

# Stand Up! Speak Out!

## NO: *Don't Tell Me You Don't Know What It Means* Fact Sheet on Date Rape

**57% of rapes occurred on a date.\***

Like bullying, sexual assault involves a major power imbalance. We have to examine what roles we choose to play—as perpetrators, collaborators, bystanders, or allies—regarding date rape. (Lyrics and data refer to *women*, and use the pronoun *she*, but women *and* men are sexual assault victims.)

### Vocabulary & Definitions of Terms

consensual sex: sexual activity to which both parties agree; both parties have given *consent*

non-consensual sex: sexual activity *without* consent, which is sexual assault and/or rape. Period.

**FBI:** Defines (and reports) rape as “penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.” Neither “force” nor “resistance” is required to meet the definition of rape.

#### Department of Justice:

Rape includes...psychological coercion as well as physical force... male as well as female victims, and both heterosexual and homosexual rape. **Attempted rape includes verbal threats of rape.**

**Sexual assault:** A wide range of victimizations, separate from rape or attempted rape...Includes attacks or attempted attacks... unwanted sexual contact between victim and offender. Sexual assaults may or may not involve force and include such things as grabbing or fondling. **Sexual assault also includes verbal threats.**

#### University of California, Southern California (UCSC) Title IX Sexual Harassment Office:

Sexual penetration is also **considered non-consensual** and, therefore, **rape, when the victim is incapable of giving consent** because s/he is incapacitated from alcohol and/or drugs, or if a mental disorder or developmental or physical disability renders the victim incapable of giving consent. **Whether the accused is a stranger, acquaintance, spouse, or friend is irrelevant to the legal definition of rape.**

#### ***This word is one that you've heard / and you know it means NO***

50% of high school boys and 42% of girls said there were times it was acceptable for a boy to hold a girl down and physically force her to have sex. (*Kansas State University Facts about Date Rape, from National Studies of College Women (KSU)*) What myths do they believe about what **NO** means? *Just by holding these views, what roles are these high school boys and girls choosing to play regarding date rape?*

#### ***Spaced out, sound asleep, dancin' pretty in sexy clothes / Doesn't constitute consent***

**Myth:** Women provoke sexual assault by their appearance. Sexual attractiveness is a primary reason why a rapist selects a victim (*Roger Williams University (RWU) Rape Myths and Facts*)

**Fact:** Rapists do not select their victims by their appearance. They select victims who are vulnerable and accessible. Victims of sexual assault range from infants to the elderly. Sexual attractiveness is not an issue.

#### ***Don't say she was askin' for it if she wasn't***

**Myth:** If a woman really did not want to be raped, she could fight off her attacker. (RWU)

**Fact:** Even if the rapist is not carrying a weapon, shock, fear, or threat of harm can overpower a victim.

#### ***It's her body, her choice / Take a vow that, if she doesn't say yes, then the answer is NO***

**Myth:** Rape is caused by lust, uncontrollable sexual urges, and the need for sexual gratification (RWU)

**Fact:** Rape is an act of physical violence and domination, not motivated by sexual gratification

#### ***No matter if it's after a party and too many drinks / If she doesn't say yes, the answer is NO***

75% of male and 55% of females students [involved in] date rape had been drinking or using drugs (KSU) If a victim *can't* give consent (due to alcohol, drugs, disability, etc) non-consensual sex is still rape (UCSC)

#### ***No matter if you paid, if you pleaded / you thought it was understood / she'd come through No matter how you feel, ticked off, led on, ripped off / There's nothing that she owes to you***

84% of male students who committed acts that met the legal definition of rape said what they had done was definitely not rape. Only ¼ to 1/3 of women whose assault met the definition of rape consider themselves rape victims. (*Kansas State University Facts about Date Rape, from National Studies of College Women*)\*\*  
**But NO means NO and rape is rape. If your date pays, all you “owe” them is a thank you—no more.**