

Non-Consensual Drugging

If you're concerned that you or someone you know has been given drugs without knowledge or consent, use these campus resources and information to help.

What is Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault?

Drug-facilitated sexual assault (DFSA) is when a person uses any type of alcohol and/or other drugs to compromise someone's ability to consent because they are incapacitated. Affirmative consent means that there is a conscious, freely given, and mutual agreement to engage in any type of sexual activity.

If someone is incapacitated, they cannot give affirmative consent, no matter the circumstance.

Involuntary drugging is against the law and university policy. Administering substances without the person's knowledge may be considered aggravated assault through poisoning under federal statute, and may be considered a felony under California state law.

Reporting options are listed below.

People may be particularly afraid to report prohibited conduct when alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicants are involved (for example, when there is underage drinking). Per [UC Policy](#), to encourage reporting, the university will not discipline complainants or witnesses for student conduct policy violations that occur around the time of alleged SVSH unless the university determines the violation was egregious.

What drugs are used during DFSA?

Alcohol is frequently used on its own or in combination with other substances and is the biggest risk factor for drug-facilitated sexual assault. Involuntary drugging most frequently (though not exclusively) occurs in places where alcohol is prevalent, such as bars, clubs, and parties. Regardless of where or how violence occurs, we want to be clear that it is never the survivor's fault.

Many substances can be used to incapacitate someone. Some of the more common substances include "party drugs" like Rohypnol, Gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB), and Ketamine. Perpetrators may also use prescription medications such as sleep aids, anxiety medication, muscle relaxers, and tranquilizers. Substances can have many different names and ways to refer to them.

What are the side effects of being drugged?

If you have been drugged involuntarily, you may not know what substances you were given and how your body would react to them. Side effects may depend on what else you ingested, whether you had eaten recently, or even your stress levels. Some physical symptoms that someone who has been drugged may experience include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Dizziness, disorientation, and blurred vision
- Nausea or vomiting
- Loss of control over your body
- Passing out
- Waking up with no memories or missing memories from a prolonged period of time
- Feeling drunk when you've had little to no alcohol
- Sudden change in body temperature (hot and cold)
- Heart rate changes

If you or someone you're concerned about is experiencing any of these symptoms, your health and safety is your first priority. The [Intoxication Intervention Scale](#) can help you decide what action to take. **Seek emergency medical care if needed.**

Learn more: uhs.berkeley.edu/aod

Addressing DFSA

We all have a responsibility to prevent violence and show support for survivors. Always practice affirmative consent. Situations where alcohol or other substances are involved can affect a person's ability to consent. Our Navigating Consent While Using Alcohol & Other Substances handout can help you think about consent when there is substance use. (Available at uhs.berkeley.edu/partysafe)

If you or your friends choose to use or serve alcohol or other drugs, prioritize your own and others' safety and well-being. This includes knowing and monitoring what substance you may be consuming or providing. Provide non-alcoholic beverages, food, and hydration stations. Use the PartySafe Harm Reduction & Risk Management Toolkit and Graphics Library resources available at uhs.berkeley.edu/partysafe. Make a mindful plan and stick to it every time!

You can be an active bystander and intervene to help reduce and prevent harm. If you see someone exhibiting the signs listed above, talk to them and help get them to safety and put them in a [recovery position](#). The [Intoxication Intervention Scale](#) can help you decide what action to take. The CARE Model equips you with different strategies to take action. Examples of ways you can use the CARE model:

- **Confront the Situation:** If you see someone adding substances to food/beverages or giving someone substances to lower their inhibitions, talk to them about how their actions are causing harm and how it makes it difficult to obtain consent. If you see someone who is incapacitated, talk to them and try to get them help or to safety.
- **Alert Others:** Ask a party host for help if you see concerning behavior, tell an RA if you live on-campus, or other trusted individuals if you need support, and call 911 if there is a medical or safety emergency.
- **Redirect Attention:** Distract someone who is taking advantage of another person's incapacitated state while a friend helps them. Take the intoxicated person home or to get food. Tell them someone is looking for them and can help separate people. Dispose of contaminated containers and offer a non-alcoholic beverage or water.
- **Engage After:** Check in on a friend to make sure they are okay after they get home, see how they are feeling later in the week, offer resources, or offer to accompany them to campus services (such as PATH to Care Center, UHS, UCPD, etc.). Check-in with other peers who also may have observed the situation so you can intervene as a group and support the person who has experienced harm.

Resources

Support is available. Learn where you can go to get support at the SVSH website: svsh.berkeley.edu/support.

Confidential Options:

The PATH to Care Center offers free and confidential support services and prevention initiatives for dating and domestic violence, sexual assault (including DFSA), stalking, and sexual harassment. (care.berkeley.edu)

- Their 24/7 Care Line at **(510) 643-2005** is accessible whenever you need assistance.
- Advocates can help understand rights and options, safety plans, provide urgent support, assist with reporting and medical options, and more.
- Peer educators and professional staff offer workshops, trainings, and consultations on how to prevent DFSA and other forms of SVSH.

University Health Services (uhs.berkeley.edu/emergency)

- Urgent medical care: (510) 642-3188
- After hours: (855) 817-5667
- Same-day Counseling appointments can be booked on eTang or by calling (510) 642-9494.
- Sexual assault/trauma specialty counseling through Social Services at (510) 642-6074.

Non-confidential Options:

The Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination (OPHD) responds to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment and can also offer supportive measures and information about rights and options without participating in any resolution process. (ophd.berkeley.edu)

UCPD (ucpd.berkeley.edu)

- For Emergencies: Dial 911
- 24-hour non-emergency telephone: (510) 642-6760
- Campus-only emergency alternate: (510) 642-3333

Learn more: uhs.berkeley.edu/aod