

Sexual Assault

is any unwanted sexual act done by one person to another. This can mean anything from unwanted touching of a sexual nature to rape. There are many types of sexual assault that appear in the Criminal Code. They include descriptions of a variety of acts (for example, the use of a weapon, causing bodily harm and making threats) as well as the types of relationships within which sexual contact is or may be a criminal offence (for example, where one person is in a position of authority over the other or where there is a relationship of dependency by one person towards the other). The penalties for committing these different types of sexual offences vary depending upon the severity of the offence.

OF ALL WOMEN WHO ARE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED, 69% ARE ASSAULTED BY MEN THAT THEY KNOW. (OWD 1995,1) ● ACCORDING TO THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SURVEY (VAWS), 39% OF CANADIAN WOMEN REPORTED HAVING BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED SINCE AGE 16. (JOHNSON 1996, 50) NINETEEN PERCENT REPORTED HAVING BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED BY STRANGERS. (STATISTICS CANADA 1993, 1) ● ACCORDING TO THE SAME STUDY,

25% OF WOMEN EXPERIENCED UNWANTED SEXUAL TOUCHING AND ANOTHER 24% OF WOMEN EXPERIENCED A VIOLENT SEXUAL ATTACK. (JOHNSON 1996, 50)

● OF ALL INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, 24% TOOK PLACE IN THE VICTIM'S HOME, 20% IN THE PERPETRATOR'S HOME, 10% IN SOMEONE ELSE'S HOME, 25% IN A CAR, AND 21% IN A PUBLIC PLACE. (OWD 1995, 3) ● THIRTY-EIGHT PERCENT OF WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED WERE ASSAULTED

BY THEIR HUSBANDS, COMMON-LAW PARTNERS, OR BOYFRIENDS. (OWD 1995, 3) **REPORTING OF SEXUAL ASSAULT** ACCORDING TO

STATISTICS CANADA, ONLY 6% OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS ARE REPORTED TO THE POLICE. (OWD 1995, 1) ● ONLY 1% OF DATE RAPE ARE REPORTED TO THE

POLICE. (OWD 1995, 5) **SEXUAL ASSAULT AND YOUNG WOMEN** SIXTY-THREE PERCENT OF ALL SEXUAL ASSAULTS REPORTED TO THE

POLICE INVOLVE GIRLS UNDER THE AGE OF 18. (RUSSELL 1996) ● FIFTY-FOUR PERCENT OF GIRLS UNDER THE AGE OF 16 HAVE EXPERIENCED SOME FORM OF

UNWANTED SEXUAL ATTENTION. TWENTY-FOUR PERCENT HAVE EXPERIENCED RAPE OR COERCIVE SEX, AND 17% HAVE EXPERIENCED INCEST. (HOLMES AND SILVERMAN

1992, RUSSELL 1996) ● FOUR OUT OF FIVE FEMALE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS REPORTED THAT THEY HAD BEEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN A DATING RELATIONSHIP.

TWENTY-NINE PERCENT OF THAT NUMBER REPORTED INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT. (OWD 1995, 1) ● GIRLS ARE TWO TO THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO

EXPERIENCE SEXUAL ABUSE THAN BOYS. (JOHNSTON AND SAENZ 1997) ● SIXTY PERCENT OF CANADIAN COLLEGE-AGED MALES REPORT THAT THEY WOULD COMMIT

SEXUAL ASSAULT IF THEY WERE CERTAIN THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE CAUGHT. (OWD 1995, 2) ● THIRTY-ONE PERCENT OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS OCCUR IN DATING

AND ACQUAINTANCE RELATIONSHIPS. (OWD 1995, 2) ● TWENTY PERCENT OF TORONTO SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS REPORTED THAT THEY HAD EXPERIENCED

AT LEAST ONE FORM OF ASSAULT IN A DATING RELATIONSHIP. (OWD 1995, 5) ● IN A CANADIAN STUDY, 25% OF ALL FEMALE POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS IN

1993 HAD BEEN PHYSICALLY AND/OR SEXUALLY ASSAULTED BY A MALE DATE OR BOYFRIEND. (JOHNSON 1996, 115) ● IN THIS STUDY, 1 IN 5 MALE STUDENTS

SURVEYED SAID THAT FORCED INTERCOURSE WAS ALL RIGHT "IF HE SPENDS MONEY ON HER", "IF HE IS STONED OR DRUNK", OR "IF THEY HAD BEEN DATING

FOR A LONG TIME." (JOHNSON 1996,120) ● IN 51% OF ALL INCIDENTS OF DATING VIOLENCE REPORTED BY CANADIAN WOMEN, THE PERPETRATOR WAS UNDER

THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL. (JOHNSON 1996, 128) **WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES** EIGHTY-THREE PERCENT OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES WILL BE

SEXUALLY ASSAULTED DURING THEIR LIFETIME. (OWD 1995, 1) ● THE RATE OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES IS FOUR TIMES THAT OF THE NATIONAL

AVERAGE. (IRAZACK 1994) **ABORIGINAL WOMEN** EIGHT IN 10 ABORIGINAL WOMEN IN ONTARIO REPORTED HAVING EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE.

(ONTARIO NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION 1989, 17) ● UP TO 75% OF VICTIMS OF SEX CRIMES IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES ARE FEMALE UNDER 18 YEARS OF

AGE; 50% OF THOSE ARE UNDER AGE 14, AND ALMOST 25% ARE YOUNGER THAN 7 YEARS OF AGE. (MCIVOR AND NAHANE 1998, 65)

WOMEN LIVING IN POVERTY 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, 108-109)

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