• Weapons such as guns, knives, and chemical sprays can easily be turned against you unless you are trained and not afraid to use them. You must be prepared to possibly kill the attacker.

• If you are determined to carry some type of weapon, a chemical spray (ex. Pepper Spray) is your best choice. It is non-lethal if used against you. Remember, you already have weapons with you such as your keys, pens, pencils, and the most important weapon your brain.

**What to do if you become a victim/survivor of a sexual assault.**

• Report it to the police immediately.
• Do not bathe.
• Do not disturb the scene of the rape.
• Do not wash your clothes.
• A medical procedure at a hospital should follow the police report consisting of a medical examination and a rape kit.
• Psychological assistance will be available to you.

**Important Phone Numbers**

_Houston Area Women’s Center_  
Sexual Assault Hotline  
713-528-RAPE (7273)  
[www.hawc.org](http://www.hawc.org)

_Houston Police Department_  
Adult Sex Crimes Unit  
713-308-1180

Juvenile Unit  
713-731-5335

_Harold L. Hurtt_  
Chief of Police

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**Houston Police Stations**

Airport (Bush) 281-230-6800
Airport (Hobby) 713-845-6800
Central 713-247-4400
Clear Lake 281-218-3800
Eastside 713-928-4600
Fondren 713-773-7900
Kingwood 281-913-4500
North 281-405-5300
Northeast 713-635-0200
Northwest 713-744-0900
South Central 832-394-0200
Southeast 713-731-5000
Southwest 713-314-3900
Special Ops. 832-394-0000
Westside 281-584-4700

_For all emergencies, call 9-1-1_

_For more information, visit_  
[www.houstonpolice.org](http://www.houstonpolice.org)
SEXUAL ASSAULT IS A CRIME OF VIOLENCE, NOT SEXUAL PASSION. IT IS MEANT TO DEGRADE, HUMILIATE AND CONTROL. IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE, AT ANYTIME, AT ANY PLACE.

Myths

It could never happen to me.

Truth: Everyone is a potential victim. Man, woman, child, any age, race, religion, occupation, education, or sexual preference.

The motive is sexual.

Truth: Rape is a violent assault and the motive is aggression, anger, and hostility.

Rape is committed on impulse and by a stranger.

Truth: Most rapes are planned and often occur in one’s house. Many times the offender is a relative, friend, neighbor or other acquaintance of the victim/survivor (such as in the case of “date rape”).

“Women who are raped are asking for it.”

Truth: Rape is a violent and degrading crime. The youngest reported rape victim was 3 months old. The oldest was 99 years old. Both victims were in their bed sleeping. Age, what one wears, or the sex of the victim does not matter.

A rapist is easy to spot in a crowd.

Truth: Most rapists are young, married and appear normal. They can be of any race or economic background.

Rape is a non-violent crime.

Truth: Rape is a violent crime. 98% of the rapists either carry a weapon or threaten the victim with violence or death.

Safety at Home

- Install good solid wood or metal doors on all exits.
- Install double cylinder deadbolt locks on all exit doors.
- Practice key control by limiting the number of keys issued.
- Always lock doors.
- Secure windows with a secondary locking device.
- Acknowledge all callers through a locked door.
- Make sure exterior is well lighted.
- Do not advertise name on mailboxes.
- Get an unlisted phone number or when listing your name, use initials only and do not include your address.

Safety While Driving

- Keep your vehicle well maintained. And the gas tank at least half full.
- Have keys in hand and check the front and back seats before entering your car.
- Keep doors locked and windows up.
- If you think someone is following you, do not go home. Drive to the nearest police station, fire station, open gas station, or well-lighted place where there are people that can help.
- If you have car problems, raise the hood and tie a white cloth to the door handle to signal for help. Get back into the car and keep the doors and windows locked. If someone stops, ask them to call for help. Do not accept rides from anyone.
- If possible, always carry a fully charged cell phone for emergencies.

Safety While Shopping

- Avoid parking next to vehicles with persons still inside.