April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), 207,754 people experience rape or sexual assault every year in the United States. That comes out to one sexual assault every two minutes.

You can walk away from a statistic, but you can't walk away from a friend.
Sexual assault is any form of unwanted sexual contact.

This can include anything from unwanted touching or groping to attempted or completed rape.

Perpetrators of sexual assault use tactics such as physical force, threats, coercion, manipulation, and mental incapacitation.

While some perpetrators of sexual violence may use their own sexual desires to justify sexual assault, most acts are committed because of the perpetrator’s need for power and control over their victim.
In 3 women and 1 in 12 men are survivors of attempted or completed rape worldwide.

On college campuses, 1 in 3 women report experiencing sexual assault and/or rape.

The Center for Disease Control estimates that 1 in 2 women and 1 in 5 are survivors of other forms of sexual violence victimization.
90% of sexual assaults are committed by someone the survivor knows, from an acquaintance to a partner.

People ages 18-24 are at highest risk for sexual violence victimization.

Rape and sexual assault are the most underreported crimes in the United States.

80% of sexual assault survivors are under the age of 30 and 44% are under the age of 18.

If you have experienced sexual assault, you are not alone.
Consent is a verbal “yes” and/or enthusiastic participation in a sexual act by all parties involved.

Consent given for one sexual act does not extend to all sexual acts. For example, if an individual gives consent to be kissed, that individual does not automatically consent to have sex.

Consent is sexy and necessary! Check in with your partner.
CONSENT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF COMMUNICATION.

Individuals cannot legally consent if:
they are underage
they are intoxicated
they are unconscious/asleep

No means no

“I don’t know” means NO. “Not right now” means NO. “I’m not ready” means NO. “I’m drunk” means NO. (I’m unconscious) means NO.
IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL ASSAULT, YOU HAVE OPTIONS.

The Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Center can assist you with medical advocacy (Student Health Center and University Hospital), legal advocacy (police, MUPD, Student Conduct Office), residential advocacy, and academic advocacy.

Call 911 to report a crime to the Columbia Police Department or (573) 882-7201 to MUPD (campus police).
The University Hospital Emergency Room (on campus) has a trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner who can perform rape kits. An advocate from True North will be available to assist you with this process.

If your friend has experienced sexual assault, you can help.

**Be supportive** of their feelings and decisions.  
**Listen** without judgment.  
**Never blame** them for the situation.

Don’t pressure them to do anything. The way you would handle the situation is not necessarily the way someone else would want to.  
Give them resources, but let them make their own decisions.
RESOURCES

RSVP (Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention) Center: G210 MU Student Center (lower level); 8 am-5 pm Monday-Friday - (573) 882-6638

True North: (573) 875-1369 – provides services to survivors of relationship violence, sexual assault, and stalking 24 hours/day, 7 days/week

Student Legal Services: free legal consultation for students, orders of protection – 2500 MU Student Center (top level); (573) 882-9700

Counseling Center: free counseling sessions for students – 102 Parker Hall; (573) 882-6701