

Sexual Assault and Risk Reduction Strategies

Forms of Sexual Assault

- **Stranger:** assault is perpetrated by someone the victim does not know.
- **Acquaintance:** assault is perpetrated by someone known to the victim, for example a friend, classmate, co-worker, neighbor, current or former partner, etc.
- **Date:** assault is perpetrated by the victim's date.
- **Gang:** assault is perpetrated by more than one attacker.
- **Drug Facilitated:** assault is perpetrated by administering a drug to the victim such as alcohol, GHB, Rohypnol, prescription sleeping pills, etc.

No matter what form it takes, sexual assault is illegal, against University policy and **completely unacceptable.**

University Policy on Sexual Assault

Sexual Assault is a violation of University Policy and, regardless of whether or not a victim decides to pursue criminal charges, a person who commits sexual assault can be held responsible by the University and be subject to sanctions. If you would like to read the University of Tennessee Policy on Sexual Assaults, please visit the following website:

<http://dos.utk.edu/hilltopics/>

General Risk Reduction Strategies

- Trust your instincts. If a situation feels wrong or dangerous, it might be. Get away and call for help.
- Avoid distracting activities while running or walking (i.e. wearing headphones, talking on a cell phone).
- Keep your cell phone charged and accessible for emergencies.
- Avoid situations in which you might be vulnerable.
- Always walk / exercise in pairs or groups.
- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Avoid taking shortcuts through dark secluded areas.
- When out at a party, restaurant or bar, watch your drinks - never leave them unattended.
- **Avoid excessive use of alcohol and drugs**
- **If you choose to drink, be aware of your limits and the factors that influence how quickly you will experience the effects of alcohol such as food consumed, energy level, general health, etc.**
- **Never** go to a bar or party alone! Always use the buddy system.
- **Never** leave your friends to fend for themselves. If you arrive with a group of four friends, leave with the same four friends.
- **Consider a reputable self defense program.**

For more information, please contact:
University of Tennessee Police Department
Community Relations Unit
1101 Cumberland Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996
(865)974-4674
utpolice@utk.edu
www.utpolice.org