

ABSTRACT

This poster focuses on date rape, which under US Law constitutes a form of sexual assault. It is an examination of the relationship between alcohol consumption and sexual assault on the Beloit College campus. Most students do not have an accurate definition of rape, nor do they know that alcohol and rape are inseparable. Perhaps some have been victims to such violence without even knowing it. The research provided is based on interviews with the Beloit College administration on the current sexual assault policy. Students need to know what procedures are already in place for dealing with sexual assault. Peer-reviewed literature will also be presented as a primary source. Studies show that approximately 90% of date rapes happen while both parties are under the influence of alcohol. I hope to show the students here at Beloit College the dramatic consequences of date rape, and that these consequences could be prevented if responsible drinking habits were exercised.

INTRODUCTION

The State of Wisconsin recognizes that sexual assaults occur under a variety of circumstances. Sexual assault includes both sexual intercourse and sexual contact.

Sexual intercourse without consent includes intrusion, however slight, into a person's genital or anal openings by any object or part of another persons body, or oral-genital contact. This intrusion may be caused by the direct act of the assailant or may occur as a result of an act by a victim who is obeying the assailant's instructions.

Sexual contact without consent is defined as any intentional touching of the intimate parts of a person, either directly or through clothing, by any body part or by any object, if that intentional touching is for the purpose of sexually degrading or humiliating the victim for the sexual arousal or gratification of the assailant, or if the intent contains the elements of actual or attempted battery.

For the purpose of this poster we are going to refer to actual **sexual intercourse**.

It is undeniable that most Beloit College community members believe that Date Rape is wrong, illegal, and does not belong on the Beloit College campus. Most people would not knowingly commit an act of sexual violence, but might commit one if they did not understand the difference between sexual assault and consensual sex. It is very likely that a lot of students do not have an accurate definition of rape. They also may not know that alcohol and date rape are almost inseparable. The law makes no reference to the gender of either the victim or assailant. Therefore, both female and male victims of sexual assault are protected by the law, and both female and male assailants can be prosecuted under the law.

Non-consensual Sexual Intercourse (or Rape) is:

Any sexual intercourse and/or penetration (anal, oral or vaginal) however slight with any object by an individual upon another individual without consent. Intercourse includes vaginal penetration by a penis, object, tongue or finger, anal penetration by a penis, object, tongue or finger, and oral copulation (mouth to genital contact or genital to mouth contact).

If a person chooses to drink alcohol, s/he runs the risk of impaired thinking and communication. Consenting sex recognizes sober, verbal and nonverbal communication free of threats or other coercion. The Beloit College policy recognizes that someone under the influence of alcohol may be unable to give consent. Being drunk is never an excuse for raping or assaulting someone.

Rape does happen on the Beloit College campus. The rest of the poster will be dedicated to showing students what procedures are already in place to prevent such violence, what they can do themselves to stay safe, and how rape can dramatically effect the lives of both the victim and the rapist.

METHOD

This information was gathered in a number of ways. By conducting interviews with the college administration I was able to specifically apply what I have learned to the Beloit College community. These interviews also help to ensure the information being portrayed is up to date.

The current sexual assault policy (2006) for Beloit College, as well as the statistics gathered from the CORE survey each year were also primary sources. The last source used was the Santa Monica Rape Crisis booklet. In the 1980's Beloit College worked closely with the SM-Rape crisis committee to come up with an appropriate policy that met the colleges specific needs.

RESULTS

In the 1980's the Beloit College administration collaborated with the Santa Monica Rape Crisis Center to come up with an appropriate policy on sexual assault. Over the years more was added to ensure students knew what to do if they ever had to confront such a traumatic issues. Currently the Associated Colleges of the Midwest have similar policies on sexual assault. Not only do they share similar procedures, they also have similar preventative measures already in place.

Date RAPE: Beloit College & Beyond

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What Students Need to Know

College students are at high risk for sexual assault
College students are in one of the most vulnerable age groups for sexual assault.

In the *Rape in America* study, over 80% of the women who reported being raped were under 25 years old:

- 29.3% were less than 11 years old
- 32.3% were between 11 and 17
- 22.2% were between 18 and 24
- 7.1% were between 25 and 29
- 6.1% were older than 29
- 3.0% age was not available

Rape in America: A Report to the Nation,

National Victim Center, 1992.
 2

Alcohol Use and Sexual Assault
A majority of the sexual assaults experienced by college students occur in situations involving drinking - - by the victim, the assailant, or both. The definitions of rape and sexual assault include having sex with someone who is unable to consent because he or she is *intoxicated, drugged, or unconscious*. For example, if a person has sex with someone who is unable to consent, or is prevented from resisting, because of the effects of alcohol or other drugs, it can be considered rape or sexual assault if the person knew, or reasonably should have known, that the victim was mentally and/or physically incapacitated.

Often victims who have been drinking and/or using drugs at the time of a sexual assault have intense feelings of self-blame. They are also more likely to encounter blaming responses from other people.

A victim is NEVER responsible for a sexual assault. The responsibility for rape rests completely with the assailant.

A victim is **NEVER** responsible for a sexual assault. The responsibility for rape rests completely with the assailant.

Even if the person who assaulted you had been drinking and/or using drugs, he/she is still responsible for his/her behavior. Being drunk is not an excuse for committing any criminal acts, including sexual assault.

Approximately 90% of date rapes happen with alcohol involved. 1



•Men and women are directly affected by sexual assault. Of all sexual assault cases, 89 percent of the victims were female; 11 percent were male. (1999 National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Statistics, 2000.)

•7 out of 10 rape of sexual assault victims knew their attacker. (Rennison, Calli M. Criminal Victimization 1998: Changes 1997-1998 with Trends 1993-1998. Bureau of Justice Statistics, US Department of Justice, 1999.)

•Approximately 22 percent of victims are raped by intimates, such as husbands or boyfriends, 47 percent by acquaintances, and 2 percent by other relatives. (Criminal Victimization in 1999: Changes 1998-1999, with trends 1993-1999. US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, August, 2000.)

•84 percent of men whose actions matched the legal definition of rape, said that what they did was definitely not rape. (Koss, M.P. 1998. *"Hidden Rape: Incident, Prevalence, and Descriptive Characteristics of Sexual Aggression and Victimization in a National Sample of College Students."* Rape and Sexual Assault, Vol. II. Edited by A.W. Burgess. New York: Garland Publishing Company.)2003 2001

How does this apply to the Beloit College Campus Community?

RAPE happens ... even at Beloit.

CORE SURVEY

What is the “CORE” survey?

The CORE Drug and Alcohol Survey was developed in the late 1980s by the US Department of Education and advisors from several universities and colleges. The survey is used by universities and colleges to determine the extent of substance use and abuse on their campuses.

The results from this survey (taken in 2001, 2003, and 2005) suggest that alcohol plays a very important role on the Beloit College Campus.

	2005	2003	2001
Students who consumed alcohol in the past year	85.1%	83%	86.4%
Students who reported Binge Drinking	45.2%	40.5%	45.5%
Students who believe the average student uses alcohol at least once a week	92.2%	91.6%	90.2%
Students who say alcohol enhances social activity	70.8%	68.7%	68.8%

These high percentages clearly show that alcohol plays a central role in Beloit College social life. The next set of data demonstrates how alcohol plays a lead role in unwanted sexual encounters.



Students who say alcohol facilitates sexual opportunity	44.3%	44.2%	47.5%
Students who have been taken advantage of sexually as a result of drinking	9.3%	10.3%	12.8%
Students who have taken advantage of another sexually as a result of drinking	2.5%	2.5%	3.7%



The next set of data demonstrates that alcohol and unwanted sexual contact are INSEPARABLE!

	2005	2003	2001
Students who experienced forced sexual touching or fondling	7.9%	5.8%	6.4%
Of those above, students who reported consuming alcohol shortly before these incidences	75.8%	69.4%	54%
Students who experienced unwanted sexual intercourse (RAPE)	3.2%	2.5%	3.6%
Of those above, students who reported consuming alcohol shortly before these incidences	81.8%	73.4%	72.4%

DISCUSSION:

What colleges can do to prevent sexual assault...

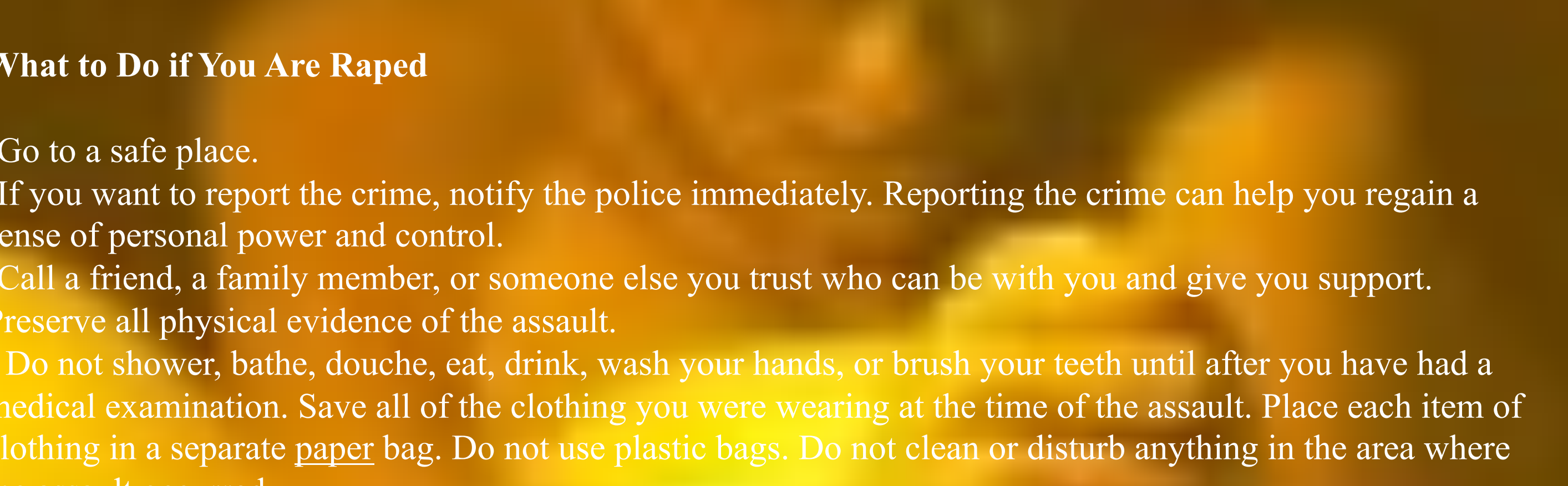
Campus-based sexual assault programs should have three goals: to educate students, faculty, and staff about sexual violence to prevent sexual assaults involving members of the campus community; and to provide an appropriate response when sexual assaults occur.

These goals can be achieved when colleges implement effective policies, protocols, service delivery systems, security measures, and educational activities.

“The fact of the matter is... it happens. So, whatever you can do proactively to get people to think before they get into an actual situation where sexual assault could happen, is worth the try.”
-Dean of Students Bill Flanagan

Beloit College has an excellent and detailed policy on Sexual Assault. Throughout your time here at Beloit you will be reminded of just how important this issue is. The RA's on campus work hard to make sure this issue is always one of extreme importance: skits are performed during new student days and events that address sexual assault take place multiple times through out the year. You can probably even remember Bill Flanagan’s speech “NO MEANS NO” which also takes place during new student days.

The following guide on what to do if you are raped comes from the Santa Monica Rape Crisis Center. A Beloit Alum who worked for this center aided the college in writing up its own policy. What you read below is almost exactly what is featured in the Beloit College policy.



What to Do if You Are Raped

- Go to a safe place.
- If you want to report the crime, notify the police immediately. Reporting the crime can help you regain a sense of personal power and control.
- Call a friend, a family member, or someone else you trust who can be with you and give you support. Preserve all physical evidence of the assault.
- Do not shower, bathe, douche, eat, drink, wash your hands, or brush your teeth until after you have had a medical examination. Save all of the clothing you were wearing at the time of the assault. Place each item of clothing in a separate **paper** bag. Do not use plastic bags. Do not clean or disturb anything in the area where the assault occurred.
- Get medical care as soon as possible. Go to a hospital emergency department or a specialized forensic clinic that provides treatment for sexual assault victims. Even if you think that you do not have any physical injuries, you should still have a medical examination and discuss with a health care provider the risk of exposure to sexually transmitted infections and the possibility of pregnancy resulting from the sexual assault. Having a medical exam is also a way for you to preserve physical evidence of a sexual assault. If you suspect that you may have been given a “rape drug,” ask the hospital or clinic where you receive medical care to take a urine sample. Drugs, such as Rohypnol and GHB, are more likely to be detected in urine than in blood.
- Write down as much as you can remember about the circumstances of the assault, including a description of the assailant.
- Get information whenever you have questions or concerns. After a sexual assault, you have a lot of choices and decisions to make - e.g., about getting medical care, making a police report, and telling other people.
- You may have concerns about the impact of the assault and the reactions of friends and family members. You can get information by calling a rape crisis center, a hotline, or other victim assistance agencies. 2



EXTRA IMPORTANT FACT!
Note also that you can be accused of sexual assault even if it did not occur. If you go to a private place with someone who has been drinking, you can be accused and the charge will be taken very seriously. To protect yourself while on campus, you should always have a witness present when you are with someone you do not know very well and either of you has been seen drinking.

REFERENCES

- http://www.usjp.edu/counseling/daterape.shtml
- http://www.911rape.org/ Rape Crisis Center- Santa Monica, UCLA Medical Center
- Beloit College Policies and Procedures http://www.beloit.edu/~stuaff/assault.html
- CORE survey – Beloit College
- Dean Flanagan and Christine Gravelle