# Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault

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April 11, 2024



## TRIGGERVARNING

## Sexual Assault

Every 68 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted.

Only 25 rapists out of every 1,000 will end up in prison.

### What is Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault?

- Drug-facilitated sexual assault (DFSA) alcohol or drugs are used to compromise
  an individual's ability to consent.
- "Date Rape Drugs"
- Can happen to anyone, by anyone

"When I was raped I was 6'4" and 220 lbs. I truly believed that I could go anywhere I wanted and no one would bother me."

- Johnathon, a survivor of drug-facilitated sexual assault and RAINN Speakers Bureau member.

### Drugs Used in Sexual Assault

### Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol)

Benzodiazepine - CIV
Not approved in the US – used in other
countries to treat insomnia

### Gamma-Butyrolactone (GBL)

List I chemical
Precursor chemical for illegal
production of GHB

### **Ketamine**

Schedule III

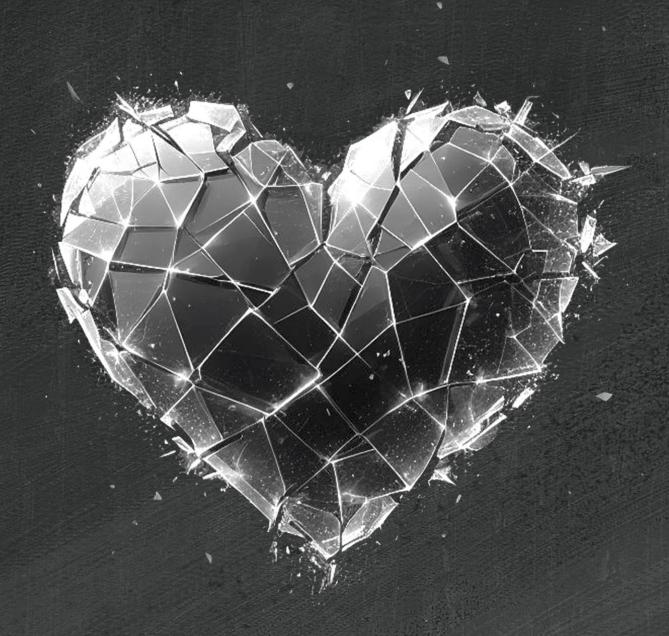
### Gamma-Hydroxybutyric Acid (GHB)

FDA-approved GHB product:
Sodium oxybate, Xyrem®
Approved for treatment of narcolepsy

# Psychological Ramifications

### Emotional Trauma

- Impaired Trauma Memory
- Guilt and Self-Blame
- Extreme powerlessness
- Re-experiencing symptoms





## Perpetrator Motivations

- Predatory mindset
- Sexual Entitlement
- Opportunism

# Legal Ramifications

### Current Legal Framework

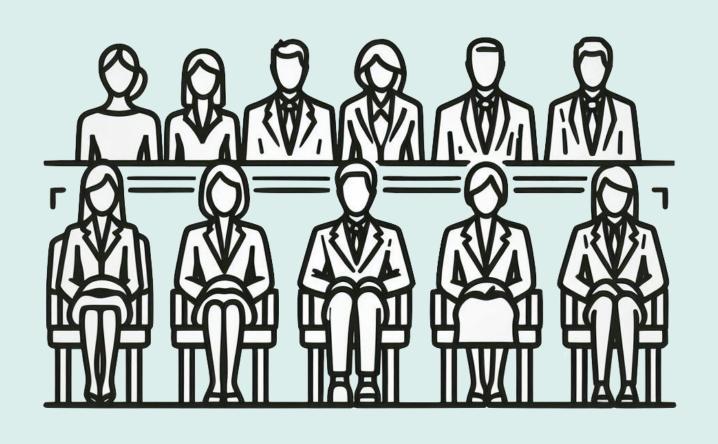
- Definitions vary state to state
- In Connecticut
  - DFSA is considered a form of rape and is therefore charged as sexual assault in the first degree.

Victim  $\geq$  16 years old | Victim < 16 years old

Class B felony Up to 40 years' imprisonment Up to \$15,000 in fines

Class A felony Up to 25 years' imprisonment Up to \$20,000 in fines

### Challenges in Prosecution



- Amnesia
- Lack of physical evidence
- Narrow window for detecting date rape drugs in the victim's system
- Bias against victims who were intoxicated

## Societal Ramifications

## Stigmatization

- Credibility
- Social Isolation
- Victim Blame
  - "Why didn't you fight it?"
  - "Why didn't you leave the situation?"
  - "What were you wearing?"



### Addressing Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault

#### CTI00 Kit

- Standardized sexual assault kit used in all CT hospitals.
- Retrieving samples including debris, blood, hair, urine, and genital swabs.
  - Collected within 120 hours (5 days)

#### **Train Healthcare Providers**

Conduct sexual assault forensic exams and toxicology testing to detect date rape drugs

#### CT400 Kit

Urine and blood testing to detect the presence of date rape drugs or other substances.

Urine: Collected within 120 hours (5 days)

Blood: Collected within 48 hours (2 days)

#### Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence

- 9 sexual assault crisis programs
- 24-hour toll free confidential hotline
  - Via phone, text, or chat, or at their local center
- Sexual Assault Victim Advocates

## THANK YOU!

Questions?