

FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT AND AIDS

Sexual assault is a terrifying experience which leaves the victim feeling hurt, angry, humiliated, and violated. Added to the trauma of the assault is the fear of pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and AIDS. Although the likelihood of pregnancy or contracting a disease, including AIDS, is low with one act of forced sexual contact, the Sexual Assault Center advises all victims to seek prompt medical attention following an assault in order to completely rule out the possibility. The following data from the San Francisco Forensic AIDS Project provides facts about sexual assault and AIDS:

- The chances of contracting AIDS from one incident of forced sexual contact are very low, even if the assailant has the AIDS virus.
- There is no evidence suggesting that sexual offenders as a group are at any higher risk than men in the general population for carrying AIDS.
- The likelihood of an assailant having AIDS is greater if the assailant is bisexual, promiscuous, or an intravenous drug user.
- Although there is only a small chance of contracting AIDS from sexual assault, it is important to seek follow-up testing. It is possible to be tested as early as three months after assault; however, more accurate test results can be obtained with testing at a six months to one year interval after the assault.
- Factors that might make a victim somewhat more susceptible to contracting AIDS would be: menstruating at the time of the assault, forced intercourse resulting in vaginal or anal tearing, anal intercourse, repeated intercourse, or if the victim already has an STD at the time of the assault.

AIDS/STD TESTING CLINICS

Locally, testing for AIDS and STD's is available at Planned Parenthood and many local area clinics and medical offices. Confidential testing and treatment of STD's, counseling and testing for AIDS are available at Planned Parenthood -1411 W. St. Germain Street Suite 106 St. Cloud, MN 56301, 320-252-9504 or 1-800-252-9504. The clinic hours are Monday and Wednesday 9:00 am-4:30 pm, Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 am-6:00 pm, and Friday 9:00 am-3:30 pm. Should you have other questions about AIDS, contact the Minnesota AIDS Project at 1-800-248-2437.