

#### LEARN MORE 4

##### **The perpetrator is usually known to the victim.** <sup>1</sup>

- This makes reporting more difficult. <sup>2 3 4</sup> It also increases the sense of betrayal felt by survivors.
- The victim knew the accused in 82% of the police-reported sexual assaults in 2007. <sup>5 6</sup>
- In 1999, the GSS survey on Victimization asked about instances of violence not reported to the police. High proportions of sexual assault victims did not report to the police because they felt the assault was a personal matter. <sup>7</sup>
- Myths about sexual assault falsely portray perpetrators as strangers, leaving many survivors feeling that they have no recourse when they assaulted by someone they know (see reasons for not reporting above)

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<sup>1</sup> Penwill, Kathryn. "Reality Check: How Rape Mythology in the Legal System Undermines the Equality Rights of Women who are Sexual Assault Victims." Commissioned for Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes. 2008. June 26, 2014 Available at: [http://aocvf.ca/documents/Reality\\_Check\\_VF\\_WEB.pdf](http://aocvf.ca/documents/Reality_Check_VF_WEB.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Sexual Offences in Canada (Kong, Johnson, Beattie and Cardillo), table 4, (seems to have disappeared from <http://www.learningtoendabuse.ca/>)

<sup>3</sup> Randall, M, (2011) The Treatment of Consent in Canadian Sexual Assault Law. The Equality Effect: [www.theequalityeffect.org](http://www.theequalityeffect.org)

<sup>4</sup> Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, 2013, Best Practices for Investigating and Prosecuting Sexual Assault.

[http://justice.alberta.ca/programs\\_services/criminal\\_pros/Documents/SexualAssaultHandbook-PoliceCrown.pdf](http://justice.alberta.ca/programs_services/criminal_pros/Documents/SexualAssaultHandbook-PoliceCrown.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Brennan, S. & Taylor-Butts, A. (2008). *Sexual Assault in Canada, 2004 and 2007*. Ottawa, ON: Statistics Canada, Minister of Industry. Retrieved March 20, 2014:

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85f0033m/85f0033m2008019-eng.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> See also Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centers, [Who Sexually Assaults?](http://www.orcc.net/sites/all/files/pdf/Who-Sexually-Assaults-FS.pdf) at: <http://www.orcc.net/sites/all/files/pdf/Who-Sexually-Assaults-FS.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Sexual Offences in Canada (Kong, Johnson, Beattie and Cardillo), table 4, (seems to have disappeared from <http://www.learningtoendabuse.ca/>)