



10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT

- 1 Sexual assault is when someone is forced to have sexual activity without consent.** According to the Canadian Federation for Sexual Health, only about 6 per cent of sexual assaults are reported to the police.
- 2 Women are more often assaulted by their partners than strangers.**
- 3 Sexual abuse is more common in casual (short-term or dating) relationships.** Psychological and physical abuse are more common in long-term relationships.
- 4 Violence is more common toward Aboriginal women than other women in Canada.** According to Statistics Canada, Aboriginal women are three times more likely than other women to experience violence and spousal abuse.
- 5 Colonization has changed the way that men and women relate to each other.** Traditionally relationships between First Nations men and women were based on values of equality and respect. Women and men in First Nations communities had equally important roles, and rape and sexual aggression against women was extremely rare. You can reclaim these values of equality and respect.
- 6 Abuse often involves the use of drugs and/or alcohol by the abuser, the victim, or both.** Violence in relationships is more likely to happen if the abuser has been drinking. Some abusers blame alcohol for the problem and use it as an excuse for being violent. Sexual and physical violence is never okay.
- 7 If a person is drunk or high, they cannot give consent and any sexual activity that happens is sexual assault. It is never a person's fault for being assaulted after drinking or doing drugs.** Drug-facilitated sexual assault involves drugs and alcohol. They might be used willingly by the victim or be given to them without their knowing. Most drug facilitated sexual-assaults happen because the victim has been drinking, not because they are "drugged" or "roofied." If a person is unable to give consent, any sexual activity is assault even if the person willingly drank or took drugs. **Being drunk or high is not an invitation for sex.**



