touching over and under clothing, unwanted embracing, forced kissing, forcing the victim to touch the intimate parts of the abuser's body, oral and anal rape (penetration by a body part or implement). Anal rape is the most common form of male sexual assault.



# What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to: sexual gestures, sexual sounds, verbal statements of a sexual nature, sexual bullying, exposing genitals or breasts to the victim, exposing the victim to pornography, sending sexual images, sextortion, making disparaging remarks about the victim's sexuality or orientation, expressions like. "that's so gay," and more.

➤ See also our Power Topic *Sexual Harassment Defined and its Impact* and *What is Sextortion?*



# Where does the sexual abuse occur? Can it occur at school?

The abuse can occur anywhere: in the victim's home or a friend's home, on the school bus, in the classroom alone with a teacher or with others present, on the playing field, in the locker room or bathroom, on a date, at parties, in residential treatment centers, on scouting or school field trips, at work, for example.



# What is hazing?

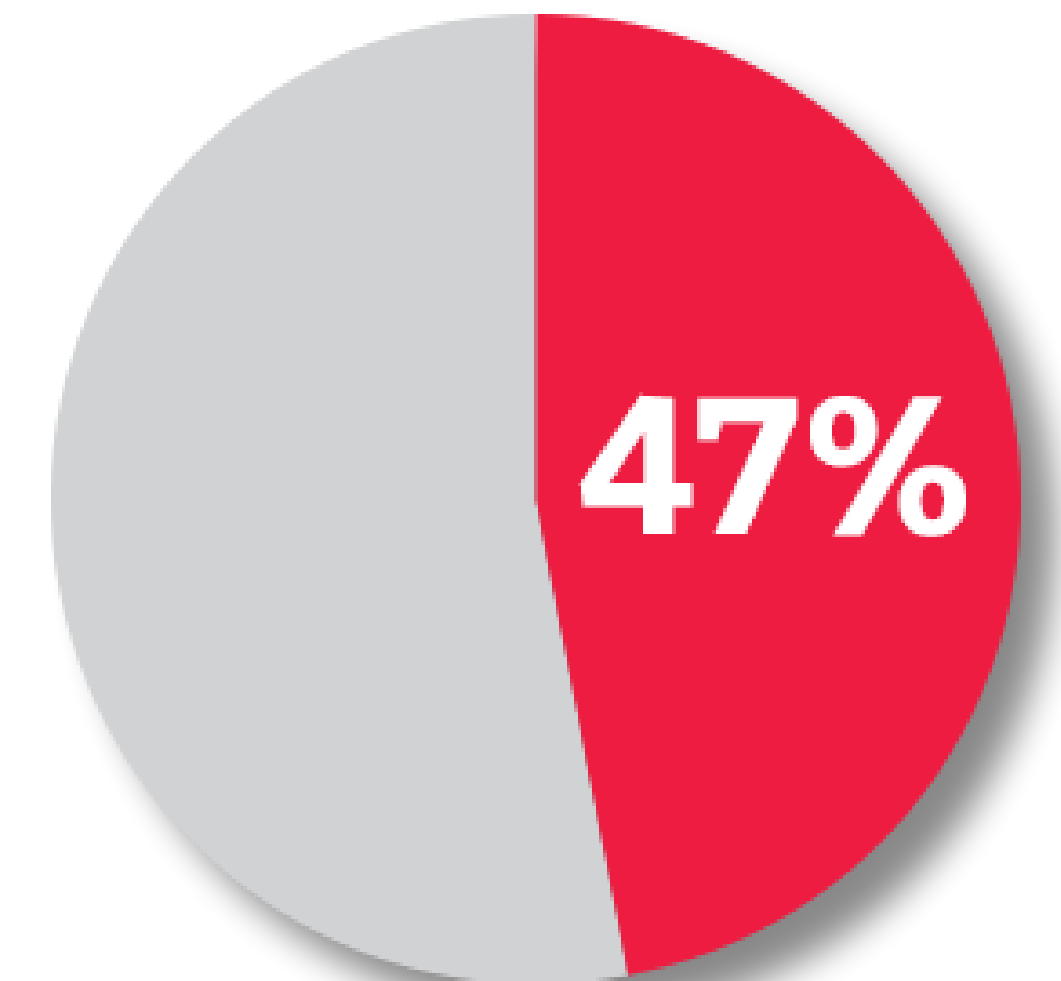
- > What is hazing?
- > Does hazing occur before college?
- > Is it sexual assault?

Hazing is a humiliating and sometimes endangering activity expected of someone joining a group or team, whether or not the newcomer wants to participate in the hazing. Unlike bullying, which isolates the victim, hazing is meant to strengthen inclusion because the victim submits to the hazing as a sign of loyalty, even though it is degrading and most often traumatic.

In many cases, though, the hazing is far more extreme than the participant expected, and he is unable to escape from the activity.

We usually associate hazing with initiation into a club, organization, middle, high school, or college sports team; but it can also occur in military or workplace settings.

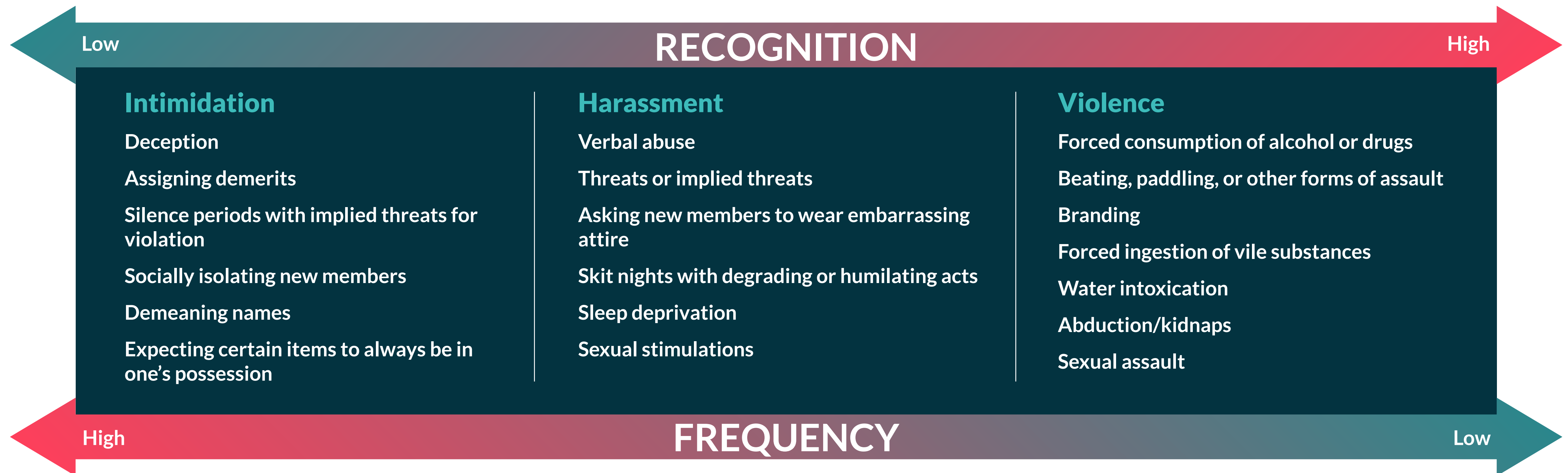
According to [Stop Hazing](#), at least 47% of students are hazed before going to college.





# What is hazing?

Here are some examples of hazing.



- from the [Stop Hazing](#) website.

Allan, 2015; Allan & Kerschner, 2020; Adapted from Bringing in the Bystander



# What is hazing?

Some schools or organizations intentionally mislabel sexual assault as “hazing.” By dismissing the sexual assault as “hazing” or “boys will be boys,” the school/organization tries to escape accountability for the sexual assault to occur, thereby protecting their reputation.

Many schools ignore the hazing, especially if it involves valued athletes until a parent brings a lawsuit and holds the school accountable.

If schools properly identified the behaviors as sexual assault, they would be required to protect victims under the federal law, Title IX, which guarantees students an education free from sexual harassment and assault. They would be required to report the incident as sexual violence to the police and Civil Right Data Collection.

Just as sexual assaults on girls are covered up, especially when committed by male athletes, so are sexual assaults on males covered up.



# What are some emotions and behaviors male survivors experience?

Male victims typically experience shame, anxiety, depression isolation, low self-esteem, self destructive behavior, post-traumatic stress reactions, poor body image, sleep disturbances, nightmares, eating disorders, dysfunctional relations, sexual problems, compulsive behavior like alcoholism, drug addiction, gambling, overspending, and sexual obsessions or compulsion.

## HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

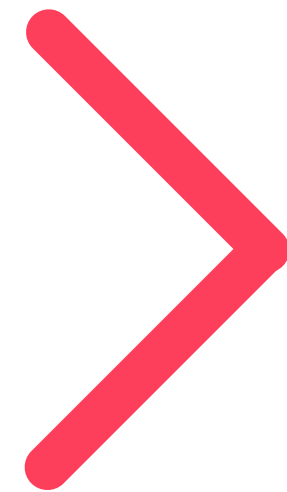
Watch Christopher Routenberg-Evans, a courageous Canadian teen survivor, speaking about his abuse in an award-winning speech

[Click Here](#)



# What are some social myths male survivors face?

**Social myths  
increase undeserved  
shame and guilt.  
Society teaches that:**



1.

Males are supposed to be the sexual aggressor-- not vulnerable or fearful.

2.

Males are not supposed to have sexual contact with other males (an especially damaging message for gay or bisexual men.)

3.

Males are supposed to want every sexual experience they have. Males are not supposed to be used sexually.

4.

If a male is aroused/ejaculates during the abuse, he enjoyed it. Wrong! Males often experience sexual arousal even if repulsed by what's happening. Though the body reacts to stimulation, this is NOT consent!

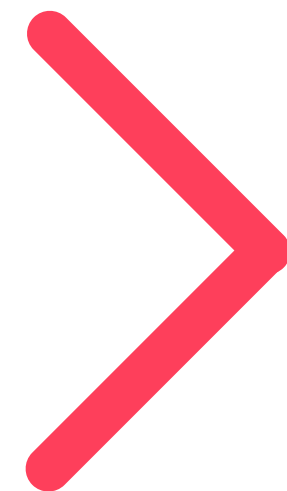


**These myths make it very difficult for males to report sexual assault or seek help.**



# What are some social myths male survivors face?

More myths  
survivors must  
battle with:



- Males cannot be sexually abused or victimized.
  - Sexual abuse turns a boy/youth gay. Wrong! However, the abuse may lead to confusion about sexual identity and impact intimate relationships.
  - Sexually abused boys inevitably become sexually abusive men. **Wrong!** Over 80% of sexually abused boys will not become adult abusers but the majority of abusers (up to 80%) were abused themselves.
  - Males are less traumatized by sexual abuse than females. **Wrong!** But the experience is different for each gender and for each person.
  - Boys/males can say no to abuse if violence is not used. **Wrong!** Victims can be threatened, intimidated, shamed into participation, or frozen by confusion or fright!
- (Adapted from Gartner, Betrayed as Boys, Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence.)

> Learn more about myths at **1 in 6**



# Where can male survivors get help?

1. Call a local nonprofit sexual assault response organization using **RAINN's interactive form**. Many certified advocates are not mandated reporters. When you call the organization do not give your last name. Ask: "Are your advocates mandatory reporters?" "Do you serve minors without parental permission?" If they are not mandated reporters, your conversations are confidential.
2. Advocates can help victims talk to their parents or other adults. Often advocates will first talk to parents or other adult allies to make sure they know how to respond appropriately to their child.

Call RAINN to speak confidentially with a trained advocate through the national helpline, 24/7 1-800-656-4673. They can help you locate an advocate and support services in your area.

Male survivors may not seek help, fearing blame for the circumstances that led to the abuse. They may fear retaliation by the abuser, friends, or the school where the abuse occurred. Even though the assault is NEVER the victim's fault, the fear and reluctance to get help is understandable.

In addition, many adults (such as school staff/teachers) are mandatory reports, which means they must report sexual abuse to child protective services, the police, or other agencies. But there are still ways to get help.



# Where can male survivors get help?

3. You can also speak in hypotheticals, saying, “This happened to a friend of mine.”
4. If you are unable to continue your education free from sexual harassment/ abuse and hostility because your school is unhelpful, advocates can help create a safety plan for school or help you transfer to another school if desired.
5. It’s important to get counseling to heal from the trauma. The sexual assault or other youth organization can connect you with a counsellor. If privacy is an issue, confirm that the counselor is NOT a mandatory reporter.



# What can I do if the school or organization ignores sexual abuse (and hazing) or says it's just boys being boys?

1. See [Frequently asked questions on Title IX and supportive measures for K-12 students](#). Take note of pages 4, 10-11 on mandated reporting. You may also want to [watch this video](#) on mandated reporting for students of all genders.
  2. File a written complaint with your school district. Contact your school district's [Title IX Coordinator](#). Many districts have Ombuds, people who will help resolve problems.
  3. Contact your state department of education gender equity department through [this directory](#).
  4. Contact the U.S. Department of Education (OCR) [regional office](#), explain your situation and file a complaint.
- Visit the [Stop Sexual Assault in Schools website](#) for information on your rights, support, and more resources.



# Discussion Topics:

- Why should we care about the experiences of males who are sexually harassed or assaulted?
- If males knew they could be victims of sexual assault, would that change their behavior towards females and LGBTQ+ youth who are sexually harassed/assaulted?
- How can we provide emotional support for male survivors of sexual harassment and abuse?
- What can we do when we see sexual harassment or assault of males?
- What can survivors who are afraid of retaliation from friends or the school for reporting do?
- Since males rarely report the abuse or seek help, what are the long-term consequences for the mental and emotional health?



# Dive Deeper:

- > Sexual Assault of Men and Boys on the RAINN website
- > Visit the [1 in 6](#) and [Male Survivor](#) websites. Both websites assist men over 18 but their resources and information are very helpful for younger survivors.
- > [For Male Survivors of Sexual Assault](#) Helpful suggestions from the University of Tennessee
- > More about [Christian Rountenberg-Evan](#), male survivor heard in presentation.
- > Another report on [Christian Routentenberg-Evans](#)
- > [Male Victims of Sexual Assault: Phenomenology, Psychology, Physiology](#)
- > Educator Abuse documentary: [Pledge of Silence: Sex Abuse and Cover-Up in America's Schools | CBS Reports](#) (22 minutes)
- > [A Case Study of K-12 School Employee Sexual Misconduct](#)
- > [Portraits of female offenders—U.S.A.](#)
- > [Canadian perspectives on female offenders](#)
- > [How Sexual Assault Impacts College Men — And Two Ways to Prevent It.](#) (Be prepared!)
- > See GLSEN's [The 2021 National School Climate Survey](#) (LGBTQ+ youth risks)
- > With adult guidance you may watch [this video](#) with sensitive information. Content warning!
- > [Stop Hazing](#) website



Primary source  
for this presentation

[AZ Coalition to  
End Sexual and  
Domestic Violence](#)



# To Do Immediately if Sexually Assaulted

- > Get away from the attacker to a safe place as fast as you can.
- > Then call 911 or the police.
- > Call a friend or family member you trust.
- > You can call a crisis center or hotline to talk with a counselor.
- > One 24/7 option, for all genders, is the Rape, Abuse & Incest National
- > Network (RAINN) National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-HOPE(4673).
- > RAINN will connect you with a rape crisis center in your area.
- > Visit the [Survivor Support page](#) for more helpline options and details.



# To Do Immediately if Sexually Assaulted

- > Preserve the evidence, even if you are unsure you will report.
- > **Do not:**
  - Wash, comb your hair, or clean any part of your body
  - Brush your teeth
  - Change clothes, if possible, so the hospital nurse can collect evidence
  - Touch or change anything at the scene of the assault
- > **Seek medical attention ASAP at your nearest hospital ER:**
  - You need to be examined, treated for any injuries, checked for possible sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or pregnancy, and can receive preventative medicine.
  - The nurse or doctor will collect evidence the attacker may have left behind.
- > **Ask hospital staff to connect you with a local rape crisis center.**



# If You are Sexually Harassed

**It isn't your fault... and you can get help to make it stop.**

- Reach out ASAP to a friend, school counselor or trusted adult for immediate safety & support to bring the issue to your Dean of Students, Principal, or Title IX Coordinator.
- Confidential National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-4673  
[www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)
- Learn about your rights and how to take action on the [Stop Sexual Assault in Schools website](#)



# Feedback & Suggestions:

SASH Club welcomes your feedback and suggestions on the content of this presentation. Contact us via:

Web: [www.sashclub.org](http://www.sashclub.org)

Email: [sashclub@ssais.org](mailto:sashclub@ssais.org)

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Contact an adult advisor with your questions or concerns about local issues.



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# THANK YOU

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Sexual Harassment**