What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is any type of unwanted sexual contact; it is any sexual activity is that which occurs without knowing, voluntary, and positive consent. Sexual assault includes:

- Completed or attempted unwanted sexual intercourse (rape).
- Continuing with sexual activity beyond the bounds of consent. For example, not using a condom when consent was based on condom use.
- Nonconsensual fondling.

Sexual assault does not necessarily involve force. A person engaging sexual activity without getting explicit consent is always at fault for sexual assault.

People are most likely to be assaulted by someone they know including a friend, acquaintance, colleague, classmate, or family member. Sexual assault is underreported for many reasons, including shame, not wanting to get the other person in trouble, lack of resources, and not trusting authorities. Despite the increase in self-reports of rape and sexual assault between 2017 and 2018, there was a decrease in reporting to police. Forty percent (40%) of rapes and sexual assaults were reported to police in 2017, but only about 25% were reported to police in 2018.

Reports of Sexual Assault in Idaho

- According to the 2019 Crimes in Idaho, Crimes Against Persons Report:
  - 1,974 non-consensual sexual offenses were reported; in at least 82% of those, the survivor knew the perpetrator.
  - Of the offenses reported, 636 rape; in at least 75% of these reports the parties were known to each other.
  - An additional 140 reports were of sexual assault with an object.

- The 2019 Idaho Risk Youth Behavior Survey found that:
  - 23.2% of female students and 6.4% of male students, report that they were forced to do sexual things they did not want to by someone they were dating or going out with in the 12 months preceding that survey.
  - 11% of all female students and 5.7% of male students report that they have been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to at some point during their lives.

Sexual assault is widespread and it’s important for survivors to know that they are not alone. Survivors of sexual assault have options. To find out more contact your local domestic and sexual violence program, the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence at www.engagingvoices.org, or call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1 (800) 656-4673.

Idaho Resources on Sexual Assault

Healing from Sexual Assault booklets for survivors are available in English, Spanish, Arabic and Swahili. Copies available at no cost on the Idaho Coalition website www.engagingvoices.org.