

# Crimes Against Women: The Realities and the Statistics of Sexual Assault

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# What is the Definition of Sexual Assault

- FBI updated definition of rape in 2012.
  - Previous definition included only forcible male penile penetration of the female vagina
  - Excluded oral/anal penetration, rape of males, penetration of the vagina and/or anus with an object or body part other than a penis; rape of females by females and non-forcible rape
- Rape is the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.
- The revised definition is gender inclusive and includes instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity (age, alcohol, drugs).



# Myths and Realities of Sexual Assault



# Myth

## Sexual Assault is about Sex



# Reality

- Sexual Assault is an act of Violence
- Sexual Assault is about Control
- Sexual Assault is about Humiliation



# Myth

Sexual Assault is what happens when  
SHE drinks too much



# Reality

- Drinking does not cause sexual assault
- Alcohol is the most common drug used to facilitate a sexual assault
- Being intoxicated when committing a sexual assault does NOT absolve the person of responsibility – it is not a DEFENSE



# Myth

If she was really sexually assaulted,  
she would have visible injuries





# Reality

Only 31.5% of adult females have injuries as a result of a sexual assault

Only 5% of children will have injury as a result of a sexual assault



# Myth

Men can't be sexually assaulted



# Reality

- National Sexual Violence Resource Center reports 1 in 71 men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime
- The Texas Crime Report 2016 states the total number of reported sexual assaults was 18,349 with a total of 19,045 victims ... of those victims, 12.9% were male



# Myth

Women lie about being sexually assaulted and file false reports



# Reality

- NSVRC reports the rate of false reporting to be between 2% and 8%
- More importantly, research shows the rate of false reporting for a sexual assault to be consistent with other violent crimes



# Myth

Most victims don't know their rapists, they are total strangers



# Reality

- The majority of sexual assault victims are assaulted by someone they know
  - Friend
  - Co-Worker
  - Family Member
  - Spouse
  - Roommate
- The Texas Crime Report 2016 states
  - 45.1% of the victims were related to the perpetrator
  - 16.8% of the reported sexual assaults were committed by an acquaintances of the victim



# Myth

The clothes she was wearing said she wanted to have sex





# Reality



- What most of victims of sexual assault are wearing at the time of the assault



# Myth

- They had consensual sex before, so it couldn't be sexual assault



# Reality

- Consenting to previous sex with someone does not automatically give consent for any future sex activity
- Consent can be withdrawn at anytime during a sexual activity
- Being married does not give your partner consent to sex anytime or anywhere he/she wants it



# Myth

- It wasn't sexual assault because she didn't scream, she didn't fight back



# Myth

If they were really sexually assaulted,  
they would report to the police





One day, a man was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach, he saw a young man that was reaching down, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean.

He came closer and called out "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young man paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man.

To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, threw it into the ocean and said,  
"I made a difference to that one!"

by Loren Eiseley

Ordinary People can  
change the world

