THE FACTS ABOUT TEEN SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual Assault can include any of the following:

- Rape
- Attempted rape
- Sexual Coercion
- Unwanted sexual touching
- Any sexual contact with someone who cannot consent, such as someone who is underage or unable to respond

Reasons a teen may not report:

- “I was drinking.”
- “I don’t remember all the details.”
- “I wonder if I didn’t do enough to stop it.”
- “People might say it’s my fault.”
- “It happened so long ago, it’s too late to tell.”
- “Nobody will believe me.”
- “I just want to forget about it.”
- “Nothing will be done about it anyway.”
- “My parents will be angry with me.”

Teen sexual assault is very common.

- 1 in 4 teen girls were verbally or physically pressured into having sex during the past year.
- 1 in 10 high school girls — and 1 and 20 high school boys — reported being forced into sex.
- More than 1/3 of acquaintance rape victims are between the ages 14 and 17.
- Almost 20% of college women reported experiencing sexual assault on campus.

You can help.

- If a teen discloses to you, listen calmly. Assure them that you believe them, it is not their fault, and you will work with them to get support and help.
- Focus on the lack of consent, not the teen’s behavior (i.e., where they went, what they were wearing, how much they drink, etc.)
- Understand that disclosing is often a process, not a single event. A teen may first provide hints, and then if the response is supportive, they may share more information with you. Listen without judgment.