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Briefing Paper

College Sexual Assaults

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What is the difference between Rape and Sexual Assault?

American society has traditionally defined *rape* as “the forced penetration of a woman by a **male** assailant.” Most states have abandoned this rigid definition for the more gender-neutral term “sexual assault.”

Criminal sexual assault is legally defined as any genital, oral, or anal penetration by a part of the perpetrator’s body or by an object, using force or without the victim’s consent (AMA, 1995). This includes *child sexual abuse, acquaintance rape, incest, statutory rape, and date rape*. The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect defines *childhood sexual abuse* as:

1. Contact or interaction between a child and an adult when the child is being used for the sexual stimulation of that adult or another person;
2. It may be committed by a minor who is significantly older (more than 5 years) or when the abuser is in a role of power or control over the child (National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, 1981).

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SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

Acquaintance rape is exactly as the term would imply, those sexual assaults committed by someone known to the victim, often a date, co-worker, employer, or even a family member. The law recognizes sexual assault by a family member in a special category defined as *incest*. Those family members may include step-relatives and parental figures that live in the home (Hibbard & Orr, 1985).

Statutory rape is the sexual intercourse with a female under a certain age (Donovan, 1997). Every state has laws on statutory rape and generally bases the severity of the crime by looking at the age difference between the victim and the assailant. Determined by state law, the age of sexual consent ranges from 14 to 18 years of age and varies dramatically (See Table 1). Any adult having sexual intercourse with an adolescent less than the age of consent is guilty of committing a sexual assault whether or not the adolescent offers consent. In the eyes of the law these younger adolescents are not capable of giving consent.

The definitions of rape and sexual assault are very important because the definitions determine the scope of the problem, and how the problem, victims, and perpetrators are perceived. The definitions will also affect how we think about the problem and whether or not we believe it can be prevented.

Date Rape

Date rape, a subset of acquaintance rape, occurs in a dating relationship (Donovan, 1997). This term may need updating since dating patterns have changed over the years. Many adolescents go to parties, dances, or other non-supervised events in groups instead of a one-on-one date. If an adolescent girl

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

is sexually assaulted at a party by someone she did not arrive with, it may be difficult defining her experience as a “date rape.” For college women the picture is different. The classic date rape scenario is a significant problem on college campuses.

Recent studies suggest that date rape is a very complicated issue, and one likely to have multiple factors contributing to its occurrence including:

- ❑ Miscommunication between partners about how and when consent to have sex occurs. (Check & Malamuth, 1983). Communication between men and women can be a problem, especially in the area of sex. A "no" should mean "no" to all parties involved;
- ❑ Factors concerning the issues of control and dominance of men over women (Burt, 1991; Russell, 1984);
- ❑ Peer influence and peer group membership. The results indicate that those women who characterized the men in their mixed-sex social group as occasionally displaying forceful behavior towards women were significantly more likely themselves to be victims of sexual aggression. (Gwartney-Gibbs & Stockard, 1989);
- ❑ The level of sexual experience of the dating individuals. That is, the amount of prior sexual experience was significantly related to self-reports of sexually aggressive behavior (Malamuth, 1989);
- ❑ The use of alcohol on the date (Abbey, 1991; Norris & Cubbins, 1992);

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

- The victim's history of sexual abuse or victimization (Russell, 1986; Walch & Broadhead, 1992). Women who were physically assaulted as adolescents were at greater risk for re-victimization during their freshman year (relative risk=2.96 assaults). Each subsequent year, women who have experienced violence remained at greater risk for re-victimization than those who have not experienced violence. Across all years, women who were physically assaulted in any year were significantly more likely to be sexually assaulted that same year. Adolescent victimization was a better predictor of **college** victimization than was childhood victimization (Smith, White, & Holland, 2003).
- Widespread acceptance of rape stereotypes and rape tolerant attitudes among those who perpetrate this behavior (Burt, 1991; Reilly, Lott, Caldwell & Deluca, 1992). Date/Acquaintance rape gets dismissed, often times, because of these rape tolerant attitudes demonstrated by such expressions of "Boys will be boys," and "She was asking for it."

Victims

The large majority of rape victims are 18-24 year old females. They are almost four times as likely to be raped than all other female age groups (Rennison, 1999). Given that 18-24 is the age of the traditional college student, this puts female college students at a higher risk of being raped than

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

at any other time in their lives (DeKeseredy & Kelly, 1993; Fisher et al., 2000, Koss et al., 1987).

Research (Koss, Gidycz, & Wisniewski, 1987; Muehlenhard & Linton, 1987) demonstrates that between 14% and 27.5 % of college women have been sexually assaulted. Fisher et al. (2000) estimate that a campus with 10,000 female students could have more than 350 rapes annually. According to Fisher and her colleagues, the level of rape and other types of victimization found in the survey becomes an increasing concern when the victimization figures are projected over a full year, a full college career, and the full population. Consistent with those statistics is a study (Douglas, Collins, and Warren, 1997) conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finding that 20% of college women reported having experienced forced sexual intercourse at some point in their lives.

Muehlenhard & Linton (1987) interviewed 635 college men and women finding that 77.6% of the college women experienced some form of sexual aggression and 14% engaged in unwanted sexual intercourse. For the men, 57.3% reported involvement in some form of sexual aggression, and 7.1% reported unwanted intercourse. Humphrey and White (2000) found that 50% of their sample of college women reported sexual victimization only in adolescence. Humphrey and White (2000), as well as Gidycz et al. (1995), found that women who were sexually victimized in high school were at greater risk for sexual victimization in college.

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

The most common sexual assaults occurring on college campuses are date and acquaintance rape which account for about 80% of all rapes on college campuses. To put this number in perspective, in every college classroom with 50 female students, 6 to 7 have been the victims of this type of rape within the last year (Finn, 1995).

Reporting

The prevalence of rape and sexual assault is difficult to determine because the crime is significantly underreported. The primary annual government indicators available are the FBI's *Uniform Crime Report (UCR)*, which only includes rapes **reported** to law enforcement, and the U.S. *Department of Justice National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)*, which involves a survey of U.S. households and tallies offenses reported by victims age 12 and older. Both estimates by these agencies are thought by many experts to be low. The National Crime Victimization Survey of 2000 reported that rape or sexual assault is the violent crime least often reported to law enforcement (28%). The greatest category of victimization **not reported** was attempted rape (80.4%).

The victims of rape, although highly traumatized, do not report the assault especially if they know their perpetrator. Acquaintance rape victims feel particularly vulnerable and unsafe, since the people they trusted have committed an act of violence against them. Family and friends may not be a source of support for acquaintance rape victims either, since they may side with the perpetrator. If the victim tells friends or family, they may downplay the

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

severity of the attack or blame them for the rape itself. Of surveyed college women, about 90% of rape and sexual assault victims knew their attacker prior to the assault (Rennison, 2000).

One study of college women rape victims (Koss et al., 1988) finds that one in four college women nationwide reported at least one incident that met the legal definition of rape or attempted rape, and the closer these women are to their attackers the less likely they are to tell someone about the rape. Victims of non-romantic acquaintances (65%), casual dates (59%), steady dates (45%), husbands or other family members (44%) talked with someone about their rape experiences. Another study (Wiehe and Richards, 1995) found that almost all (97% of 278 women) reported their rapes to another person but **not** to the authorities.

Sexual Coercion and Intent: Gender Differences

The frequency of sexual assault among college students demonstrate that between 25% to 60% of all college men engaged in some form of **sexual coercive behavior**. (Berkowitz, 1992). Sexual coercion has been the subject of a good deal of discussion in the last several years, much of it concerned with gender. The term itself has been given a range of meanings. Sexual coercion has been used to indicate unwanted sexual contact (Berger, Searles, Salem, & Pierce, 1986; Craig, 1990), but it has also been defined in reference to specific behaviors, such as verbal intimidation or the threat or use of force in sexual interaction (Muehlenhard & Falcon, 1990).

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

Men and women differ greatly on their attitudes toward what constitutes sexual intent. Abbey et al. (1996) have shown that college men and women interpret nonverbal and sexual clues differently, with men overestimating women's interest and sexual availability. College males are much more likely to read sexual intent from a variety of situations, no matter how subtle. For example, men see attributes in women such as friendliness, revealingness of clothing, and attractiveness as seductive when women do not perceive these same behaviors in the same way. These differences in the perception of sexual intent set the stage for misunderstanding and misinterpretation dating situations that may result in men's perceiving a green light when none exists.

Rape-Tolerant Attitudes

Growing up in a traditionally patriarchal environment that objectifies women contributes to the likelihood of college males committing the crime of rape (Muehlenhard & Falcon, 1990; Berkowitz, 1992). Previous studies have documented the link between rape supportive ideology and sexually aggressive behavior (Koss, Leonard, Beezley, & Oros, 1985; Muehlenhard & Linton, 1987; Reilly et al., 1992), and there is further evidence to suggest that among the general population there are high levels of acceptance of rape tolerant stereotypes (e.g., Giacomassi & Dull, 1986; Goodchilds, & Zellman, Johnson, Giarusso, 1988) including:

- Rape Myths
 - Belief systems characterized by "prejudicial, stereotype, false beliefs about rape, rape victims, and rapists" (Burt 1980).

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

- "Women secretly wish to be raped and fantasize about rough sex."
 - "Rape can only be committed by strangers."
 - "The rape of a sexually active woman is not really rape."
 - "She was asking for it by wearing that short skirt."
 - "All women are liars."
- Growing up in a rape-supportive culture also includes the objectification of women:
- Objectification
 - Depersonalized body parts.
 - Use of derogatory humor.
 - Pornography.

Burt (1991) notes that rape-tolerant attitudes and behaviors that are widely accepted, especially by rapists and potential rapists, include adherence to traditional sex-role attitudes and adversarial attitudes toward women, and acceptance of violence toward women, play an important role in contributing to sexual violence. Furthermore, among people who accept these rape stereotypes and violence against women, these attitudes act as “psychological releases or neutralizers, allowing potential rapists to turn off social prohibitions against injuring or using others.”

Other researchers have found that people who accept these adversarial sexual beliefs and traditional sex-role attitudes tend to exhibit greater tolerance

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

for rape and blame victims more than the perpetrator, while men report a greater likelihood of raping if they could be assured that no one would find out (Acock & Ireland, 1983; Burt & Alkin, 1981; Check & Malamuth, 1983; Fonow, Richardson, & Wemmerus, 1992; Greendlinger & Byrne, 1987; Hamilton & Yee, 1990; Koss et al., 1987; Muehlenhatd & Linton, 1987; Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1994; Reilly et al., 1992).

Based on these findings, a recent research project focusing on rape (Lonsway & Fitzgerald, 1994) concluded that the relationship between the acceptance of rape stereotypes and sexually aggressive behavior may be the critical issue in this area. However, such evidence reveals association rather than causality, and other researchers (Muehlenhard & Linton, 1987) have stated that since the relationship between attitudes and sexually aggressive behavior appears stronger among men than among women, it is difficult to determine whether attitudes concerning sexual aggression are the cause or the consequence of sexual aggression. The combination of these findings does seem to show that men's attitudes contribute to rape, whereas women's attitudes are affected by rape.

Fraternities and Athletic Memberships

Much of the research on campus rapes has focused on membership in fraternities and athletic teams with mixed and contradictory results. While fraternities have been involved in high-profile rape cases, including cases in where alcohol figured prominently, at least one study at a single university indicates that fraternity members are no more likely to be "sexually aggressive"

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

than other male students (Koss and Gaines 1993). They found that athletic team membership and fraternity membership were significantly related to the severity of sexual aggression, but **only** athletic membership made a significant contribution to the prediction of severity of sexual aggression. On the other hand, Lackie and de Man (1997) found that fraternity membership, but **not** athletic team participation, predicted sexual aggression.

Frintner and Rubinson (1993) analyzed mailed questionnaires of 1,500 college women focusing on the most stressful event since entering college. Those who had been sexually assaulted identified fraternity and athletic team members as their assailants in a much higher proportion of the sexual assaults than expected by their proportions on campus.

Examining the relationship between fraternity and athletic team membership and sexual assault, Boeringer (1999) found that there were a higher number of greater rape supportive attitudes among fraternity and athletic team members than among nonmembers. Fraternities' norms stress a narrow conception of masculinity based on male dominance and female subordination, which includes viewing women largely as objects for men's sexual use. Moreover, their structure emphasizes **sexual conquests** as an important aspect of male bonding. Fraternities' norms and structure create an environment in which the sexual coercion of women is considered acceptable. Boeringer (1999) notes that alcohol is instrumental in this male bonding and is also routinely used to reduce women's reluctance to engage in sex with fraternity members.

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

The study (Boeringer, 1999) concludes that sexual assaults will continue to occur regularly in fraternities unless fraternities are fundamentally changed. Likewise, individualized rape prevention programs are likely to have little effect on fraternity members because the group itself so strongly influences members' lives.

Fraternity members and athletes on college campus have also been examined for their roles in gang rapes. In one review of 24 alleged gang rapes, O'Sullivan (1991) found that in 22 of the 24 documented cases, the perpetrators were members of fraternities or intercollegiate athletics teams.

As a specific college population, athletes are often exposed to beliefs and patterns of behavior conducive to sexual abuse that can become an integral part of their collegiate experience. There is also mounting evidence to suggest that men and women athletes are a population requiring special attention regarding the issue of sexual abuse (Benson, Charlton, & Goodhart, 1992; O'Sullivan, 1991).

For many men, athletes in particular, these beliefs and behaviors are reinforced by training in aggression, their high social status on campus, behavior of women fans, alcohol and other drug use, and the peer pressure inherent in most all male groups (Parrot et al., 1994). While the extent to which men athletes endorse these beliefs varies, it has been suggested that men athletes who tend to do so are more likely to consider sexual assault as acceptable behavior (O'Sullivan, 1991; Berkowitz, 1992).

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

Role of Alcohol

The prevalence of sexual coercion and rape victimization among female undergraduates has received significant documentation in empirical research (see Koss et al., 1987). Much of this victimization experience has been linked to the victim's use of alcohol use (as well as to the perpetrator(s)'s consumption).

Frintner and Rubinson (1993) found that 27% of a random sample of female undergraduates at a mid-western university were victims of sexual assault, attempted sexual assault, sexual abuse or at least one incidence of battery, intimidation or illegal restraint. Of the women who were victims, 55% had been drinking at the time. Among drinking women who had experienced sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, 60% reported their judgment had been moderately or severely impaired at the time due to drinking.

Similarly, Harrington and Leitenberg's (1994) interviews with 1,090 female undergraduates attending four New England universities revealed that 25% had been victims of sexual aggression by an acquaintance since age 16 and more than half of the victims were at least somewhat drunk when victimized. In a study of 1,025 single white female students between the ages of 17 and 23 at another large mid-western university, higher scores on a global measure of experiencing sexually coercive behaviors were linked to heavy drinking (Gross & Billingham, 1998).

Explanations for the association between female students' drinking and increased risk of sexual victimization most often point to (1) increased consensual sexual activity prior to the forced activity, as alcohol contributes to

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

more casual sexual behavior that may be misinterpreted by the male as an invitation to further sexual contact; (2) the cultural stereotype of a drinking woman as “loose” and therefore more desirous of sexual contact; (3) the victim's diminished ability to communicate clearly her choice to reject sexual advances when she is intoxicated; and (4) the diminished ability of the victim to defend herself physically or flee from an aggressor (Abbey, 1991; Abbey et al., 1996).

These explanations should not be interpreted as “blaming the victim.” Rather, the point here, as in the studies cited, is that regardless of the fact that the woman should always have the right to reject or limit sexual advances at any point in any intimate encounter, increased alcohol consumption substantially reduces her ability to avoid being victimized.

A 1994 report, compiled from surveys conducted by Johnston, O'Malley, & Bachman (1992), Wechsler & Isaac (1992), Anderson & Mathieu (1995) and others, and issued by the Commission on Substance Abuse at Colleges and Universities (1994) revealed that 90% of all college rapes occurred when either the victim or the attacker were under the influence of alcohol. Similarly, rape and violence were significantly related to alcohol consumption on the college campus of a small Northwestern university examining both the victims and perpetrators (Nicholson et al., 1998). These data indicated that alcohol was involved in unwanted sexual activity from both the victim's perspective (85.7%) and from the perpetrator's perspective (76.0%). Rape, both from the victim's perspective (69.0%) and from the perpetrator's perspective (100%) and

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

nonsexual violent acts from the same sex (59.5%) and from the opposite sex (58.9%) also involved alcohol.

Muehlenhard & Linton (1987) conducted a study of 635 college men and women to explore sexual aggression in dating situations. Their findings showed that 77.6% of the women experienced some form of sexual aggression and 14% had engaged in unwanted sexual intercourse. For the men, 57.3% reported involvement in some form of sexual aggression and 7.1% reported unwanted intercourse. Heavy alcohol use, defined as "moderately to extremely intoxicated" (p. 192), was implicated as a major risk factor for both sexual aggression and rape. Of those men who acknowledged committing sexual assault on a date, 55% reported being intoxicated at the time. An additional 29% said they were "mildly buzzed" (p. 193).

Meilman et al., (1990) reported findings from a randomly selected sample of campus males and females about unwanted sexual experiences. Of the females, 33.2% reported being victims of unwanted attempted intercourse and 11.5% of the females reported unwanted completed intercourse during their college years. Of those men and women reporting an attempted unwanted sexual experience, slightly over one-half said that alcohol was involved.

The findings are consistent with those of previous studies that indicate a persistent trend in the negative consequences of violence linked to alcohol use and abuse among college students (Abbey, Ross, McDuffie, & McAuslan, 1996; Meilman, 1993). Results from several empirical studies have suggested strong associations between alcohol consumption and sexual aggression on campus

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

(Crowe & George, 1989; Commission on Substance Abuse at Colleges and Universities, 1994).

Rape Prevention

Most outreach programs and prevention strategies developed to address the problem of sexual assault and date rape have traditionally focused on changing the behavior of women rather than the behavior of men (Parrot et al., 1994). Recent reviews of rape prevention programs and education (Fischhoff, Furby, & Morgan, 1987; Lonsway, 1996) list some 1,140 possible strategies designed to prevent rape. Some of these programs include increased campus lighting, self-defense for women, counseling and advocacy for women, and role-playing programs for college students (Lonsway, 1996). Unfortunately, despite this wealth of potential strategies, prevention programs specifically for student athletes are less common and theoretical elaboration and empirical evaluation of many rape prevention programs have been scant (Barth, Derezotes, & Danforth, 1991; Dallager & Rosen, 1993; Fischhoff, Furby & Morgan, 1987; Lonsway, 1996). Consequently, little is known about the effectiveness of any particular strategy or program.

In order to address these and other issues associated with rape-prevention interventions, program planners must consider relevant criteria as well as the possible goals of the prevention program. For example:

- Consciousness raising regarding the sexual rights of women and the prevalence of date rape (Levine-McCombie & Koss, 1986),
- Social skills training,

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

- ❑ Assertiveness training for women, and
- ❑ Shifting men's and women's attitudes concerning traditional sex roles, adversarial sexual beliefs, and rape stereotypes (Muehlenhard & Linton, 1987)

Conclusion

Younger age, being active in social functions, the victim's history of sexual abuse or victimization, dating at an early age, extensive sexual experiences, and the use of alcohol were found to be associated with sexual victimization. Sexist attitudes may contribute to a generalized tolerance of rape and women who are accepting of the use of force by men in a male-female relationship may believe that such activity is the norm. Cultural and societal influences such as sex-role beliefs and attitudes pertaining to dating and premarital relationships may promote an atmosphere in which men and women learn stereotypical gender roles, learn to support rape myths, and exhibit sexist attitudes. This is especially true in the athletic and fraternity culture. These organizations not only encourage the sexual conquest of women but condone it as well. Although society does not condone sexual victimization, society nonetheless may contribute to sexual victimization.

SSID Briefing Paper: College Sexual Assaults

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Table 1. Age of consent and statutory provisions prohibiting sexual relationships between minors and adults, as of June 1996, by state

State	Age	Provisions*	State	Age	Provisions*
Ala.	16	Capital offense for male ≥ 16 to have intercourse with female < 12 ; lesser offense if victim is aged 12–15 and actor is ≥ 16 and two years older than victim.	Mont.	16	person < 14 ; second degree if actor is ≥ 21 and victim is < 17 .
Alaska	18	First-degree sexual abuse of a minor if victim is < 13 and actor is ≥ 16 ; second degree if victim is aged 13–15 and actor is ≥ 16 and at least three years older than victim.	Nebr.	16	Sexual assault if victim is < 16 and actor is three or more years older.
Ariz.	18	Felony to knowingly engage in sexual conduct with a minor < 15 ; lesser felony if minor is ≥ 15 .	Nev.	16	First-degree sexual assault if actor ≥ 19 has intercourse with person < 16 . Sexual assault of child if actor ≥ 19 engages in sexual contact with victim ≤ 14 .
Ark.	18	Rape if actor has intercourse or engages in deviate sexual activity with victim < 14 . First-degree carnal knowledge if actor < 18 engages in sexual activity with victim < 14 ; third degree if actor is ≥ 20 and victim is < 16 .	N.H.	16	Statutory sexual seduction if actor ≥ 18 has intercourse with person < 16 ; felony if actor > 21 .
Calif.	18	Illegal to have intercourse with minor (not a spouse) < 18 . If actor is not more than three years older than victim, charge is a misdemeanor; harshest penalty for actor > 21 when victim is < 16 .	N.J.	16	Aggravated felonious assault if actor has intercourse with victim < 13 . Felonious assault if actor has sexual contact with victim < 13 or intercourse with victim aged 13–15.
Colo.	18	Second-degree sexual assault if victim is < 15 and actor is at least four years older; third degree if perpetrator is ≥ 18 and victim is < 18 .	N.M.	17	First-degree sexual assault if actor has intercourse with victim < 13 ; second degree if sexual contact with victim < 13 and actor is four or more years older or intercourse with victim aged 13–15 and actor is four or more years older.
Conn.	16	First-degree sexual assault if actor has intercourse with victim < 13 and actor is more than two years older than victim; second degree if victim is aged 13–15 and actor is more than two years older than victim.	N.Y.	17	First-degree criminal sexual penetration to have intercourse with child < 13 ; third-degree criminal sexual contact if child is < 13 or aged 13–16 and actor inflicts injury or uses a deadly weapon.
Del.	16	Second-degree unlawful sexual contact if victim is < 16 . First-degree unlawful intercourse if victim < 16 suffers serious physical injury or actor used deadly weapon; second degree if intercourse causes physical injury; third degree if intercourse occurs.	N.C.	16	First-degree felony to have intercourse with person < 11 ; second degree if actor is ≥ 18 and victim is < 14 ; third degree if actor is ≥ 21 and victim is < 17 .
D.C.	16	First-degree child sexual abuse if actor engages in sexual act with victim < 16 who is at least four years younger than actor; second degree if actor has sexual contact with such victim.	N.Dak.	18	First-degree rape if actor at least aged 12 and four years older than victim has intercourse with child < 13 .
Fla.	18	Capital felony if actor ≥ 18 commits sexual battery or causes injury while attempting to commit sexual battery against person < 12 ; life felony if actor is < 18 ; first-degree sexual battery if victim is aged 12–17. Third-degree child abuse if person ≥ 21 impregnates a child < 16 . Unlawful sexual activity if person ≥ 24 has intercourse with victim aged 16–17.	Ohio	18	Gross sexual imposition if actor engages in sexual act with person < 15 ; misdemeanor if adult engages in sexual act with person aged 15–17.
Ga.	16†	Statutory rape to have intercourse with someone < 16 . Misdemeanor if victim is aged 14–15 and actor \leq three years older.	Okla.	18	First-degree rape if actor engages in sexual conduct with person < 13 . Corruption of a minor if actor is ≥ 18 and victim is aged 13–15; if actor is less than four years older than victim, the crime is reduced from a felony to a misdemeanor.
Hawaii	14	First-degree sexual assault if actor knowingly has sex with victim < 14 ; third degree if sexual contact is with victim < 14 .	Ore.	18	First-degree rape if actor > 18 has intercourse with victim < 14 ; second degree if actor (no age stipulated) has intercourse with victim < 16 .
Idaho	18	Rape is intercourse with victim < 18 .	Penn.	16	First-degree rape if actor has intercourse with victim < 12 ; second degree if victim is < 14 ; third degree if victim is < 16 .
Ill.	18	Predatory criminal sexual assault if actor ≥ 17 has intercourse with victim < 13 . Aggravated criminal sexual assault if actor is < 17 and victim is < 9 or aged 9–12 and actor uses force. Aggravated criminal sexual abuse is sexual conduct with victim aged 13–16 and actor at least five years older. Criminal sexual abuse if actor is < 17 and victim is aged 9–16.	R.I.	16	Rape if victim is < 13 . Statutory sexual assault if victim is < 16 and actor is at least four years older than victim.
Ind.	16	Child molestation if actor has intercourse or engages in deviate sexual conduct with child < 14 .	S.C.	15	Third-degree sexual assault if actor ≥ 19 has intercourse with person aged 15. First-degree child molestation sexual assault if actor has intercourse with victim ≤ 14 ; second degree if sexual contact occurs with person ≤ 14 .
Iowa	16	Second-degree sexual abuse if victim is < 12 ; third degree if victim is aged 12–13 or 14–15 and actor \geq five years older.	S.Dak.	16	First-degree criminal sexual conduct if victim is < 11 ; second degree if victim is aged 11–14.
Kans.	16	Rape is intercourse with person < 14 .	Tenn.	18	Rape if victim is < 10 , or aged 10–15 and perpetrator is at least three years older than victim. Felony for person ≥ 16 to knowingly engage in sexual contact with person < 16 ; if actor is less than three years older than the victim, the crime is reduced to a misdemeanor.
Ky.	16	First-degree sexual abuse if actor has sexual contact with victim < 12 ; second degree if victim is < 14 .	Tex.	17	Rape of child if victim is < 13 . Statutory rape if victim is aged 13–17 and actor is at least four years older than victim.
La.	17	Aggravated rape if actor has intercourse with victim < 12 . Carnal knowledge of juvenile if actor > 17 has intercourse with consent of victim aged 12–16 and is more than two years older.	Utah	17	Aggravated sexual assault if actor has intercourse with victim < 14 . Sexual assault if actor intentionally or knowingly penetrates victim < 17 .
Maine	16	Gross sexual assault if actor engages in sexual act with victim < 14 . Sexual abuse of minor if victim is aged 14–15 and actor is ≥ 19 and five years older than victim.	Utah	17	Rape if victim is < 14 , or if victim is aged 14–16 and actor is more than three years older and "coerces victim to submit."
Md.	16	Second-degree sexual offense if actor engages in sexual act with victim ≤ 14 and actor is at least four years older; third degree if actor is ≥ 21 and victim is aged 14–15; fourth degree if actor is four or more years older than minor aged 14–15.	Vt.	16	Aggravated sexual assault if actor ≥ 18 engages in sexual act with victim < 10 . Sexual assault if actor engages in sexual act with a person < 16 .
Mass.	16	Unlawful sexual intercourse if victim is < 16 .	Va.	16	Rape is intercourse with child < 13 . Felony to have carnal knowledge of child aged 13–15, but if victim consents and is less than three years younger than the minor who is accused, then crime is a misdemeanor.
Mich.	16	First-degree criminal sexual conduct to have intercourse with victim < 13 ; third degree if victim is < 16 .	Wash.	16	First-degree rape if victim is < 12 and defendant is at least 24 months older than victim; second degree if victim is aged 12–13 and defendant is at least 36 months older; third degree if victim is aged 14–15 and defendant is at least 48 months older.
Minn.	16	First-degree criminal sexual conduct to have intercourse with victim < 13 if actor is more than 36 months older; third degree if victim is aged 13–15 and actor is more than 24 months older.	W.Va.	16	First-degree sexual assault if actor ≥ 14 engages in sexual "intrusion" with victim < 11 ; third degree if victim is < 16 and actor is at least four years older.
Miss.	18	Illegal for actor ≥ 18 to have carnal knowledge of child < 14 ; possible sentence includes death or life imprisonment (lesser sentence for actors aged 13–17). Carnal knowledge of unmarried person aged 14–17 of previously chaste character is illegal if actor is older than victim.	Wis.	18	First-degree sexual assault if actor engages in sexual contact or intercourse with person < 13 ; second degree if victim is < 16 .
Mo.	17	First-degree statutory rape if actor has intercourse with	Wyo.	16	Second-degree sexual assault if victim is < 12 and actor is at least four years older; third degree if victim is < 16 and actor is at least four years older.

*Does not include statutory provisions that relate to cases of incest, or those in which the perpetrator is in a position of authority over the victim or lives in the same household as the victim. †The age of consent in Georgia was 14 in June 1996; it was raised to 16 in October 1996.