



BUST THE MYTHS.

SPREAD THE TRUTH.

SUPPORT SURVIVORS.

#TucSAAM  
Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2022

MYTH: Sexual assault is rare.

**TRUTH:** 1 in every 6 American women & 1 in 33 men has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape (1).

MYTH: Most sexual assaults are committed by strangers.

**TRUTH:** About 6/10 rape or sexual assault victims say the offender was an intimate partner, relative, friend or acquaintance (2).

MYTH: Sexual assault is less harmful to males than females.

**TRUTH:** Sexual assault harms males & females in different ways, but is equally harmful.

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

**TRUTH:** Neither provocative dress nor promiscuous behavior are invitations for unwanted sexual activity.

MYTH: A person who has really been sexually assaulted will be extremely upset and emotional.

**TRUTH:** There is no "right way" to react to sexual assault. Victims experience a spectrum of emotional responses.

MYTH: It's only rape if the victim puts up a fight or resists.

**TRUTH:** Not fighting or resisting an attack does not equal consent.

MYTH: Most sexual assault claims are just women falsely accusing men.

**TRUTH:** Rates of false reporting range from 2-8% - the same rate of false reporting for other major crimes (3).

MYTH: Real victims of sexual assault will report the crime to the police.

**TRUTH:** Most sexual assaults are never reported to the police, with 2/3 of assaults going unreported (1).

MYTH: Rape can be avoided by not going to "dangerous" places.

**TRUTH:** Nearly 70% of sexual assaults reported to law enforcement occurred in the home of the victim, the offender or another individual (2).

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

**TRUTH:** Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol is not an invitation for non-consensual sex.

MYTH: A rape survivor will be battered and bruised.

**TRUTH:** Many survivors of sexual violence do not have any visible signs of injury.

MYTH: If a person goes into someone's room, house or a bar, they assume risk of sexual assault.

**TRUTH:** Going to a bar or someone's house or room with them is not a blanket consent for all sexual activity.

MYTH: A rapist is someone on the fringes of society. They are poorly educated, badly dressed, etc.

**TRUTH:** Education, socio-economic status or ethnicity have nothing to do with whether someone is capable of rape.

Sources: (1) RAINN (2) US Department of Justice (3) National Sexual Violence Resource Center (4) FBI Data