

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual Abuse, Rape, Criminal Sexual Conduct, Sexual Harassment, Incest, and Sexual Exploitation- these are all forms of sexual violence and happen when a person is forced into sexual activity that they do not want to be involved in or they are unable to consent to the activity.

Consent is a free and active agreement given equally by both partners to engage in a specific sexual activity. Consent is never implied and cannot be assumed, even in the context of a relationship. Just because you are in a relationship does not mean that you always have permission to engage in sexual activity with your partner-consent is still needed.

Facts about Sexual Violence:

- ✓ Every 2 minutes someone in the United States is sexually assaulted
- ✓ Every 83 minutes someone in Minnesota is sexually assaulted
- ✓ 1 in 3 Native American women experience sexual assault in their lifetime
- ✓ 1 in 6 women experience sexual assault in their lifetime
- ✓ Rape is the most frequently committed violent crime in America
- ✓ Sexual Assault is one of the most under reported crimes in America
- ✓ 73% of sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim
- ✓ 28% of sexual assaults are committed by an intimate partner
- ✓ 10% of sexual assault victims are male
- ✓ 15% of sexual assault victims are under the age of 12

Victims of sexual assault are more likely to:

- ✓ suffer from depression
- ✓ suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- ✓ abuse alcohol and drugs
- ✓ contemplate suicide

Anyone may be a victim of rape: women, men or children, straight or gay and it can happen anywhere, at anytime. It is NEVER the victim's fault. If you have been a victim of sexual violence, seek help-it is the first step toward healing.

Sexual Bill of Rights

- * I have the right to say "NO"
- * I have the right to have my decision respected
- * I have the right to set limits on behaviors and have that limit respected
- * I have the right to equally participate in the decisions regarding birth control and safe sex
- * I have the right to be safe from sexual violence

For more information, support, or free & confidential services call the DOVE Program at 218.983.4656 or the 24 hour crisis line at 1.877.830.3683(DOVE). You can also find more information and resources on our website www.whiteearthdove.com