

Non-Stranger Sexual Assault Facts

Approximately 2/3 reports rape cases are perpetrated by someone know to the victim. **FACT:** Most sexual assault victims are acquainted with the suspect in some way, yet rarely expect intimacy with the suspect.

73% of assaults were committed by non-strangers. **FACT:** 38% of rapist are a friend or acquaintance, 28% are an intimate, 7% are a relative.

Most assaults/rapes that are reported took place far from the victims home. **MYTH:** 50% of reports assaults/rapes took place within one mile of the victims home or in their home.

A prior or current relationship or previous acts of intimacy are sufficient to establish consent. **MYTH:** A previous intimate contact/relationship are insufficient indicators of consent.

Victims of non-stranger assault often do not identify their experience as sexual assault. **FACT:** Victims of non-stranger sexual assault often times blame themselves for the assault.

The offender uses the victim's trust to isolate him or her from others. **FACT:** Sexual assault is a crime of motive and opportunity.

Goal:

To provide officers with pertinent information about non-stranger sexual assault in order to strengthen response to and investigation of these crimes.

Topic: Non-Stranger Sexual Assault

National Law Enforcement First-Line Supervisor Training on Violence Against Women

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Additional information to include in report:

Focus on evidence to establish that consent was absent and fear was present, including:

- Evidence of physical or verbal resistance
- Detailed account of the victim's thoughts and feelings during the assault
- Suspect's size and strength, in comparison to the victim's
- Information regarding the environment in which the assault took place
- Information regarding the victim's post-assault behavior
- Information regarding the suspect's pre/post behavior

Response and Investigative Tips

- Approach every case with an open mind and without making assumptions.
- Write a detailed narrative. Be careful not to use words that imply consent.
- Document detailed descriptions of the victim's condition as observed including the victim's feelings as expressed.
- Photograph any physical evidence and document clearly.
- Capture details of suspect's pre-meditation and grooming behavior.
- Use exact words of victim and suspect and place those in quotations.
- Interview, do not interrogate, the victim.
- Arrange unbiased, independent translation if English is not the first language of the victim, witness, or suspect.
- Provide the victim with resources on local counseling services