



# Module 3: Realities of Sexual Assault

## *Purpose*

This module examines the realities of sexual assault, allowing you to deepen your understanding of the problem.



# Module 3 Objectives

By the end of this module, you will be able to

- Correctly answer at least two questions about the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault in the United States.
- Identify at least one factor contributing to underreporting of rape.
- List at least two myths and two facts about rape.



# Friendly Competition Activity





**Q: How many women report to law enforcement being forcibly raped in the United States in a given year?**



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- 94,635 women reported being raped in 2004, according to the FBI's 2004 Uniform Crime Reports.



**Q: For every woman who is raped and reports her rape to law enforcement, what is the estimate of the number who are raped and do not report their rapes to law enforcement?**



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- An additional 4 to 15.



**Q: When a victim knows her assailant, is she more or less likely to report the rape to police?**



**Q: When a victim knows her assailant, is she more or less likely to report the rape to the police?**

- Less likely due to self-blame and fear that her friends and family will blame her; and less likely if drugs and alcohol are involved.



**Q: What is the number one reason victims give for not wanting to report?**



## Q: What is the number one reason victims give for not wanting to report?

- Fear of the assailant, who may threaten, "If you tell anyone (or report to the police), I'll come back and kill you . . . rape you again . . . rape your child," according to a study by Dr. Linda Ledray, a leading expert on sexual assault (Ledray 1996).



**Q: Under what circumstances can law enforcement determine that a rape case is “unfounded”?**



## Q: Under what circumstances can law enforcement determine that a rape case is “unfounded”?

- For a variety of reasons, including an inability to locate the victim, a victim’s decision not to prosecute, apparent inconsistencies in the victim’s account, an inability to identify an assailant, and a lack of evidence.



**Q: When is a rape case generally considered “cleared” by law enforcement?**



**Q: When is a rape case generally considered “cleared” by law enforcement?**

- If a suspect is arrested, if the police identify a suspect but decide not to arrest, or if the assault is “unfounded.”



**Q: What percentage of rape cases was cleared in 2004?**





## Q: What percentage of rape cases was cleared in 2004?

- Approximately half, according to the FBI's 2004 Uniform Crime Reports. In 2004, nonmetropolitan counties cleared 45.8 percent, suburban communities cleared 44.3 percent, and the Nation's cities cleared 40.1 percent.



# Guided Notetaking Activity

Participant's materials,  
pages III-2 through III-3





# Myth or Fact Activity

Participant's materials,  
pages III-8 through III-9





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**Myth: Rape is most often perpetrated by a stranger.**

**Fact:**

A woman is statistically more likely to be raped by someone she knows.



**Myth: If there was no penetration by a penis, then there was no rape.**

**Fact:**

Legal definitions of rape vary by state. For this training, rape = penetration with a penis, fingers, and/or foreign objects or unwanted touching of sexual body parts without penetration.



**Myth: Women cannot be raped by their husbands/partners.**

**Fact:**

Women are raped by their husbands or partners.



**Myth: Prostitutes cannot be raped.**

**Fact:**

Prostitutes can be and often are raped by “johns” and by “pimps.”



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**Myth: Strangers represent the greatest threat to children.**

**Fact:**

In 90 percent of the rapes of children younger than age 12, the child knew the offender.



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**Myth: Rape only happens to young women.**

**Fact:**

Elderly women can be and are raped.



**Myth: Rape cannot happen in same-gender relationships.**

**Fact:**

Rape can occur in same-gender relationships as well as in heterosexual relationships.



**Myth: Men cannot be raped.**

**Fact:**

Although men are less likely to report, men can be and are raped by other men and by women.



**Myth: If a woman drinks with a man, goes home with him, or wears skimpy clothing, it is her fault if she is raped.**

**Fact:**

It is never her fault. No one asks or deserves to be raped. Rape is a violent attack and a crime in which the perpetrator controls the victim.



# Module 3

Questions or comments?





# Activity: Quiz

## Handout

