

SEXUAL ASSAULT MYTH VS. FACT QUIZ

**BE! BE EMPOWERED!
SEXUAL ASSAULT INFORMATION**

MYTH OR FACT:

**SEXUAL ABUSE ONLY HAPPENS
TO GIRLS**

MYTH

**Sexual Abuse Can Happen
to Girls and Boys.**

MYTH OR FACT:

**SEXUAL ABUSE IS NOT THAT
COMMON.**

MYTH

**Sexual Abuse Happens to 1
out of 4 girls and 1 out of 6
boys before the age of 18.**

MYTH OR FACT:

**PERPETRATORS ARE USUALLY
STRANGERS.**

MYTH

**Perpetrators can be a
friend, a family member, an
acquaintance, or a stranger.**

MYTH OR FACT:

**CHILD ABUSERS CAN'T CONTROL
THEIR ACTIONS.**

MYTH

Perpetrators have control over their behavior and know right from wrong but make bad choices to hurt children. They can stop themselves from abusing a child or teen.

MYTH OR FACT:

**IT IS BEST TO FORGET ABOUT IT
AND NOT TO TALK TO ANYONE IF
YOU HAVE BEEN ABUSED.**

MYTH

**Forgetting about it does not
make it go away; talking
about it is the only way to
feel better.**

MYTH OR FACT:

**CHILDREN RARELY LIE ABOUT
BEING ABUSED.**

FACT

**It is very rare for a child to
lie about being sexually
abused.**

MYTH OR FACT:

**ALL ABUSERS WERE ABUSED
THEMSELVES AS CHILDREN.**

MYTH

Although some perpetrators have been abused themselves as children, the most common precipitating factor of abusers is witnessing domestic violence.

MYTH OR FACT:

**PEOPLE CAN TELL WHO IS A
MOLESTER JUST BY LOOKING AT
THEM.**

MYTH

**Child molesters look like
regular people and appear
normal to others.**

MYTH OR FACT:

**SEXUAL ABUSE USUALLY OCCURS
IN LOW INCOME FAMILIES.**

MYTH

**Sexual abuse can happen in
any family regardless of
race, income, size, or where
they live.**

MYTH OR FACT:

PARENTS ALWAYS BELIEVE THEIR CHILDREN WHEN THEY ARE TOLD ABOUT THE ABUSE.

MYTH

Some parents do not immediately believe their children when they are told about the abuse because it is hard for them to believe something like this could happen to their child, or the abuser has tricked them as well.

MYTH OR FACT:

**MOST CHILDREN TELL ABOUT THE
ABUSE IMMEDIATELY.**

MYTH

Children can keep the secret about abuse for a long time out of fear of not being believed, fear the abuser will hurt them or their family, or fear of what will happen after they tell.

MYTH OR FACT:

**VICTIMS ARE NEVER TO BLAME
FOR THE ABUSE.**

FACT

**It is never the victims' fault. Nothing a
child can do can ever cause them to
be abused.**

MYTH OR FACT:

**IT IS EASY TO STOP THE ABUSE
FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.**

MYTH

It is very easy to teach kids to say no, but when the abuser is someone the child loves, is bigger than the child, is in a position of authority over the child, or is someone the child is afraid of, these factors make it very hard for the child to say no. Telling is the best way to get the abuse to stop. An abuser rarely stops on his or her own.

MYTH OR FACT:

**ALL BOYS WHO ARE ABUSED BY A
MALE ARE GAY.**

MYTH

**Being abused does not make you gay, no
matter what sex the perpetrator is.**

MYTH OR FACT:

**IF SEXUAL INTERCOURSE DIDN'T
HAPPEN, IT IS NOT SEXUAL
ABUSE.**

MYTH

Sexual abuse includes a number of things, and sexual intercourse is not the only way a person can be abused. Sexual abuse can include: a perpetrator taking or showing pictures of naked people to a child, exposing his or her private parts to children, touching a child's private parts, or telling the child to touch his or her private parts. It also includes vaginal, anal, or oral intercourse, and more.