

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTRE

# SEXUAL ASSAULT



## WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Sexual assault is any unwanted, non-consensual sexual contact. There are a range of behaviors and actions that fall under the definition of sexual assault. Sexual assault is not only unwanted penetration (rape), it is also any unwanted touching, kissing, grabbing etc.

Sexual assault is about the perpetrator exerting power and control-it is not about love, desire, or sexuality. Sexual assault is never the fault of the survivor.

## WHO ARE SURVIVORS?

Survivors of sexual assault come from all communities. Anyone, despite sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, age, or economic status, may be a survivor.

82% of sexual assault survivors are women.

## VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

There are some populations that experience higher rates of sexual violence than others because of intersecting power imbalances that make certain groups more vulnerable.

For example, in Canada, aboriginal women have significantly higher rates of experiencing sexual violence, as do immigrants and newly arrived Canadians.

## WHO ARE PERPETRATORS?

Sexual assault is often perpetrated by someone known to the survivor. The perpetrator of a sexual assault could be a friend, partner, classmate, colleague, neighbor, teacher, employer, family member or a stranger.

In 98% of sexual assault cases, the perpetrator is male; in 2% of cases the perpetrator is female.

80% of survivors know their perpetrator.

To avoid perpetrating sexual assault-ask for (and ensure you receive) **CONSENT!** Consent is an agreement between all participants. It must be mutual, voluntary, informed, sober, and ongoing. Silence is not consent! The absence of “no” is not consent!

## WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS ON SURVIVORS?

Whether a recent sexual assault, or one that occurred in childhood, survivors may experience both physical and psychological reactions. Not all survivors will have the same reactions, and the short and long-term effects of sexual assault may be experienced differently by different people.

Reactions and feelings may include intense fear (of being alone, certain places, crowds, sex, etc.) shame, depression.

LEARN MORE AT: [concordia.ca/sarc](https://concordia.ca/sarc)

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