

## Frequently Asked Questions Survivor Sexual Assault

- **MYTH:** Rape = Sex
- **FACT:** People commit rape for power, control & domination. It is a violent crime.
- **MYTH:** Rapists are Sex Starved Perverts  
**FACT:** Most rapists have consenting partners and look, act like a normal, safe person before the assault. They cannot be easily identified and are usually charming before the assault happens.
- **MYTH:** I could never be raped.  
**FACT:** Unfortunately, everyone is vulnerable to rape and the victims of rape are not responsible for the crime.
- **MYTH:** Strangers commit rape.  
**FACT:** Nationally, 82% of rape victims know the person who raped them.
- **MYTH:** Rape happens in bad neighborhoods, down dark alleys.  
**FACT:** Most rapes happen in the home of the victim, the rapist, or a friend.
- **MYTH:** Some women ask to be raped by the way they dress.  
**FACT:** Rapists choose their victims based on availability and vulnerability, not the way they look. No one deserves to be raped.
- **MYTH:** If a woman gets drunk and leads a guy on, then she 'asked' to be raped.  
**FACT:** A person who is drinking or using drugs CANNOT legally consent to sex under any circumstance. The other individual is expected to know consent cannot be given.
- **MYTH:** Men can't control themselves. If he's turned on and can't stop, it's her fault.  
**FACT:** Every one can control his or her actions. Raping someone is an action. Each person is responsible for his her own actions. Rape is a crime.
- **MYTH:** Women often lie about being raped to get back at a guy or to get revenge.  
**FACT:** False reports of rape are very rare. It is difficult to lie about rape because of the medical exam, the investigation, and most importantly, the shame involved.
- **MYTH:** A victim of rape has reason to feel guilt or shame.
- **FACT:** Although many victims of rape do feel shame, it is not their fault that they were raped and they have nothing to be ashamed about. If someone were mugged, no one would question why they were carrying money or wearing an expensive watch, nor should victims of rape and sexual assault be blamed for someone else's crime.
- **MYTH:** You can pick out a rapist by the way he looks.  
**FACT:** Rapists can be young, old, rich, poor, good-looking, ugly, male, female, educated or uneducated.. You cannot pick a rapist out of a crowd.
- **MYTH:** Men cannot be raped.  
**FACT:** Approximately 111,000 adult men are raped in the United States every year.
- **MYTH:** Rape is just sex she/he didn't want'.  
**FACT:** Rape is not just sex it is a violent act with serious emotional consequences for the victim. Sex is being used as a weapon against someone's will. Rape is a crime.
- **MYTH:** All women really want to be raped.  
**FACT:** No one wants to be raped. Women do not like rape and it is a violent crime.
- **MYTH:** No sometimes means 'Yes' or 'Try harder'.  
**FACT:** No always means no.
- **MYTH:** If someone never says, "No," it can't be called rape.  
**FACT:** The law says consent must be a verbal agreement. The person has to say "yes" for sex to be consensual.
- **MYTH:** Rape victims are "damaged goods" or no longer virgins.  
**FACT:** Being raped does not fundamentally change the character, the values, the strengths, or the positive attributes of the victim. It is a bad thing that happened TO them, not because of them.