

Do believe the man who reports a rape experience. Remember he has overcome great obstacles to be able to speak about what happened.

Do Tell him he is not alone, that approximately one in fourteen men is a rape survivor

Do Tell him that the rape was not his fault

Do Listen non-judgmentally. Remember his experience is not any less traumatic because he is a man.

But please **DO NOT**:

Don't express discomfort with issues and conversations related to sexuality. This might be one of the foremost areas of concern and your uneasiness might cause him not to mention it again.

Don't panic if he is suicidal. This is a common aftermath of male rape. He will best be calmed by a conversation where he is able to express what he is feeling. Point out to him that he is alive and has survived the assault.

Make him aware of the Fact - that he is not alone and that there are other male survivors out there. He needs to know that it is possible to recover

from the trauma

Don't tell others. Protecting his anonymity or confidentiality is vital.

Don't accuse him of being homophobic if he indicates hatred or fear of gay males. However at an appropriate time, inform him that most men who rape self identify as heterosexual. Rape is to control, humiliate, degrade the victim; it is not for sexual gratification.

I am a male survivor

It's likely that you never thought sexual assault could happen to you, probably because you have been socialized to see sexual assault as a crime against women, not men. Because of this, many men have difficulty understanding that this is not a sexual crime. You have survived a violent assault. Sexual assault is devastating to all victims, regardless of gender, and both male and female victims share many reactions. You may feel rage, shame, guilt, powerlessness, helplessness, concern regarding your safety, and/or symptoms of physical illness.

However, there are special issues that may be different for you. You may have questions about your sexuality or masculinity or be reluctant to be examined for medical procedures. You may hesitate to report the assault for fear of ridicule or fear that you won't be believed. The same feelings may arise in telling your family and friends about the assault and finding appropriate resources and support. This is true even if you experienced the assault when you were very young and only now are realizing you need help. You need to know that whatever your physical characteristics may be, whatever your sexual orientation is, whether you are old or young, you have done nothing that justifies the attack. At no point and under no circumstance does anyone have the right to violate another person's body? Sexual assault is a crime of violence or power, not of lust or passion.

You may need special support. There are several forms of help available to you:

- You can call a crisis line anonymously and request a male counselor;

- You can request an older or male nurse to assist at your treatment at the hospital;

- You can find a support group of male survivors to help you in the healing process.

- Many factors may influence your decision to report or not to report to law enforcement. There are both advantages and disadvantages if you choose to report.

The advantages include applying for Victims of Violent Crimes

Compensation; capturing your assailant and bringing him/her to trial; the collection of medical evidence will be paid for by the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office; and your report may help to protect others. However,

the disadvantages include the possibility of being treated in an insensitive manner or having your credibility questioned, and the Fact - that prosecution is often unsuccessful. You may be afraid of being arrested for

violating anti-sodomy laws.

If you are a gay or bisexual male, you may feel that somehow you brought the attack on yourself. You may fear disclosure of your sexual orientation.

You may know your assailant; he/she could be an acquaintance, a friend,

someone at work, a professor, or a date. The resources in this handbook

can help you find gay-affirmative counseling.

The following section for lesbian survivors may also be helpful. Feeling

responsible is a normal reaction to sexual assault. However, sexual

assault is never the responsibility of the victim.

You did nothing to deserve

this. You may want to talk to someone about your feelings. There are

counselors available in the area who are skilled in working with male

survivors of sexual assault. (For phone

numbers, see We Want to Help:

Additional