

Chapter 15: Sexual Victimization: Rape, Coercion, Harassment, and Abuse of Children

Sexual Assault

- Sexual Assault
 - *Stranger Rape*- Rape (forcible sexual penetration) committed by someone who is not known by the victim
 - Not the only type of sexual assault
 - *Sexual assault*- Unwanted or non-consensual sexual contact that occurs as a result of forces or the threatened use of force, as a result of coercion, or when a person is unable to consent or resist (eg. Intoxication, asleep, unconscious, under the legal age of consent).
 - Sexual assault can include vaginal sex, kissing, oral or anal sex, or fondling. Physical force may or may not be used
 - Can include rape, coercion, harassment or the abuse of children
 - It is a crime in the US, but is not a crime in other countries

Rape

- Rape
 - The definition of rape has changed over time
 - *Rape*- Non-consensual oral, anal, or vaginal penetration, obtained by force, by threat of bodily harm, or when the victim is incapable of giving consent
 - Force by the assailant or physical resistance from the victim is no longer required to determine if rape has occurred
 - 2 ways of calculating rape
 - 1. Crime data- cases that are reported to the police
 - 2. Victimization surveys
 - National Crime Victimization Survey (NVCS) is the largest ongoing surveys
 - Using data in which men and women are directly asked about various types of sexual and non-sexual violence they may have experienced
 - Contacted by telephone and asked about their reported and unreported sexual assault
 - Results are much higher than those provided by law enforcement records

- o Young people are frequently the target of rape because they are least likely to fight back and often don't realize that they are victimized
 - Even infants can be the victims of rape
- o Over 2/3rd of sexual assault happen at home either the home of the victim, a friend, relative, or acquaintance
- o Rapes are less likely to happen at school or in other public areas.
- o Women are more likely to report a rape if they are raped by a stranger
- o MOST RAPES ARE COMMITTED BY SOMEONE THE VICTIM KNOWS.
- **Types of Rape**
 - o Rapes are classified according to different structural characteristics, including the relationship that exists between the victim and assailant, the age of the victim, the number of assailants
 - o Acquaintance and Date Rape
 - *Acquaintance rape*- Rapes that are committed by someone the victim knows.
 - *Date Rape*- If the rape occurs during a social encounter agreed to by the victim
 - People often assume that date rape is somehow less harmful than rape by a stranger
 - People attribute more blame and are less sympathetic to the victims
 - Victims can be confused on how to interpret the assault
- Victims of rape often blame themselves
- *Sexual Coercion*- the act of forcing another person into unwanted sexual activity by physical or verbal coercion (pressure, manipulation, use of drugs or alcohol)
 - o Since the 1990s there has been an increase in the use of Rohypnol ("roofies"), gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB) and other "date rape drugs"
 - Victims have no memory of the events that occur when they are under the drug's influence
 - Now roofies cause drinks to change colors
- *Verbally Coercive tactics*- making someone have sex by pleading, becoming angry, verbally threatening to end the relationship, making the person feel guilty for refusing
- *Token Resistance (to sex)*- Saying "no" to sex when one means "yes"

- *Compliance*- Agreeing to sexual intercourse when you do not really want to engage in it.
- **Marital Rape**
 - *Marital rape*- non-consensual sex in which the perpetrator is the victim's spouse.
 - *Marital rape exemption*- if a man and woman were married, having sex that resembled rape was not actually rape. This was upheld until the 1970s. A man could not be prosecuted for the rape of his wife
 - Marital rape is not illegal in all 50 states and the district of Columbia
 - 3 different kinds of marital rape
 - 1. Battering rape (anger rape)- occurs in the context of domestic abuse
 - the victim experiences forced sex as well as physical violence from her spouse
 - uses sex to express anger and hurt the partner
 - 2. Force-only rape (power rape)- does not involve severe physical violence. The perpetrator will use force or coercion to obtain sex from the unwilling partner
 - perpetrator's intent is to not cause harm but to control the couple's sexual interaction and to exert dominance over the partner
 - 3. Obsessive Rape (sadistic rape)- less common than the other
 - 2. Motivated by the sadistic desire to sexually torment and mistreat the partner
 - perpetrator is obsessed with forcing the partner to engage in degrading, deviant, and painful sexual activities
- **Gang Rape**
 - *Gang rape*- Rape in which a victim is assaulted by more than one attacker
 - Gang rape can be a way of demonstrating loyalty to the group
 - Individuals acting alone may not be capable of sexual assault, but being a member of a group often creates special circumstances in