

How does a perpetrator use alcohol?

- When the perpetrator takes advantage of a victim's voluntary use of alcohol or will consume alcohol as a way to justify the assault.

Sexual assault victims are...

- 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol

Alcohol and drugs come full circle

- Alcohol and drugs are used to commit sexual assault and/or play role in sexual assault
- Victims of sexual assault turn to drugs and alcohol as a coping

Alcohol alone does not cause domestic violence or sexual assault. However at times it can play a vital role.

The Relationship Between Alcohol and Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



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How alcohol abuse affects dating partners

- When a dating partner is under the influence of alcohol, the risk of more unhealthy and abusive behaviors are heightened, whether it's verbal, emotional, digital, physical, or sexual abuse.
- Alcohol can make the situation more volatile, increasing the severity and frequency of the abusive episodes.
- If you're under the influence of alcohol, it can make you more vulnerable to being sexually assaulted or having unsafe or unprotected sexual activity.
- The cycle of substance abuse can cause conflict, leading a dating partner to use more to reduce stress or tension, which in turn leads to more conflict.

In a study of 418 victims of domestic violence, more than half reported that their assailing partners had a habitual problem with alcohol or drug use.

Alcohol facilitates aggression by 3 main ways

- Decreasing self control
- Stimulating onset of mental aggressive pathologies
- Worsening or difficulty to solve other violence inducing mental disorders

Correlation between dating violence and substance abuse

- In junior high and high school, teens that drank alcohol before age 13 were more likely to be both victims and abusers when it comes to physical dating violence.
- Teenage girls who experience dating violence are more likely to binge drink compared to their peers.
- And those who experience physical dating violence are more likely to drink, smoke and use drugs, among other risky behaviors, compared to peers who did not experience abuse.



Can alcohol to be blame for violence?

- No.
- A partner using abusive behaviors might blame drugs or alcohol for their actions but legally they are responsible for the abuse not the substances.
- Was it sexual assault if you were drinking or doing drugs?
- Yes!
- According to CT law, a person who is intoxicated cannot give full consent to sex because alcohol and drugs impair your ability to communicate consent clearly. If you can't give consent, it is sexual assault.

Top ten facts about sexual assault and alcohol

- An incapacitated person does not forfeit his/her rights. Many state laws recognize that when someone is drunk, she or he is unable to give consent.
- Sexual assault is a crime of violence: Alcohol never justifies violent, criminal behavior. Intoxication can never be used as a defense for someone who commits a sexual assault.
- Alcohol use at the time of the attack was found to be one of the four strongest predictors of a college woman being raped.
- Under the influence of alcohol, men are more likely to interpret a woman's smile, laughter, clothes, or body language as evidence that she wants to have sex.
- Alcohol slows reflexes and can impair the victim's ability to recognize a potentially dangerous situation.
- Alcohol impairs judgment and lowers inhibitions, making some people more likely to force sex on an unwilling partner.
- Alcohol use can contribute to an atmosphere where anything goes, including rape by individuals or groups of men.
- 47% of college women who were raped believe they were unable to effectively resist as a result of their own alcohol use.
- Men are more likely than women to assume that a woman who drinks alcohol on a date is a willing sex partner. 40% of men who think this way also believe it is acceptable to force sex on an intoxicated woman.
- At least 90% of college students who had unwanted sex were under the influence of alcohol.