

Sexual Assault

Yale's Definition of Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is any kind of nonconsensual sexual contact, including rape, groping, and any other nonconsensual sexual touching.

Definition of Sexual Consent

Sexual activity requires consent, which is defined as positive, unambiguous, and voluntary agreement to engage in specific sexual activity throughout a sexual encounter. Consent cannot be inferred from the absence of a "no"; a clear "yes," verbal or otherwise, is necessary. Consent to some sexual acts does not constitute consent to others, nor does past consent to a given act constitute present or future consent. Consent must be ongoing throughout a sexual encounter and can be revoked at any time.

Consent cannot be obtained from someone who is asleep or otherwise mentally or physically incapacitated, whether due to alcohol, drugs, or some other condition. A person is mentally or physically incapacitated when that person lacks the ability to make or act on considered decisions to engage in sexual activity. Engaging in sexual activity with a person whom you know -- or reasonably should know -- to be incapacitated constitutes sexual misconduct.

Guidance Regarding Sexual Consent

Consent can only be accurately gauged through direct communication about the decision to engage in sexual activity. Presumptions based upon contextual factors (such as clothing, alcohol consumption, or dancing) are unwarranted, and should not be considered as evidence for consent.

Although consent does not need to be verbal, verbal communication is the most reliable form of asking for and gauging consent, and you are thus urged to seek consent in verbal form. Talking with sexual partners about desires and limits may seem awkward, but it can serve as the basis for positive sexual experiences shaped by mutual willingness and respect.

What happens when I call SHARE?

SHARE counselors are available 24/7 at 203.432.2000 to provide confidential information, advocacy, and support for your immediate care needs and advise you on your options over the longer term. Students can drop in (Lower Level Yale Health) 9-5 weekdays or call to schedule a time to meet.

What complaint procedures are available at Yale for students?

The University will formally or informally address allegations of sexual misconduct. Many forms of sexual misconduct are also prohibited by Connecticut and federal law including Title IX of the education amendments of 1972, and could result in criminal prosecution or civil liability. Yale students can file a formal or informal complaint with the University-Wide Committee on Sexual Misconduct (UWC) or with a Title IX Coordinator. Information about this process is available at: sharecenter.yale.edu. Students may also contact the Yale Police 203.432.4400 or the New Haven Police at 911.

What should I do immediately following a sexual assault?

1. Safety and Support: Find a safe place - a friend's room, call SHARE (203.432.2000), residential Dean, FroCo, Peer Liaison, Yale Police Acute Care (203.432.0123).

2. Forensic Decisions: SHARE recommends that the Yale Police be notified and encourages immediate evidence collection at the Yale New Haven Hospital Emergency Department. The Yale Police department includes specially trained officers who are sensitive to the needs of victims of sexual assault. Talking to the police does not mean that you have to take legal action. SHARE is available to support you.

3. Medical Attention: Medical attention is recommended even if you are not interested in evidence collection. Medical attention is available at Yale Acute Care 24/7; prophylactic treatment for STIs & HIV, pregnancy tests & emergency contraception are also available.



RESOURCES

Campus

- SHARE Center.....203.432.2000 (24/7) (Confidential)
- Yale Health, Lower Level....Drop in weekdays 9am-5pm
- Security Escort.....203.432.WALK
- Mini Bus.....203.432.6330
- University-Wide Committee on
Sexual Misconduct (UWC).....203.432.4449
- Title IX.....provost.yale.edu/title-ix
- Walden Peer Counseling (undergrads)..203.432.TALK
- Communication and Consent Educators
(CCEs; undergrads).....203.432.0847
- Yale Chaplain's Office.....203.432.8752
- Yale LGBTQ Resource Center.....203.432.0309

Mental Health & Counseling Center

- 8:30am – 5pm, Mon-Fri.....203.432.0290
- After hours & weekends.....203.432.0123

Yale Medical Health Services

- Ob/Gyn.....203.432.0222
- Student Health.....203.432.0312
- Acute Care.....203.432.0123

Public Safety

- Yale Police Department.....203.432.4400
- New Haven Police Department.....203.946.6316
or 911

In the Community

- CT Sexual Assault Crisis Services
24-hour Toll-Free Hotline
(English).....1.888.999.5545
(Spanish).....1.888.568.8332
- Women and Families Center.....203.389.5010
- Planned Parenthood.....203.503.0450
- Yale–New Haven Hospital.....203.688.2222

For more information, visit:

The SHARE Center

www.sharecenter.yale.edu

**University-Wide Committee
on Sexual Misconduct**

www.provost.yale.edu/uwc

Sexual Misconduct at Yale

www.smr.yale.edu

Title IX: provost.yale.edu/title-ix