



New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Likelihood of Sexual Violence May Increase As Super Bowl Begins *Experts Offer Tips To Increase Safety*

[New York] As many as 400,000 fans are expected to descend on the Meadowlands for Super Bowl XLVIII on February 2. This Super Bowl will be the first NFL championship game to be held in the New York metropolitan area since 1962.

Given the excitement for the significant event coming to the New York metro area, experts expect the influx of people, excessive drinking and drug use that accompanies the biggest sporting event of the year will also bring with it the opportunity for increased crime and violence including sexual assault.

Mary Haviland, Executive Director says “many of us are so focused on the sport itself that there is lack of safety planning. And we often do not think about potential harm such games may have on local communities, especially for events as big as the Super Bowl. But experts and law enforcement anticipate an increase of crime including sexual assault.” Experts share some helpful tips to increase your safety during this event:

- **Trust your instincts.** They are usually correct. Do not hesitate to call **911** if you question your safety, or to seek help from a bystander.
- **Plan your route along well-lit and busy streets.** If you suspect that you are being followed, stay away from quiet blocks and head for a store you know to be open.
- **Be alert and aware of your surroundings.** Keep your head up when walking alone, and do not wear headphones or display valuables. Have your keys ready before you reach your door, and stay alert as you enter the building.
- If you plan to drink alcohol in a public place, **only accept drinks from a server**, stay with a friend, be wary of getting into a medallion or livery cab alone and/or call a friend or family member to assist.
- **Consider sharing a cab, car service, or ride** from a friend when coming home late, or walk with a friend.
- **Create a safety plan** (where to go, what to take) if you need to leave in a hurry.

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The mission of the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault is to prevent sexual violence and reduce the harm it causes through education, research and advocacy.

- Remember **you do not deserve to be hurt verbally, physically, or emotionally.**

For more information about increasing the safety, please go to svfreenyc.org or www.facebook.com/nycalliance

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