

SEXUAL VIOLENCE: KNOW MORE

Sexual Violence: KNOW MORE! FACTS Everyone Should Know to Stop Rape

Myth 1: *Rape doesn't happen very often.*

FACT: 1 out of every 6 women has been raped. More than 50% of the victims are minors when they are first raped.

Myth 2: *Rape is usually committed by a stranger.*

FACT: Most sex offenders prey on people they know. About 65% of victims describe the offender as an acquaintance, boyfriend or girlfriend, relative, or friend. These rapists often use physical strength, manipulation, threats, and alcohol or other drugs as weapons.

Myth 3: *False reporting of rape is very common.*

FACT: False reports of rape are no more common than false reports of other crimes. However, the term "false reporting" is often mistakenly used when there is not enough evidence to prove a case in court. Lack of evidence does not mean that a crime did not occur.

Myth 4: *Men can't be raped.*

FACT: 1 out of 33 men has been sexually assaulted. Nearly 75% of male victims are minors. In 85 % of these assaults, the perpetrator is also male.

Myth 5: *If it was really rape, the victim would have said 'no' and fought back.*

FACT: Many people are too shocked or scared to fight back. Silence is NOT consent. Rapists often prey on people who are vulnerable, because of alcohol or drug use, mental or physical limitations, or age.

Myth 6: *Women lead men on. Sometimes they are just asking to be raped.*

FACT: No one ever asks to be raped, regardless of how they dress or act. Forcing or coercing someone into sex is rape and it is a crime! Like other crimes, it is about how the offender uses power to dominate another person. It is not about the how the victim acts or dresses, that is just an excuse!

Sexual Violence: NO MORE! ACTIONS Everyone Should Take to Stop Rape

Everyone – Can and must take action to help stop rape! Learn more about sexual violence and how to prevent it. Speak out against rape myths. Act when someone may be in danger.

Young People – Value respect and speak out about ways to show respect. Find positive friends. Reach out to at-risk peers. Develop leadership skills.

Educators – Teach non-violent conflict resolution skills. Promote anti-bullying values that demonstrate respect. Include rape awareness and prevention topics in your classroom. Report child abuse and neglect.

Health Care Providers – Screen all patients for interpersonal violence, including patients with developmental disabilities. Learn about resources for victims and make appropriate referrals.

Businesses & Employers – Promote violence-free workplaces. Establish and enforce sexual harassment and anti-bullying practices. Contribute resources to programs that are working to make a difference.

Spiritual leaders - Sponsor and support activities that demonstrate appreciation for diversity and encourage family traditions that build respect. Support victims who come to you. Talk with your congregation about services that are available for victims.

Parents & Families – Talk with young people about healthy relationships, including how to create and respect boundaries. Communicate that consent is necessary for any sexual activity – without consent, it's wrong. Listen and believe when abuse is disclosed, and find community resources that can help with healing.

Artists – Create/display murals, posters, music, or whatever you do dedicated to healthy relationships and anti-violence themes. Partner with local anti-violence agencies to create new opportunities for displaying your work that address rape awareness or prevention.

Community Centers & Civic Groups – Add violence prevention to your priorities. Educate group members and your community about sexual violence and services for victims. Actively support efforts to address and prevent violence in your community. Remember, everyone can help stop rape!



For more information, including sources of statistics, visit
www.kasap.org

Sexual Assault
Awareness Month