

Privacy, safety and security policies of the *nformd.on.sexual.assault* program

nformd.net cares passionately about student privacy, and about the safety and security of our program and the data it generates. To those ends, here are the safeguards and policies we've put into place.

1) On the "Account Setup" page, students are told the following before they are asked for any demographic information:

"The following demographic questions should take less than five minutes to complete, and help us learn about you and your life, so that we can improve this program. All answers are strictly confidential and will not be shared with any outside party. If at any time you feel the need to contact a counselor or local rape crisis center, click the "Resources" button in the upper right corner."

2) The Resources button, which is available at all times during the program, takes a student to a customizable list of campus and local resources, as well as this link:

<http://tools.rainn.org/counseling-centers/index.html>

At this website students can find the nearest rape crisis centers by zip code, or can call 1-800-656-HOPE to speak with a rape crisis counselor at any time of the day or night.

Participating schools can add web links and phone numbers of campus and local resources to their version of the nformd.on.sexual.assault program, assuring student access to whatever services they might need in this regard.

3) Student privacy is protected in the questions on ethnicity, religious affiliation, family income and sexuality (sexual preference) by providing the option "Prefer not to answer" in each answer set.

4) After students complete their account setup, but before their pre-test, students are taken to a standalone webpage concerning student privacy which reads:

Privacy Statement

nformd.net values the privacy of the users of our program in all regards, and will do all we can to assure you of strict confidentiality.

To that end, administrators will not see the answers you give to any questions anywhere in this program connected to any information identifying you personally, but will only see your overall pre-test and post-test scores. Your participation is completely confidential, meaning your name and e-mail address will never be given out or used in any fashion other than to contact you with follow up information on sexual assault education/prevention.

I have read the Privacy Statement

Consent for Research

nformd.net uses student responses, including demographic information, for research purposes in an effort to reduce sexual assaults on college campuses and to improve the effectiveness of the nformd.on.sexual.assault program. In accordance to the Privacy Statement, nformd.net may use my program data for research purposes provided that my name and any identifying information is kept strictly confidential, meaning that such information will never appear in any internal or external nformd.net materials. I understand that there is no penalty for declining to participate in the research and that I may still complete the program.

- I agree
 I decline

Students must click the "I have read the Privacy Statement" and choose to either agree or decline to the Consent for Research paragraph before continuing with the program.

5) Before any video content is seen by a student, the following information is given on screen:

"If you have a history of sexual abuse, some of the material in this program may disturb you. We apologize in advance for this, and hope you understand that we need to include true-to-life material in order to help reduce the sexual assault problem on campuses.

As advanced warning, a red square will flash in the lower left corner about 5 seconds prior to potentially troubling material. If you find this material tough to get through, turn down your sound until the red square goes away. Remember that you can contact a local rape crisis center by clicking the "Local Crisis Center" button. You can also click "Campus Resources" at any time to find someone on your campus to talk to."

6) As alluded to above, a red square first flashes, then stays on screen during all the sections of the program that might trigger discomfort for sexual assault survivors.

7) For anyone reading this who hasn't seen the full program, here's a summary of the safety and security information students learn in it:

In brief, both female and male students learn about such topics as the nature of consent; differences in communication styles between the sexes and how they affect sexual interaction; the peer and cultural pressures both sexes feel; the dangers of alcohol and other drugs as they relate to sexual assault; and complete information about what to do if they or someone they know is sexually assaulted.

Female viewers learn how to recognize sexually aggressive males and how to tally mental "red flags" to spot particularly dangerous men; how to set boundaries with men through clear communication to help avoid the misunderstandings that can lead to sexual assault; specific "Verbal Judo" techniques to help extricate them from a sexual assault situation should they find themselves in one; and additional information on dating violence and stalking.

Male viewers learn the clear differences between consensual sex and sexual assault; the importance of presuming they don't have consent until they're expressly told they do; the need to communicate fully and clearly with any potential sexual partner; the importance of intervention to stop potential assault situations they might become aware of; the power of male peer groups to help reduce the sexual assault problem on campuses; and additional information on dating violence and stalking.

8) Another assurance of your data's security with us is our contractual obligation to participating schools as outlined in our Agreement, which states:

"nformd.net and User agree that nformd.net reserves the right to utilize information about User generated as a result of the performance of this Agreement for academic research purposes, in connection with which research nformd.net agrees to preserve the anonymity of anyone who obtains access to the Software through facilities provided by User."

In other words, we're contractually obligated to all participating schools to protect the anonymity of any student who takes our program.

9) Finally, the data we gather from your students is protected by our IT partners at Savior Technologies in the following ways:

Physical Security:

The server on which all data is stored is located in a disaster-proof facility called "aspStation," which their website describes as "an 18,000 square-foot building...designed by IBM and built in 1990 as a secure data center for a local hospital. This modern facility is complete with a built-in full-time UPS, stand-by generator, 3,700 square feet of raised flooring, and a Halon fire suppression system."

The facility requires security key card access to the building, as well as a combination lock to access the rack the nformd.net server is stored in. You can learn more here: <http://www.aspstation.net/>.

Virtual Security:

Transmission between the user's machine and the server is done securely, using the web's most recent standard SSL encryption level, currently 128bit. Servers are updated regularly with the latest security updates for respective operating systems.

Server Administrators Security:

Savior Server Administrators are under contract with nformd.net to protect and keep private our data. No client data is accessed by Savior unless nformd.net would specify.

We hope this compilation of information helps you better understand nformd.net's commitment to student privacy as well as to the security and safety of all data generated by our program. Should you have further questions, please contact Brad Fels at 877.349.1150 or brad.fels@nformd.net. Thanks.