

Absolut Reality: Predatory Drugs

Want to know more about predatory drugs? Feel free to contact Erin Morgan, Coordinator of Alcohol & Drug Education Programs, at 503-5195 to schedule a workshop for your class, organization, or group.

- **Rohypnol, GHB, and Ketamine** are predominantly central nervous system depressants. Because they are often colorless, tasteless, and odorless, they can be added to beverages and unknowingly ingested. These drugs emerged a few years ago as “date rape drugs” because of this inability to be detected and because of the affects they have on the person who has ingested them. As a result of concerns about their abuse, Congress passed the “Drug-Induced Rape Prevention and Punishment Act of 1996”. This legislation increased Federal penalties for use of any substance to aid in sexual assault.
 - **Rohypnol** is a potent tranquilizer which produces a sedative effect, amnesia, muscle relaxation, and slowing of psychomotor responses. It is a pill that is colorless, odorless, and tasteless that dissolves in a liquid without leaving any traces. It takes effect approximately 10-20 minutes after ingestion and can last up to 24 hours if added to alcohol. It can be detected in the urine for up to 24 hours and in the blood for up to 48 hours. If people appear extremely intoxicated after consuming only a small amount of alcohol, Rohypnol may be involved.
 - Street names: Roofies, Rope, Ruffies, R2, Ruffles, Roche, Forget-pill
 - **GHB** is an odorless, colorless, tasteless depressant with anesthetic qualities. It has been used by bodybuilders as an amino acid. GHB is usually distributed as a sodium salt in powder or tablet form and is easily dissolved in a liquid. It causes feelings of relaxation, tranquility, sensuality, and loss of inhibitions. It usually takes effect 10-15 minutes after ingestion and can last up to 30 hours if combined with alcohol. Large doses of GHB can induce sudden sleep in as little as 5 minutes.
 - Street names: Liquid Ecstasy, Liquid X, Scoop, Easy Lay
 - **Ketamine** is a new drug that has recently been added to the predatory drugs list. It is a powerful anesthetic that is used as an animal tranquilizer. It is available in liquid, powder, or pill form and is odorless, colorless, and tasteless when dissolved in liquid. Ketamine causes hallucinations, amnesia, and dissociation (feeling as if the mind is separate from the body), which makes it very attractive to sexual predators.
 - Street names: K, Special K, Vitamin K, Ket

- **MDMA (Ecstasy)** has also been used by sexual predators because it, too, is colorless, odorless, and tasteless when dissolved. MDMA is a synthetic, psychoactive drug with both stimulant (amphetamine-like) and hallucinogenic (LSD-like) properties. Its chemical structure is similar to methamphetamine and mescaline, which are synthetic drugs known to cause severe neurological impairments. MDMA is usually taken in pill form, but some users snort it, inject it, or use it in suppository form.
 - Street names: Ecstasy, X, Adam, XTC, hug, beans, love drug

For more information on these drugs, check out the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) [InfoFacts](#).

How to protect Yourself – for women AND men

- Contact USC Upstate’s student organization SAVE (Students Against a Violent Environment) at 503-5195.
- When at a party, bar, or anywhere else where alcohol is being consumed, never leave your drink unattended.
 - Take your drink with you everywhere you go – even to the restroom
 - Leave your drink with a friend that you absolutely trust
 - If you do leave your drink unattended, throw it out and make a new one in a new cup or glass
- Watch your friends’ drinks, especially if they are not alert
- Use the “buddy system” at parties or bars
- Watch the bartender as he/she makes your drink, even at local/popular bars and restaurants
- Never accept a drink from someone you don’t know or do not know well
- Avoid open drinks (such as punches and mixes)
- Know your sexual desires and limits
- Communicate your sexual desires and limits early on
- Don’t assume that someone wants sexual contact because of the way they are dressed, being friendly, or because they have been drinking
- Listen to what a person says and accept their limits
- Be alert for any warning signs that something is not right (such as feeling extremely intoxicated or sleepy after a small amount of alcohol)
- If you feel uncomfortable in a situation, pay attention to your feelings and do something about it.

If You Have Been A Victim

- Go to the nearest hospital emergency room as soon as possible.
- If possible, do not use the bathroom. (If you must, collect your urine in a clean container with a lid. These drugs clear the system very quickly, so it is important to keep the urine for analysis at the hospital or clinic.)

- Contact Safe Homes – Rape Crisis Coalition at [this website](#) or by phone at 583-9803 or 1-800-273-5066 for support and information about your rights as a victim and what services are available to you.
- Get help and support somewhere. Sexual assault is traumatic and people who have experienced it often need help to deal with the situation and with their feelings. People who get professional counseling often heal from the trauma faster and with fewer lasting effects than those who do not get help. Visit the USC Upstate [Counseling Services](#) office in CLC 107 or call 503-5195. Other helpful resources are community counselors and social workers, [rape hotlines](#), emergency room staff, [victim advocates](#), and police trained to help rape victims.
- Do not blame yourself, even if you believe you were naïve, not cautious, or even foolish. It is not your fault! Your behavior did not cause the rape – the predator caused the rape.