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PCPADV News



“I Ask” for Consent

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and this years theme is “I Ask” for Consent; 2019 marks its 18th anniversary. However, it can be traced back to the 1970’s when the 1st rape crisis center was opened and the 1st *Take Back the Night* walk was also conducted. Sexual violence is any form of unwanted, unwelcome, forceful or coercive sexual contact. These behaviors include, but are not limited to: lewdness, peer sexual harrassment, stalking, sexual assault and rape. Although sometimes called different names, the common thread that binds these behaviors together are issues of control, power, and violence. Consent is a clear, concrete example of what it takes to end sexual harassment, abuse, and assault. The goal of the campaign is to empower everyone to put consent into practice. I Ask is the statement by which individuals will demonstrate that asking for consent is a healthy, normal, and necessary part of everyday interactions. If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted and would like more information, please contact the Partnership at 740-947-1611 and ask to speak with the sexual assault advocate, available 24/7.



More than **1 in 3** women experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during her lifetime.

Nearly **1 in 4** men experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during his lifetime.

Estimated Lifetime Cost of Rape

\$122,461 per victim



Statistics on Sexual Violence in America

- One in five women and one in 67 men will be raped at some point in their lives (Smith et al., 2017).
- In eight out of 10 rape cases, the victim knew the person who sexually assaulted them (Black et al., 2011).
- Nearly one in two women and one in five men have experienced sexual violence other than rape in their lifetime (Miller, Cohen, & Wiersema, 2012).
- By the time people were 17 years old, 57 percent of women and 42 percent of men had experienced some form of sexual abuse (Kearl, 2018)
- Rape is the most under-reported crime; 63 percent of sexual assaults are not reported to police (Rennison, 2002).
- Despite misconceptions, the prevalence of false reporting for sexual assault crimes is low - between two percent and 10 percent (National Sexual Violence Resource Center [NSVRC], 2012).
- Forty-six percent of lesbians, 74 percent of bisexual women, 43 percent of heterosexual women, 40 percent of gay men, 47 percent of bisexual men, and 20 percent of heterosexual men reported experiencing sexual violence other than rape during their lifetimes (Black et al., 2011).
- Only 48 percent of men view verbal harassment as sexual assault, and only 67 percent of men say “sexual intercourse where one of the partners is pressured to give their consent” is sexual assault (NSVRC, 2017).



When and How to Ask for Consent

- Always ask for consent before you begin any sexual activity, including kissing, cuddling, and any kind of sex even if your partner consented in the past.
- Ask in a way that makes it clear it would be okay if they said “no” — otherwise you might be pressuring them to do something they don’t want to do.

For example, “Do you want to go back to the bedroom or hang out here and watch movies?”

Pike County Partnership Against Domestic Violence

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