

# Safety At U-M

*What Women and Men  
Should Know*

# For Men About Rape

Rape is more than a “women’s problem.” Men, both gay and straight, can become victims of rape, though they are less likely to report it. Also, because rape is mostly a crime that men commit against women, the threat of rape creates mistrust and puts obstacles in the way of forming healthy relationships between men and women. Sexual assault affects us all, and we can work together to help end and prevent it.

Here are some things for men to think about:

- Remember: rape can and does happen in relationships. Make sure that there is explicit agreement about the sexual activity you engage in.
- Do not force yourself on a woman even if you believe she has led you on or if you believe she's saying “no” but means “yes.”
- While walking or jogging, give women as much physical space as possible. Even if you do not intend it, your presence can be intimidating. A woman may feel more comfortable if you cross the street and keep your hands visible when you are walking towards her or if you are approaching from behind.
- Be aware of sex role stereotypes and don't play into harmful ones: **Aggression does not equal masculinity.**