

Learn More – Myth #9

Myth ...some people are less likely to be targeted for sexual assault: for example, lesbians, gay men and people who are gender variant, women of color, people with disabilities including psychiatric labels, trans persons, boys, and sex workers?

Fact: Many of the above mentioned groups are more likely to be targeted for any type of violence, including sexual violence. Hate crimes are motivated by bias, prejudice or hate toward an identifiable group.

Some Statistics:

Women and young women from marginalized racial, sexual and socioeconomic groups are more likely to be targeted for sexual harassment and sexual assault (Wolfe & Chiodo, 2008)

Sexual assault victimization rates are five times higher for women under the age of 35 (Stats Canada 2013)

It is estimated that between 15% to 25% of North American college and university-aged women will experience some form of sexual assault during their academic career (Campbell and Schuiteman 2008)

Studies show that when women of colour report violence, their experiences are often taken less seriously within the criminal justice system (Canadianwomen.org, 2012)

Aboriginal Women have been, and continue to be the most victimized group in Canadian society. (Frances, 2006). More than one in five young Aboriginal women is sexually assaulted (Stats Canada 2014)

Women with low household incomes, low levels of education and/or who are unemployed are at higher risk of being sexually assaulted than women in general. (Johnson, 1996)

Disabled women experience sexual violence at about three times the rate of non-disabled women (Odette 2012)

Women with disabilities are four times more likely to have experienced sexual assault than women without disabilities and are exposed to “additional risks of abuse by caretakers who provide services specifically related to their disability.”(DAWN Canada Fact Sheet)

One in every two transgender people has been sexually victimized, and usually more than once, often many, many times. (Stotzer, 2009)

49% of trans students, 33% of lesbian students and 40% of gay male students have experienced sexual harassment in school in the last year (Egale.ca. 2011)