



Myth or Fact?

Even when we are sensitive to the realities of sexual violence, we still may not have all the facts about this terrible phenomenon. Quiz yourself on some of these commonly held statements and beliefs and see if you have the correct information. Have this discussion with your friends and family members and challenge them to re-learn information, as well.

1. In most cases of sexual assault the victim was attacked by a stranger.

• MYTH

- 3 out of 4 rapes are committed by someone known to and trusted by the victim.
- 43% are by a friend or acquaintance.
- 27% are by a former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend.
- Of sexual abuse cases reported to law enforcement, 93% of juvenile victims knew the perpetrator.

2. Over half of sexual assaults are planned in advance.

• FACT

- 83% of sexual assaults are planned in advance.
- Only 17% of sexual assaults are “spontaneous.”
- 67% of perpetrators commit multiple planned sexual assaults.
- Rapists are not “out of control.”

3. Rohypnol or “Roofies” are the number one date rape drug.

• MYTH

- Alcohol is the #1 drug associated with sexual assault.
- Alcohol has been found to be a factor in 83% of sexual assaults.

4. Perpetrators who are drunk when they sexually assault someone are not at fault because they are drunk.

• MYTH

- Perpetrators are always responsible for their actions, even if they are drunk.
 - Compare: Someone who drives drunk is held responsible if they cause an accident or hurt others.
- It takes a perpetrator choosing to commit a sexual assault for an assault to occur, regardless of the choices a survivor makes.
- It is never the victim’s fault!



5. When someone reports a sexual assault to the police, they are usually telling the truth.

- **FACT**

- In cases of sexual assault, false reporting does not happen very often.
- False reports only occur 2-6% of the time; less than or equal to other crimes, according to the FBI Uniform Crime Index
- Most rapists have an average of six victims before they are arrested for their “first offense.”

For more myths and facts, visit: <http://savacenter.org/about/sexual-assault-101/>