

Did you know?

- ◆ Women ages 18 to 24 on American college campuses are at greater risk for becoming victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking than women in the general population or in a comparable age group.*
- ◆ One in six males come to campus having experienced sexual assault as a child.**
- ◆ More than half (50 percent) of people who are transgender have experienced sexual violence.^

Southside Virginia Community College is committed to providing a safe, healthy campus environment and preventing sexual violence. Here is what you should know about sexual violence and how you can help prevent it.

What constitutes sexual violence?

According to the U.S. Office for Civil Rights, "sexual violence refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent" (e.g., due to the student's age or use of drugs or alcohol, or because an intellectual or other disability prevents the student from having the capacity to give consent). A number of different acts fall into the category of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual battery and sexual coercion. Sexual violence occurs in diverse communities and affects people regardless of sexuality and gender identity. Sexual violence can be carried out by school employees, other students or third parties. All such acts of sexual violence that deny educational benefits are forms of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX.

* Bonnie S. Fisher, F. Cullen, and M. Turner, *The Sexual Victimization of College Women*, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, NIJ Grant No. 95-WT-NX-0001 and BJS Grant No. 97-Mu-Mu-0011, pp. iii.

** Dube, S.R., Anda, R.F., Whitfield, C.L., et al. "Long-term consequences of childhood sexual abuse by gender of victim." *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* (2005): 28, 430-438.

^ "Transgender Rates of Violence." *forge-forward*. n.p., n.d. Web. Oct. 2012.



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A bystander was present in 56 percent of violent crimes that occurred on-campus.^o

What should I do if I am a bystander in an unsafe situation?

- ◆ **Intervene by distracting the other person.** Distraction is especially useful when drugs or alcohol are being used because people under the influence are more easily distracted than those who are sober. You might say, "Hey, aren't you in my history class?" or "Who wants to go get pizza?"
- ◆ **Find others who can help you intervene.** You might ask a friend to distract one person while you distract the other. If you don't know either person in the situation, ask around to see if someone else does and ask them to help.
- ◆ **Step in and address the situation directly.** This technique works best when the person that you're trying to stop is someone who knows and trusts you. You might check in with the person who may be in danger and ask, "Are you OK? I'd like to help." Or, **only** if you feel safe doing so, ask the aggressor to leave them alone.
- ◆ **Check in with the victim after the incident.** You may not be able to help in the moment, but you can still help by listening, not judging and offering support.
- ◆ **Attend events with friends as a group.** Don't leave your friends behind, even if someone offers to stay and escort a friend.
- ◆ **Know that sexually aggressive people use alcohol as a tool** to take advantage of others who are drinking and tend to be even more aggressive and coercive while drinking. The only person that can stop an assault is the perpetrator. Consuming alcohol or drugs can impact your ability to trust your instincts and help friends or yourself. If you choose to drink, consume beverages you bring or make yourself.

Although most sexual assaults are not committed by strangers:

- ◆ **Be aware of your surroundings and trust your instincts.** If you or your friends are in danger, or if something does not "feel right," contact Campus Security, call 911, or consider ways for you or others to get away from the situation safely.
- ◆ **If followed while walking, change directions** and turn toward well-lit populated areas or use one of the emergency call boxes, located in the main parking lots on each of the main campuses, which provide a direct connection to campus security. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

^o Hart, T.C., and Miethe, T.D. "Violence against college students and its situational contexts: Prevalence, patterns, and policy implications." Victims and Offenders (2011): 6, 157-180. DOI: 10.1080/15564886.2011.557324

Campus and community resources

SVCC Campus Security
John H. Daniel Campus: 434-736-2055
Christanna Campus: 434-949-1040

SVCC Title IX Coordination
434-736-2070
<http://www.southside.edu/advisingcounseling/titleix>

**Brunswick Family Violence/
Sexual Assault Prevention**
1-800-838-8238

**Emporia Family Violence
and Sexual Assault Unit**
434-348-0100

**Madeline's House
Domestic Violence Shelter**
1-888-819-2926

**Piedmont Crisis Center
for Sexual Assault**
1-888-819-2926

**Southside Center
for Violence Prevention**
434-292-1077

**Tri-County Domestic
Violence Program**
434-476-1136

Know Your IX
www.knowyourix.org

Report all suspicious persons or incidents, however minor, to SVCC Campus Security.

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Christanna Campus: 434-949-1040



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