

Rape Myths vs. Reality

Myth: “People are more likely to be raped by a stranger than someone they know.”

Reality Check: People are most often assaulted by people they know.¹

Myth: “Women ask to be raped if they dress provocatively, flirt with guys, or get drunk.”

Reality Check: A victim’s manner of dress, behavior, or sexual history does not justify rape. Only rapists cause rape.

Myth: “Guys can’t be raped.”

Reality Check: Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault.

Myth: “Most reports of rape are false.”

Reality Check: Research shows that only 2-8% of all rape reports are false. Rape victims deserve our understanding, sensitivity, and support.²

1. White House Council on Women and Girls (U.S.). (2014). Rape and sexual assault: A renewed call to action.

2. Lonsway, k., Archambault, J., & Lisak, D. (2009). False Reports: Moving Beyond the Issue to Successfully Investigate and Prosecute Non-Stranger Sexual Assault. *The Voice*, 3 (1), pp. 1-11.