

**MYTH**  
A lot of victims lie about sexual assault.

False reports of sexual assault are exceedingly rare. Reporting a sexual assault can be a long, traumatic process, therefore deterring the survivor from reporting.

Anytime a person does not consent to sex, it is sexual assault, whether a perpetrator is a stranger or a spouse. In fact, most survivors know their rapist intimately or as an acquaintance.

**MYTH**  
Someone can't sexually assault their partner or spouse.



**MYTH**  
If it was really sexual assault, the victim would have fought back.

Due to trauma's effects on the brain, victims freeze when being assaulted. Victims may be afraid to fight back if the perpetrator is someone they know or trust, even if they are threatened.

Sexual assault is an act of **POWER** and **CONTROL**. It has nothing to do with sexual attraction or desire. This is why men who can easily access consensual sex can be perpetrators.

**MYTH**  
Sexual assault is an act of lust and passion that can't be controlled.

# LaFASA

Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault

Sexual Assault Centers provide a 24-hour crisis hotline, information and referral, free counseling, legal services, and more.

[www.lafasa.org](http://www.lafasa.org)



Call the hotline for help. 1-888-995-7273

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**MYTH**  
Men, especially straight men, can't be sexually assaulted.

People of any gender and sexuality can be a victim of sexual assault, though cis and trans women and gender non-conforming people are particularly at risk.

Most perpetrators of sexual assault, particularly against minors, are known to the victim.

**MYTH**  
If I teach my child to stay away from strangers, they'll be safe.

**MYTH**  
No one would rape them, they're too old/fat/disabled.

Rape is not about sexual attraction, but about power and control. Offentimes perpetrators target people whom they know can't report them, or who will not be believed.

A victim is NEVER responsible for their rape. The only person at fault is the perpetrator.

**MYTH**  
If she was wearing that/drinking that much/went back to his room what did she think would happen?

Sexual assault is an act of **POWER** and **CONTROL**. It has nothing to do with sexual attraction or desire. This is why men who can easily access consensual sex can be perpetrators.

