

Module 3: Realities of Sexual Assault

Time Required

45 minutes

Purpose

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

Lessons

1. Incidence and Prevalence of Sexual Assault (20 minutes)
2. Myths and Facts About Rape and Sexual Assault (25 minutes)

Learning Objectives

By the end of this module, participants 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

Equipment and Materials

- Large (3x 5") index cards or sticky notes (two per participant).

Preparation

- On a tear sheet, write “Myths and Facts About Rape and Sexual Assault” across the top in large letters. Underneath, draw a line down the center, forming two columns. At the top of the left column, write “Myths.” At the top of the right column, write “Facts.” Tape this sheet to the wall, with the writing facing the wall. When you begin the “Myth or Fact?” activity, turn the paper around so the writing is visible.

Myths and Facts About Rape and Sexual Assault

<i>Myths</i>	<i>Facts</i>

- If you are using index cards instead of large sticky notes, tear off short pieces of masking tape (two per participant) and attach them lightly to the wall by the paper; the participants will use the tape to attach their cards to the appropriate column, as described in the activity.

 **Show Visual 3-1.**

Introduce the module.

 **Show Visual 3-2.**

Review the purpose and learning objectives for this module.

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

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- Identify at least one factor contributing to underreporting of sexual assault.
- List at least two myths and two facts about rape and sexual assault.

1. Incidence and Prevalence of Sexual Assault (20 minutes)

 **Show Visual 3-3.**

Introduce the module by asking participants how familiar they are with the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault in the United States. The following statistics are from the 2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide.

 **Show Visual 3-4.**

Introduce the activity.

 **Activity: Friendly Competition (15 minutes)**

- 1. The participants will work in groups in a friendly competition as you proceed through a series of questions and answers. Divide participants into groups of four or five. Ask a volunteer to act as scorekeeper.**
- 2. Refer participants to Worksheet 3.1, Incidence and Prevalence of Sexual Assault, in the Participant Manual. They may use the worksheet to record the correct responses, but ask them not to look for the correct answers in their manuals.**
- 3. Each of the questions below appears on a visual, with the correct answer to the question on the next visual. Show each visual and pose the question to the group.**

- 4. As you show each visual, ask participants to call out the correct answer. Allow sufficient time for several participants to respond in case they disagree on the correct answer.*
- 5. After several responses, show the correct answer on the following slide. (The answers are also duplicated below.)*
- 6. The participant who was the first to call out the correct answer will receive one point for their table group. The scorekeeper will keep track of group points.*
- 7. Keep posing questions to the groups until all questions are answered.*
- 8. The table group that answers the most questions correctly is declared the winner.*



Show Visual 3-5.

Instructor Note:

The questions that appear on the following PowerPoint visuals also are in the Participant Manual. Allow participants to try to respond before showing the answer on the following PowerPoint visual.

Tell participants that the following statistics are from the 2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide.

Q: Approximately how many victims age 12 or older experienced rape or sexual assault in 2011? Was it approximately:

- A. 57,000
- B. 102,000
- C. 188,000
- D. 243,800



Show Visual 3-6.

A: Victims age 12 or older experienced a total of 243,800 rapes or sexual assaults.



Show Visual 3-7.

Q: In 2011, what percentage of rape or sexual assault victims were female? Was it approximately:

- A. 55 percent
- B. 67 percent
- C. 86 percent
- D. 97 percent



Show Visual 3-8.

A: In 2011, 85.7 percent of rape or sexual assault victims were female.



Show Visual 3-9.

Q: In 2011, what percentage of female rape or sexual assault victims were assaulted by a stranger? Was it approximately:

- A. 12 percent
- B. 28 percent
- C. 36 percent
- D. 55 percent



Show Visual 3-10.

A: In 2011, 28 percent of all rapes or sexual assaults were committed by a stranger, 48 percent by a friend or acquaintance, and 19 percent by intimate partners.



Show Visual 3-11.

Q: In 2011, what percentage of all rapes and sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement? Was it approximately:

- A. 15 percent
- B. 27 percent
- C. 48 percent
- D. 70 percent



Show Visual 3-12.

A: In 2011, 27 percent of all rapes and sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement.



Show Visual 3-13.

Instructor Note:

As of January 2013, the FBI's Uniform Crime Report changed its definition of forcible rape to rape: 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.

The revised definition removes the force element and includes any gender of victim or perpetrator and includes instances in which the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity, including due to the influence of drugs or alcohol or because of age.

Because this change did not go into effect until after January 2013, the FBI has not issued any national data using the new definition.

Q: In 2011, forcible rapes accounted for what percentage of violent crimes reported to law enforcement? Was it approximately:

- A. 3 percent
- B. 7 percent
- C. 12 percent
- D. 18 percent



Show Visual 3-14.

A: In 2011, forcible rapes accounted for 7 percent of violent crimes reported to law enforcement.



Show Visual 3-15.

Q: The Department of Defense published a report on sexual assault in the military in 2012. In that year, how many sexual assaults were reported by military Service Members?

- A. 573
- B. 1,802
- C. 3,374
- D. 10,575



Show Visual 3-16.

A: In 2011, military service members reported 3,374 sexual assaults, representing a 6 percent increase from 2010.



Show Visual 3-17.

Q: In 2011, approximately what percentage of reported forcible rape cases were cleared by law enforcement? Was it approximately:

- A. 21 percent
- B. 33 percent
- C. 41 percent
- D. 50 percent



Show Visual 3-18.

A: In 2011, 41.2 percent of reported forcible rapes were cleared by law enforcement.

Remind participants that the answers to each question can be found in the Participant Manual.

2. Myths and Facts About Rape and Sexual Assault (25 minutes)

Tell participants the group is now going to discuss myths and facts about rape and sexual assault.



Show Visual 3-19.

Introduce the activity.

Instructor Note:

Ask participants to close the Participant Manual so they will not have easy access to facts about rape and sexual assault.

 *Activity: Myth or Fact? (25 minutes)*

- 1. Tape the prepared tear sheet labeled “Myths and Facts About Rape and Sexual Assault” to the wall.*
- 2. Ask participants to close their manuals.*
- 3. Distribute two index cards to each participant. Ask participants to take 2–3 minutes to write either a myth or a fact about rape or sexual assault on each index card. When they finish, they should tape their index cards on either the “Myth” side of the chart or the “Fact” side. The cards are anonymous, so participants should not worry if they are unsure of the statements they write on their cards.*
- 4. When the participants have placed all of their cards on the chart, review the myths and facts by reading each one aloud. It is possible that some of the cards under the “Fact” side might actually be myths, and vice versa. Move the cards to the correct side.*
- 5. After you read each card, ask participants to determine if the card is in the right place. If not, provide accurate information about the statement and move the card to the other column. If the following statements are not mentioned, review them with the participants.*
- 6. Read the myths aloud and ask participants to state the facts. Provide hints and information as needed.*
- 7. When you have reviewed the myths and facts, refer participants to Worksheet 3.2, Myths and Facts About Rape and Sexual Assault, in the Participant Manual, which includes a list of the myths and facts discussed below, as well as space for notes about additional myths and facts that may have been raised by the participants.*

Present myths and facts about rape and sexual assault.

 **Show Visual 3-20.**

Myth: Rape is most often perpetrated by a stranger.

 **Show Visual 3-21.**

Fact: Victims are more likely to be raped by someone they know.

 **Show Visual 3-22.**

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

 **Show Visual 3-23.**

Fact: Legal definitions of sexual 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.

 **Show Visual 3-24.**

Myth: People cannot be raped by their partners.

 **Show Visual 3-25.**

Fact: Individuals are raped by their partners. Rape is often used as a tool to control one of the partners in a relationship in which the offender batters the victim, or where one partner feels entitled to sex despite the other person's wants or needs.

However, spousal and partner rape may be treated differently than other forms of rape in a jurisdiction's laws. For example, there may be a shorter reporting period or a requirement of use of weapons or force to commit the rape.

 **Show Visual 3-26.**

Myth: Prostitutes cannot be raped.

 **Show Visual 3-27.**

Fact: Prostitutes can be and often are raped by "johns," the customers who solicit sex from them, and by "pimps," the men who often control the prostitute's money and territory by supposedly offering protection. Often these pimps control women by ensuring or introducing drug usage, and with physical threats or force.

 **Show Visual 3-28.**

Myth: Child molesters are all dirty old men.

 **Show Visual 3-29.**

Fact: Data on perpetrators of sexual offenses against children indicates that these offenders tend to be juveniles or young adults under the age of 30 (Douglas and Finkelhor 2005).



Show Visual 3-30.

Myth: The “stranger” represents the greatest threat to children.



Show Visual 3-31.

Fact: Among child victims of sexual abuse coming to law enforcement attention, about one-fourth are victimized by family members, and another 60 percent are abused by persons known to the child. Only 14 percent are victimized by strangers (Snyder 2000).

Often, a perpetrator will spend time “grooming” the child and his or her family by doing favors and providing assistance emotionally and physically for family members. This is done to win the family’s trust, which makes it harder for them to believe the child and decreases suspicion of the perpetrator.



Show Visual 3-32.

Myth: Rape only happens to young women.



Show Visual 3-33.

Fact: Elderly individuals can be and are raped. Because of such myths, elderly victims often do not come forward when they are raped. There is a high level of shame and fear that they have lost the ability to care for themselves. In addition, the perpetrator could be someone who comes into the victim’s home to provide care. These victims may fear for their lives or that their care will be taken away.



Show Visual 3-34.

Myth: Rape can’t happen in same-gender relationships.



Show Visual 3-35.

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



Show Visual 3-36.

Myth: Men cannot be raped.



Show Visual 3-37.

Fact: Although men are less likely to report because of societal pressures, men can be and are raped by other men and by women. Some of the effects of sexual assault on men are the same as the effects on women, and some are different, as we'll see later in the training.



Show Visual 3-38.

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



Show Visual 3-39.

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.

Debrief the activity by reminding participants **Worksheet 3.2, Myths and Facts About Rape and Sexual Assault**, found in the Participant Manual, includes the questions and answers we just covered.



Show Visual 3-40.

Review the learning objectives and **ensure** that these were met.

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

- Correctly answer at least two questions about the incidence and prevalence of sexual assault in the United States.
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- List at least two myths and two facts about rape and sexual assault.



Show Visual 3-41.

Ask if there are any final questions or comments.

