

# Sexual Violence Myth Busters

## What is sexual violence?

Sexual violence, which includes rape, is any type of sexual activity without permission. This could include:

- Unwanted sexual activity such as kissing, sex\*, or touching.
- Pressuring someone into sexual activity.
- Intimate contact with someone who is drunk, drugged, or unconscious and/or someone who cannot give clear consent.
- Even if no weapon is used, any type of forced sexual contact is sexual violence.

## Who is at risk?

Everyone is at risk for sexual assault. Straight, gay, men, women, young, old—all are at risk. However, the majority of sexual violence victims are women. One in five Idaho women are estimated to be sexual violence victims.

Most sexual assault is perpetrated by a friend, relative, significant other, or acquaintance. Only 11% of victims were assaulted by a stranger.

## Things you should know

If someone dresses in sexy clothing, it doesn't mean they're looking for sex or physical intimacy. The only way to find out for sure is to ask for consent and respect their wishes.

People don't like, or secretly desire, to be forced into physical intimacy or sex. Sexual assault is NOT sexy!

There is no excuse for sexual assault! Hormones can be a powerful force in our lives, but they are no justification for sexual assault.

Relying on body language alone to determine your partner's sexual desire is dangerous. The only way to tell if your partner wants to have sex is to ask. If they says no, they mean it!

Accusations of sexual assault are a serious matter. Women don't "cry rape" to get back at men, and they don't exaggerate their sexual assault experience. If someone you know says they've been raped, believe them, and help them access the services they need.

### Idaho Resources

Idaho Women's and Children's Alliance Crisis Center 24-hour rape crisis hotline: (208) 345-7273

For resources in your area dial 2-1-1 to reach the Idaho CareLine.

### National Resources

National Sexual Assault Hotline: (800) 656 - HOPE (4673)

Gay and Lesbian National Hotline: (888) 843-4564

The Girls and Boys Town Organization  
24-hour crisis, Referral, and Resource line:  
(800) 448-3000

Website: [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org) —The Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network

\* Sex may include more than sexual intercourse.