

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Myths & Facts

A resource to debunk myths about sexual assault

 Queensland Centre for
Domestic and Family
Violence Research



TERMINOLOGY

There are different types of sexual violence. All are unacceptable. Rape and sexual assault are forms of sexual violence. These are serious crimes.

Rape is when someone has sex, or tries to have sex, with another person without their permission.

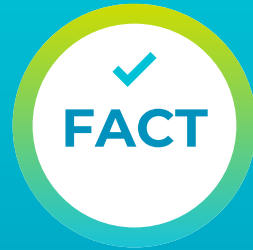
Sexual Assault is any unwanted sexual act or behaviour.

Consent means agreeing to have sex freely and readily.

Consensual sex means that **both** people agree to sex - **every** time.



Most sexual assaults are committed by strangers.



Most victims of sexual assault know the person who assaulted them. This includes their partners, ex-partners, family members, friends or work colleagues. These assaults often happen in a home and can happen at any time, day or night.



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Creating and sharing knowledge

For further information contact DVConnect's Sexual
Assault Helpline on **1800 010 120**.
In an emergency contact **000**.

www.noviolence.org.au



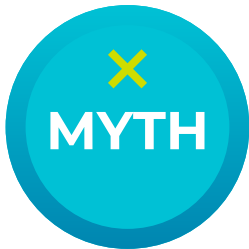
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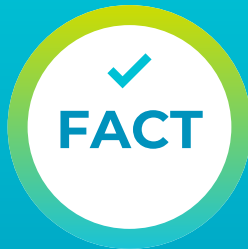
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Rape happens when men are unable to control their need for sex.



Sexual assault is usually about power and control, not sexual pleasure. Assaults are often planned by the perpetrator, at times and places they have chosen.



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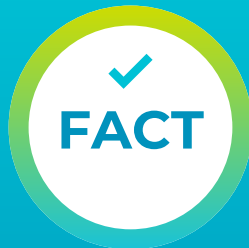
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It wasn't rape if the victim is married or in a long term partnership with the person who assaulted them.



Any sexual act without consent is a crime. Being married or in a long-term partnership does not mean you can't say 'No'. A person has a right to change their mind about having sex. Their choice to consent to sex should be respected.



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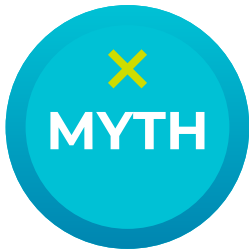
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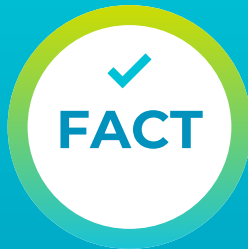
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If a person dressed in a certain way, they must have wanted sex.



What a victim was wearing does not make them responsible for sexual assault. A person's choice of dress has nothing to do with consent to having sex. Any sexual act without consent is a crime.



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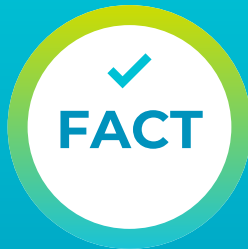
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Only young women
are sexually assaulted
or raped.



**Sexual assault can happen
at any time in a person's
life. Their age, cultural
background, sexual
orientation or gender does
not protect them from
sexual violence.**



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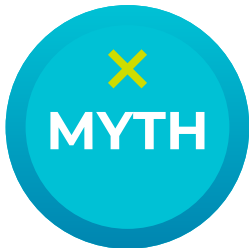
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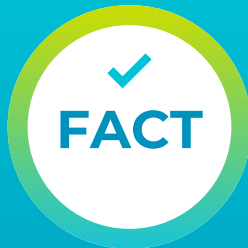
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Victims of sexual assault or rape always fight or resist their attacker.



People react in different ways to sexual assault. Some victims will fight, but others may not be able to move (become paralysed) during an assault. Some may try to avoid being hurt by not fighting back.



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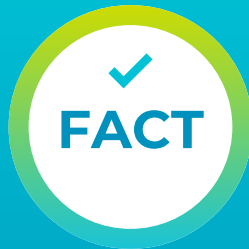
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All sexual assault and rape victims will seem upset after the violence.



Sexual assault affects different people in different ways. Some victims may feel fear, anxiety, shame, anger and sadness – but they may appear calm or shocked.



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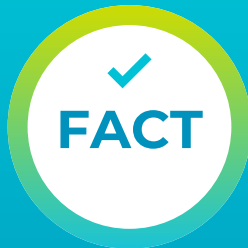
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Victims of sexual assault and rape always report it to police immediately.



There are many reasons a victim may not report a sexual assault to police. Victims may feel shame and fear: fear of the perpetrator, of being blamed, of not being believed, of the police and what will happen in court. Delaying or not reporting a sexual assault does not mean it did not happen.



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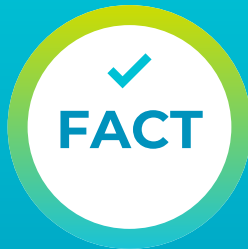
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If a person goes to a bar or someone's home, it is their fault if they are sexually assaulted or raped there: they should know the risk.



The victim is never responsible for the assault. Going freely to a home does not mean agreeing to sex. Consent to some sexual activity is not consent for *all* sexual activity. People should be able to have their choice respected.



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