

Module 3: Realities of Sexual Assault

Purpose

This module includes an examination of the realities of sexual assault, allowing you to deepen your understanding of the issues.

Lessons

1. Incidence and Prevalence of Sexual Assault
2. Myths and Facts About Rape and Sexual Assault

Learning 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 sexual assault.
- List at least two myths and two facts about rape and sexual assault.

Participant Worksheets

- Worksheet 3.1, Incidence and Prevalence of Sexual Assault
- Worksheet 3.2, Myths and Facts About Rape and Sexual Assault

1. Incidence and Prevalence of Sexual Assault

The activity will help familiarize you with the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault in the United States. The following statistics are from the *2017 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*, the *FBI Uniform Crime Report*, the Bureau of Justice Statistics' *2015 Criminal Victimization* report, and the *Fiscal Year 2016 Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*.

The questions and answers from the activity appear at the end of the module.

2. Myths and Facts About Rape and Sexual Assault

The activity explores myths and facts about rape and sexual assault.

1. Incidence and Prevalence of Sexual Assault in the United States

Source: *2017 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*, the *FBI Uniform Crime Report*, the Bureau of Justice Statistics' *2015 Criminal Victimization* report, and the *Fiscal Year 2016 Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military*.

Q: Over their lifetime, what percentage of women will have been raped?

A: Over their lifetime, an estimated 19 percent of women will have been raped.

Q: How many people who experienced rape or sexual assault in 2015 were female?

A: The number of female victims who experienced rape or sexual assault in 2015 was 2.2 per 1,000 people.

Q: Of the sexual violence victims in 2015, what percentage of female victims reported receiving victim services?

A: In 2015, 21 percent of female victims reported receiving victim services.

Q: According to the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), what percentage of female rape victims were assaulted by a stranger?

A: According to the 2010 NISVS, 14 percent of rapes were committed by a stranger.

Q: In 2015, what percentage of all rapes and sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement?

A: In 2015, approximately 32 percent of all rapes and sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement.

Q: In FY 2016, an estimated _____ military members indicated experiencing a sexual assault.

A: In FY 2016, 5,350 military service members reported experiencing a sexual assault.

Q: What is the estimated lifetime cost of rape victimization per victim?

A: The estimated lifetime cost of rape victimization per victim is \$122,461. These fees can include medical and counseling fees, lost wages, moving fees, and other costs.

Module 3
Realities of Sexual Assault



Learning Objectives

- 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 the underreporting of sexual assault.
- List at least two myths and two facts about rape and sexual assault.

3-2



Sexual Assault



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How much do you know about the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault in the United States?

3-3



Activity



Friendly Competition
Worksheet 3.1

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Activity

Q. Over their lifetime, what percentage of women have been raped?

- A. 5%
- B. 10%
- C. 19%
- D. 20%

Activity

Q. Over their lifetime, what percentage of women have been raped?

- A. 5%
- B. 10%
- C. **19%**
- D. 20%

Activity

Q. How many people who experienced rape or sexual assault in 2015 were female?

- A. 1.2 per 1,000 people
- B. 1.8 per 1,000 people
- C. 2.2 per 1,000 people
- D. 2.5 per 1,000 people

3-7



Activity

Q. How many people who experienced rape or sexual assault in 2015 were female?

- A. 1.2 per 1,000 people
- B. 1.8 per 1,000 people
- C. **2.2 per 1,000 people**
- D. 2.5 per 1,000 people

3-8



Activity

Q. Of the sexual violence victims in 2015, what percentage of female victims reported receiving victim services?

- A. 21%
- B. 47%
- C. 76%
- D. 80%

3-9



Activity

Q. Of the sexual violence victims in 2015, what percentage of female victims reported receiving victim services?

- A. 21%
- B. 47%
- C. 76%
- D. 80%

3-10



Activity

Q. According to the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), what percentage of female rape victims were assaulted by a stranger? Was it approximately:

- A. 12%
- B. 14%
- C. 36%
- D. 55%

3-11



Activity

Q. According to the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), what percentage of female rape victims were assaulted by a stranger? Was it approximately:

- A. 12%
- B. 14%
- C. 36%
- D. 55%

3-12



Activity

Q. In 2015, what percentage of all rapes and sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement? Was it approximately:

- A. 15%
- B. 32%
- C. 54%
- D. 70%

Activity

Q. In 2015, what percentage of all rapes and sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement? Was it approximately:

- A. 15%
- B. 32%**
- C. 54%
- D. 70%

Activity

Q. In FY 2016, an estimated _____ military members indicated experiencing a sexual assault.

- A. 5,350
- B. 6,172
- C. 9,832
- D. 11,300

Activity

Q. In FY 2016, an estimated _____ military members indicated experiencing a sexual assault.

- A. **5,350**
- B. 6,172
- C. 9,832
- D. 11,300

Activity

Q. What is the estimated lifetime cost of rape victimization per victim?

- A. \$56,349
- B. \$70,000
- C. \$100,209
- D. **\$122,461**

Activity

Q. What is the estimated lifetime cost of rape victimization per victim?

- A. \$56,349
- B. \$70,000
- C. \$100,209
- D. **\$122,461**

Activity

 *Myth or Fact?*
Worksheet 3.2

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- Without looking at the worksheet, write a myth or fact about rape or sexual assault on each card.
- Tape cards to the “Myth” or “Facts” column of the tear sheet.
- Refer to the worksheet for the debrief.

3-19

Activity

Myth:

Victims provoke sexual assaults when they dress provocatively or act in a promiscuous manner.

3-20

Activity

Myth:

Victims provoke sexual assaults when they dress provocatively or act in a promiscuous manner.

Fact:

Neither provocative dress nor promiscuous behavior are invitations for unwanted sexual activity. Forcing someone to engage in nonconsensual sexual activity is sexual assault, regardless of the way that person dresses or acts.

3-21

Activity

Myth:

If a person goes to someone's room, house, or a bar, he/she assumes the risk of sexual assault.

Activity

Myth:

If a person goes to someone's room, house, or a bar, he/she assumes the risk of sexual assault.

Fact:

Even if a person went voluntarily to someone's residence or room and consented to engage in some sexual activity, it does not serve as a blanket consent for all sexual activity.

Activity

Myth:

It's not sexual assault if it happens after drinking or taking drugs.

Activity

Myth:

It's not sexual assault if it happens after drinking or taking drugs.

Fact:

Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs is not an invitation for nonconsensual sexual activity.

3-25



Activity

Myth:

Most sexual assaults are committed by strangers.

3-26



Activity

Myth:

Most sexual assaults are committed by strangers.

Fact:

Most sexual assaults and rapes are committed by someone the victim knows. Among victims aged 18–29, two-thirds had a prior relationship with the offender.

3-27



Activity

Myth:

Rape can be avoided if people avoid dark alleys or other "dangerous" places where strangers might be lurking or hiding.

Activity

Myth:

Rape can be avoided if people avoid dark alleys or other "dangerous" places where strangers might be lurking or hiding.

Fact:

Rape and sexual assault can occur at any time, in many places, to anyone.

Activity

Myth:

A person who has really been sexually assaulted will be hysterical.

Activity

Myth:

A person who has really been sexually assaulted will be hysterical.

Fact:

Victims of sexual violence exhibit a spectrum of responses to the assault, which can include calm, hysteria, withdrawal, anger, apathy, denial, and shock.

3-31

Activity

Myth:

All sexual assault victims will report the crime immediately to the police.

3-32

Activity

Myth:

All sexual assault victims will report the crime immediately to the police.

Fact:

There are many reasons why a sexual assault victim may not report the assault to the police. In fact, reporting a sexual assault incident to the police is the exception, not the norm. From 1993 to 1999, about 70 percent of rapes and sexual assaults were not reported to the police.

3-33

Activity

Myth:

Only young, pretty women are assaulted.

Activity

Myth:

Only young, pretty women are assaulted.

Fact:

Sexual assault victims come from all walks of life. They can range in age from the very old to the very young. Sexual assault is a crime of power and control; offenders often choose people whom they perceive as vulnerable or over whom they believe they can assert power.

Activity

Myth:

It's only rape if the victim puts up a fight and resists.

Activity

Myth:

It's only rape if the victim puts up a fight and resists.

Fact:

Many states do not require a victim to resist in order to charge the offender with rape or sexual assault. There are many reasons why a victim of sexual assault would not fight or resist his/her attacker.

3-37



Activity

Myth:

Someone can only be sexually assaulted if a weapon was involved.

3-38



Activity

Myth:

Someone can only be sexually assaulted if a weapon was involved.

Fact:

In many cases of sexual assault, a weapon is not involved. The offender often uses physical strength, violence, intimidation, threats, or a combination of these tactics to overpower the victim.

3-39



Activity

Myth:

Rape is mostly an interracial crime.

Activity

Myth:

Rape is mostly an interracial crime.

Fact:

The vast majority of violent crimes, including sexual assaults and rapes, are intraracial.

Activity

Myth:

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

Activity

Myth:

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

Fact:

Legal definitions of assault vary from state to state. For the purposes of this training, 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.

3-43

Activity

Myth:

Most people lie about being sexually assaulted. It's not really a big problem.

3-44

Activity

Myth:

Most people lie about being sexually assaulted. It's not really a big problem.

Fact:

National statistics say that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will be sexually assaulted by the age of 18. National studies say that 2–8 percent of all sexual assault reports are false. That means that as many as 98 percent of the people who say they were sexually assaulted, were.

3-45

Activity

Myth:

GHB (gamma hydroxybutyric acid) is the most commonly used drug to facilitate a sexual assault.

Activity

Myth:

GHB (gamma hydroxybutyric acid) is the most commonly used drug to facilitate a sexual assault.

Fact:

Many sexual assaults occur when someone uses alcohol as a weapon to render someone vulnerable or when someone takes advantage of a person in an incapacitated state.

Activity

Myth:

Most sexual assaults occur in isolated places.

Activity

Myth:

Most sexual assaults occur in isolated places.

Fact:

Sexual assaults happen anywhere and anytime.

3-49

Activity

Myth:

A rape survivor will be battered, bruised, and hysterical.

3-50

Activity

Myth:

A rape survivor will be battered, bruised, and hysterical.

Fact:

Many rape survivors are not visibly injured. People react to crisis in different ways.

3-51

Activity

Myth:

Men can't be sexually assaulted.

Activity

Myth:

Men can't be sexually assaulted.

Fact:

Between 1 in 6 and 1 in 10 males are sexually assaulted. Any man can be sexually assaulted regardless of size, strength, sexual orientation, or appearance.

Activity

Myth:

Only gay men are sexually assaulted.

Activity

Myth:

Only gay men are sexually assaulted.

Fact:

Heterosexual, gay, and bisexual men are equally likely to be sexually assaulted. Being sexually assaulted has nothing to do with your current or future sexual orientation.

3-55



Activity

Myth:

Only gay men sexually assault other men.

3-56



Activity

Myth:

Only gay men sexually assault other men.

Fact:

Most men who sexually assault other men identify themselves as heterosexual. Sexual assault is about violence, anger, and control over another person, not lust or sexual attraction.

3-57



Activity

Myth:

Erection or ejaculation during a sexual assault means you "really wanted it" or consented to it.

Activity

Myth:

Erection or ejaculation during a sexual assault means you "really wanted it" or consented to it.

Fact:

Erection and ejaculation are physiological responses that may result from mere physical contact or even extreme stress. These responses do not imply that you wanted or enjoyed the assault.

Review of Learning Objectives

- 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 sexual assault.
- List at least two myths and two facts about rape and sexual assault.

End of Module 3

Questions? Comments?



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