

■ The myths — The truth

"It can't happen to me."

Anyone can be sexually assaulted. Studies show that victims range in age from infancy to people in their nineties, and include people from every racial, economic, religious and social background. Each minute, 1.3 women are raped (National Victim Center and Center for Crime Victims Treatment and Research, 1992).

"She asked for it."

No one asks to be sexually assaulted. Nor does anyone's behavior justify or excuse the crime. People have a right to be safe from a sexual violation at any time and place, and under any circumstance. The offender, not the victim, is responsible for their actions.

"Most offenders are men who differ from the victim in race or ethnicity."

Over 90% of sexual assaults occur between people of the same racial or ethnic background.

"Most sexual assaults are committed by strangers at night in out-of-the-way places."

Familiar people and places are more dangerous. As many as 80% of sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows (FBI statistics). Over 50% of sexual assaults occur in the home and as many occur during the daytime as happen at night.

"Only women can be raped."

The FBI estimates that as many as one in 10 men are victims of sexual assault. Other researchers estimate that between one in four and one in seven male children are sexually abused.



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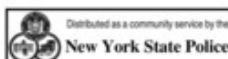


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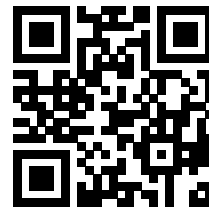


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DATE RAPE



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