

# General Information about Sexual Assault

- Sexual assault is defined as any action of a sexual nature, which is perpetrated against another who is unwilling or unable to give consent.
- Sexual assault can occur within a family, on a date, in a partnership, marriage, between co-workers, acquaintances, or strangers. Sexual assault is a criminal offense, regardless of the kind of relationship a person has with the perpetrator.
- Examples of sexual assault include: touching or grabbing a sexual area of the body, coercing or threatening you to engage in sexual activity, attempted rape, emotionally berating you during sex, forcing you to enact pornography or any sexual activity that makes you uncomfortable.
- Sexual assault is about one person gaining power and control over another; it is not a crime of passion or sexual perversion.
- In Michigan in 2005, seventy-nine percent of all rapes were committed by someone the victim knew. <sup>1</sup>
- More than one-half of sexual assault incidents occur within one mile of the victim's home or at their home.<sup>2</sup> 70 percent of reported rapes/sexual assaults occur at night between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6 a.m.<sup>3</sup>
- There is no timetable for the healing process involved after a sexual assault. The healing process includes several phases, which may be repeated. Memories and flashbacks may be triggered at any time and can be very powerful. Triggers may include the onset of a new relationship, the birth of a child, a visual image, a scent or touch, etc.
- Both males and females are sexually assaulted, although women aged 15-24 are at the highest risk for sexual assault.<sup>4</sup>

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1. Michigan Uniform Crime Report (2005)
  2. Bureau of Justice Statistics (2005)
  3. Bureau of Justice Statistics (2005)
  4. U.S. Department of Justice (2005)

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Abuse impacts on humanity and on society; therefore, LACASA is committed to diversity and to serving all individuals.

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