



SEXUAL ASSAULT MYTHS

A Quiz To Separate Fact From Myth

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

True or False: Rape is only committed by strangers or crazed psychopaths who don't know their victims.

False. Approximately 80% of rape victims (adults and children) know their offenders. In 2000, about 8 in 10 rape or sexual assault victims stated that the offender was a boyfriend or girlfriend, spouse, other relative, friend, or acquaintance.

True or False: If you do not struggle or resist, you have not been sexually assaulted.

False. If you are forced to have sex without your consent, you have been assaulted, whether or not a struggle was involved. Some victims are paralyzed with fear or confusion. Other victims may be passive to avoid further injury. Some rapists overpower the victim with threats. In cases of rape and incest, the assailant often uses the victim's trust to isolate and silence the victim.

True or False: Sexual assault is an impulsive act.

False. Seventy-five percent of all assaults are planned in advance. One victim may be targeted and attacked, or a number of victims may be monitored until the assailant sees an opportunity to attack one.

True or False: Few sexual assaults are reported to police.

True. Approximately 30% of rapes are reported to the police. There are many reasons victims do not contact police: some victims fear retaliation by the offender; some fear being blamed for the assault because society often does not support rape survivors; some relive the trauma each time they have to tell their story and are thus hesitant to talk about it; and some don't realize what happened was rape.

What percentage of sexual assault cases are based on false accusations?

a) most b) less than 10% c) approximately 25% d) about half

b) Only 4-6% of sexual assault cases are based on false accusations. This is the same percentage of unsubstantiated cases that we find with many other crimes.



How will a person act after they have been sexually assaulted?

a) withdrawn b) angry c) hysterical d) calm e) all of the above

e) All of the above. There is no "right way" to react to sexual assault. Sexual assault victims may be in shock and can appear hysterical, withdrawn, angry, or calm. Each survivor copes with the trauma of rape in her or his own way and own time.

True or False: If a woman is willing to make out with a guy, then it's not really rape if he goes a little further and forces sex. Women who lead men on are asking for it.

False. Consent to some sexual activity is not consent to be raped. No one ever asks to be raped. Forcing someone to engage in sexual activity against her or his will is sexual assault, regardless of how they dress, how they act, or what they initially consented to.

True or False: Men can't be raped.

False. Approximately 92,700 men are raped each year in the U.S.

True or False: A woman who is raped while she is intoxicated or doing drugs is somewhat responsible.

False. If an individual is drunk or drugged, they cannot legally consent to sex. Having sex with someone who cannot make an informed, rational decision is sexual assault.

What is the most common date rape drug?

a) rohypnol b) GHB c) alcohol d) ecstasy

c) One study found that 70% of female victims and 80% of male perpetrators had been drinking when a sexual assault occurred. Being intoxicated or drugged does not provide an excuse for raping someone.

Where do most rapes happen?

a) home b) bar c) car d) alley

a) In the home. While some people think that rape occurs most often when women are caught alone or go to unsafe places, the fact is that most sexual assaults happen in the victim's or assailant's home.

True or False: Most sex offenders are listed on the Illinois Sex Offender Registry.

False. It is estimated that of all rapes (reported and unreported), the conviction rate is less than 5%. Therefore, the vast majority of sex offenders do not appear on any registry.