

Victim Blaming

Placing responsibility on the victim for the crime or wrongdoing committed against them

"You shouldn't have been out that late."

"Man up. Just get over it."

"If you were really raped, you would remember it."

"You shouldn't have been drinking so much."

"Why did you let him into the house?"

"Why didn't you fight? I would never let someone do that to me."

"Haven't you hooked up with him before?"

"Whatever dude, you liked it."

"That's why you shouldn't dress like a slut."

Sexual violence is NEVER the victim's fault.

Consequences of Victim Blaming

Psychological harm to victims

Lack of offender accountability

Decreased community safety

More sexual violence

Rape Myths

Culturally-supported, inaccurate beliefs that condone the use of sexual violence

MYTH: Rape is simply a miscommunication between the assailant and victim.

FACT: This is rarely the case. Rapists have admitted knowing the victim was not willing to have sex, and forcing sex anyway.

MYTH: People who do not fight back have not really been raped.

FACT: There are many reasons someone may not fight. In fact, 75% of victims freeze during sexual assault. This is a common, instinctual response to sexual violence. For others, fighting back against rapists would mean death for victims.

MYTH: Most people lie about getting raped, usually to get out of trouble for “bad” behavior, like affairs.

FACT: Only 2-to-10% of cases of sexual assault are false reports.

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

FACT: The only person at fault for a sexual assault is the perpetrator.
