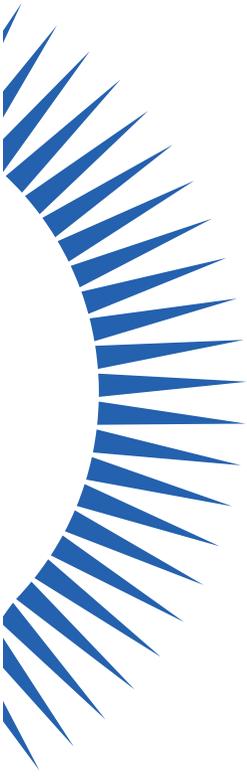




**KNOW**  
More™

Know More About  
**TEEN SEXUAL ASSAULT**





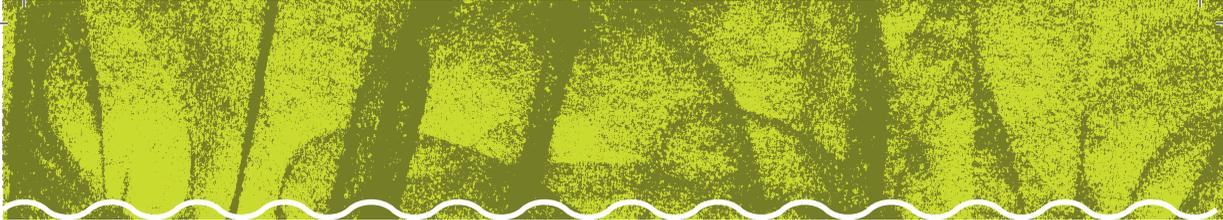
# KNOW More™

## KNOW THAT TEEN SEXUAL VIOLENCE HAPPENS



any teens are just beginning to have serious relationships. Some teens might be confused about what they want and are exploring their values in relationship to dating and sex. This can be a difficult time because some adults don't talk about sex, so it might be hard to find someone trusted to discuss this topic.

**Unfortunately,** being a teen means that you are at a high risk of becoming a victim of sexual assault. But, there is information and there are resources available to assist you in making healthy decisions towards avoiding sexual assault and predatory behavior.



LET'S START WITH THE BASICS...

WHAT IS

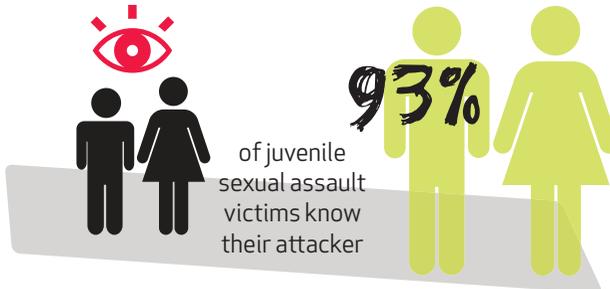
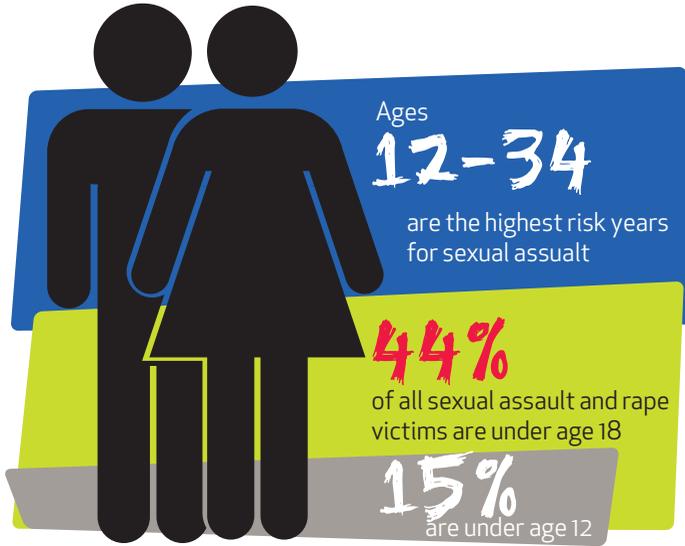
**RAPE?**

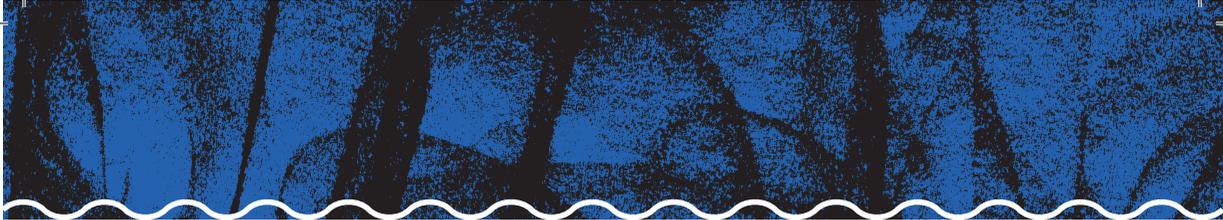
Rape occurs when someone uses force, threats, or intimidation to get you to have sex. Teenagers and other young women are especially vulnerable to sexual assault. Statistically, your senior year in high school and your freshman year in college are the times when you are most vulnerable to sexual assault.

 If you are forced or coerced into sex, it is rape. If you decide not to fight back or go along out of fear, this does not mean that you consented or said it was okay. What you choose to do to get through an assault does not change the fact that sex without consent is still rape.

# FACTS ABOUT

# SEXUAL ASSAULT





# MYTHS ABOUT TEEN SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**MYTH:** Sexual assault happens because some people just cannot control their passion.

**FACT:** Sexual assault is an act of violence and many sexual assaults are planned events.

**MYTH:** People who commit sexual assaults are loners and can't find a partner.

**FACT:** Many rapists are well liked, popular, and may even be in a relationship with someone else. The image we have in our minds of a crazy, out of control person, may not be the true profile of a rapist.

**MYTH:** In most sexual assaults, the victim and the offender are strangers.

**FACT:** 93% of juvenile sexual assault victims know their attacker

**MYTH:** If a girl gets a guy really excited, she has an obligation to have sex with him.

**FACT:** NO means NO at any point. Everyone has the right to decide whether to have sex or not regardless of the situation. And you can decide to stop at any time.

**MYTH:** If you avoid dark places and don't stay out at night, you can avoid being sexually assaulted.

**FACT:** It is probably good advice to avoid being alone after dark, but it won't necessarily prevent rape. The rapist isn't usually a masked stranger. Most rapes are committed by someone who knows the victim.



**MYTH:** If you don't fight back, it wasn't rape.

**FACT:** *Intentional sexual contact without consent of the other person is a sexual assault, regardless of whether or not victims fight back.*

**MYTH:** If there wasn't a weapon used, it probably wasn't a rape.

**FACT:** *According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the majority of sexual assault incidents do not involve a weapon.*

**MYTH:** You can't rape someone that you are in a relationship with.

**FACT:** *A partner has the right to give consent each and every time. Just because a partner has agreed to have sex in the past doesn't mean that he or she has given consent for every future encounter. It is important for BOTH partners to agree each time.*



# FACTS ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF RAPE

## KNOW WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A SEXUAL ASSAULT

**R**ape is a violation of the body and soul. Sexual assault survivors often have a difficult time recovering from the assault(s) because many suffer silently and are often blamed for what has happened.

It is **NEVER** the victim's fault. **The rapist is solely to blame.**

Victims of sexual assault are:

### MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER FROM **DEPRESSION.**

*Depression becomes something more than just normal feelings of sadness when the symptoms last for more than two weeks.*

### MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER FROM **POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.**

*After a traumatic event, it is typical to have feelings of anxiety, stress, or fear, making it difficult to adjust or cope for some time afterwards. In particular, survivors of sexual violence may experience severe feelings of anxiety, stress, and/or fear.*

### **MORE LIKELY TO ABUSE ALCOHOL.**

*Victims of rape or sexual assault may turn to alcohol or other substances in an attempt to relieve their emotional suffering.*

### **MORE LIKELY TO ABUSE DRUGS.**

*Survivors of sexual assault or sexual abuse in childhood may abuse drugs to help them “numb out” and push away the painful memories of sexual violence. Victims may also turn to drugs instead of true recovery, such as counseling; they may not think that friends or family will understand them, they may not know where to access recovery resources, or they may be embarrassed to talk about what happened.*

### **MORE LIKELY TO CONTEMPLATE SUICIDE.**

*If you, or someone you know, is currently thinking about suicide, please reach out for help!*

**Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at (800) 273-TALK. The call will be confidential, and the counselors there can help!**

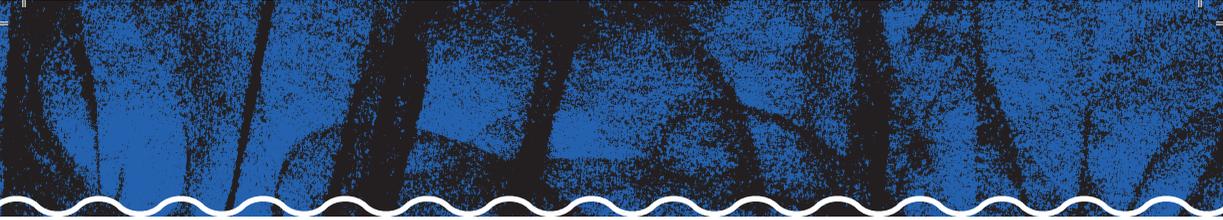
## **KNOW THE LAW**

It is important to understand that sexual assault is illegal, and those that commit sexual assault can be put in jail.

**Remember NO MEANS NO.**

- If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, **TELL SOMEONE.**
- If you are not sure if your behavior is appropriate, **ASK SOMEONE.**





# SEXUAL ASSAULT LAWS IN LOUISIANA

**L**et's take a look at the sexual assault laws in Louisiana. What every teen should know is that sometimes, even though you both agree to have sex, it could be illegal and you could be sentenced to jail time. These laws can change, and it is **UP TO YOU**, to be informed. Remember, not knowing isn't an excuse that you can use in court.

## ■ AGGRAVATED RAPE:

Having anal, oral or vaginal sexual intercourse with someone under the age of 13. The penalty for this crime can be life in prison or juvenile life up to 31 years.

*So, even if a child under the age of 13 says YES to having sex, the perpetrator could spend the rest of their life in jail!*

## ■ FELONY CARNAL KNOWLEDGE:

If a person 17 years old or older has sexual intercourse with a person who is 13–16 years old and there are 4 years difference between the victim and the perpetrator even if the victim “consented,” the penalty for this crime can be 10 years in jail.

*So, if you AGREE to have sex, and your partner is 18 and you are 14, your partner could spend 10 years in jail.*

## ■ MISDEMEANOR CARNAL KNOWLEDGE:

When a person who is 17 or older has consensual sexual intercourse or oral sex with a 13–16 year old when the age difference is more than 2 years but less than 4 years. The penalty could be 6 months in jail.

*So, if you AGREE to have sex, and your partner is 18 and you are 15, your partner could spend 6 months in jail.*



#### ■ SEXUAL BATTERY:

Touching of the anus or genitals using any instrument or any part of the body where the act is consensual, but one person is under the age of 15 and the offender is 3 years older. If a mouth is used to touch, the charge is oral sexual battery, which carries a penalty of up to 10 years. If one party is under 13, the penalty could be 25–99 years in prison.

*So, if someone is just touching another person's genitals, with their permission, and they are 17 and their partner is 14, they could spend several years in jail. If the partner is younger than 13, it could be their whole life in jail!*

#### ■ SIMPLE RAPE:

When anal, oral, or vaginal intercourse is deemed to be without the lawful consent of the victim because it is committed when the victim is incapable of resisting or of understanding the nature of the act by reason of a stupor or abnormal condition of mind produced by an intoxicating agent or any cause, and the offender knew or should have known of the victim's incapacity. The penalty for this crime can be 25 years in prison.

*So, having sex with someone who is intoxicated or using drugs could be considered rape because the law says that he or she could not understand or give consent.*



# FACTS ABOUT TEEN SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND THE INTERNET

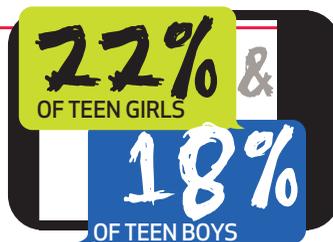
**W**e all know that the internet is a part of your everyday life. What you do on the internet can be harmful to yourself and to other people. Often inappropriate pictures and videos that are sent willingly, are shared with others.

## HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



15% of cell-owning teens (12-17) say **they have received sexually suggestive nude or seminude images** of someone they know through text messaging.

22% of teen girls and 18% of teen boys **have sent or posted nude or seminude pictures** or videos of themselves.



39% of all teens have sent **sexually suggestive messages through text**, email, or an instant-messaging service.



**38%**  
OF TEEN GIRLS

**39%**  
OF TEEN BOYS



38% of teen girls and 39% of teen boys say **they have had sexually suggestive text messages or emails**—originally meant for someone else—**shared with them.**

**44%**



44% of both teen girls and teen boys say it is common for **sexually suggestive text messages to get shared with people** other than the intended recipient.



**36%**  
OF TEEN GIRLS



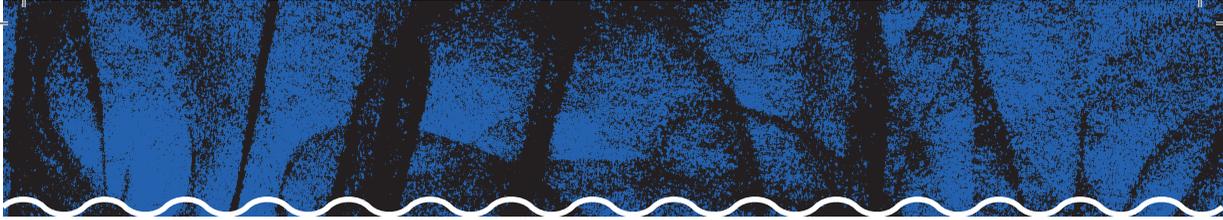
**39%**  
OF TEEN BOYS



36% of teen girls and 39% of teen boys say it is **common for nude or seminude photos to get shared with other people** other than the intended recipient.



51% of teen girls say **pressure from a guy** is a reason girls send sexy messages or images.



# FACTS ABOUT INTERNET PREDATORS

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE MEETING ONLINE?



Most teen victims meet their predators willingly online in chat rooms and many have face-to-face meetings, not knowing that they will be assaulted.

- 
- MOST OF THE VICTIMS ARE **GIRLS**.
  - KIDS BETWEEN THE AGES OF **12 AND 15** are particularly at risk for online predators.
  - IN MANY OF THE CASES, THE **PREDATOR** OFFERS **GIFTS OR MONEY** to their victims.
  - MANY **PREDATORS** lie about their age.
  - IN THE MAJORITY OF ONLINE SEX CRIMES AGAINST MINORS, the offender uses the victim's **SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE** to gain information about the victim's likes and dislikes as well as home and school information. This information can be used to lure a victim into chatting or meeting with the predator.

# FACTS ABOUT TEEN SEXUAL ASSAULT, THE INTERNET AND THE LAW!

## KNOW THE LAW

In many situations it is **ILLEGAL** to take or send nude photos or videos, or even **TALK** about sex online. Taking nude sexual pictures or videos of anyone under 17 is a crime. Sending them to friends on their cell phones or posting them online can be a serious crime. If you are texting a boyfriend or girlfriend who lives in another state, or chatting on a social networking site, be aware that the laws in that state may be more severe than Louisiana's.



## KNOW THE LAW

### ■ CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

The possession or taking of any photographs, films, videotapes, or other visual reproductions of any sexual performance, which includes lewd exhibition of the genitals, involving a child under the age of 17. The penalty can be 2–10 years in jail. If a juvenile is under 13, the penalty can be 25–99 years.

*So, if your partner is 16 and sends you a nude picture or video, you could go to jail just for having it! If you have nude pictures or videos of someone who is 12 years old, you could spend 25+ years in jail.*

### ■ TEXTING ABOUT SEX:

Computer-aided solicitation of a minor is when someone 17 or older contacts or communicates through text or Internet with the intent to persuade, induce, entice, or coerce a person at least 2 years younger to engage or participate in sexual conduct or a crime of violence. If the victim is under 13, the penalty can be 10–20 years in jail. If they are over 13, the penalty can be 5–10 years.

*So, if you are 17, and you meet someone online that is 15, and you persuade that person to have sex with you, you can go to jail. Here's where it is tricky; that person could look much older. What if he or she was really only 12? The law says that you can go to jail for 10-20 years!*

### ■ SEXTING:

When someone under the age of 17 possesses or transmits indecent visual depictions of sexually explicit content of someone under 17 through any communication device, the penalty could be 6 months in jail plus a minimum of 16 hours of community service.

*So, if you are 17, and you send a sexually explicit picture to your partner that is 16, it's illegal.*

**REMEMBER!** Lack of knowledge of the juvenile's age is not a defense—no matter how old someone may act or look, the law only cares about their **ACTUAL** age.

# PREVENTING TEEN SEXUAL VIOLENCE

## KNOW WHEN TO SAY **No**

- **BE CONFIDENT** about your boundaries.
- **SPEAK UP** if something is uncomfortable.
- **BE CLEAR** and firm about what you are or aren't willing to do sexually.
- **KNOW** that both girls and boys have the right to decide when and how to have sex.
- **TRUST** your instincts and feelings.
- **RESPECT** another's decision to say **NO**.
- **NOTICE** if a friend is in a risky situation and do something about it.
- **DON'T DRINK ALCOHOL OR USE DRUGS.**  
Approximately 50-70% of all sexual assaults involve alcohol and/or drugs.



## KNOW WHEN TO STOP.

# N

### O MEANS NO:

Forcing someone to perform any sexual act is illegal at any age.

Giving consent while underage is also illegal: Adult partners can face jail time for any sexual acts performed with a minor, even if you say it's okay.

You should never proceed with any sexual activity when any of the following signs are present:



### STOP WHEN:

- You are **HOPING** your partner will say nothing and go with the flow.
- You are **UNSURE** of what your partner wants and seem to be getting mixed signals.
- You are too **INTOXICATED** to gauge or give consent.
- Your partner is **ASLEEP** or passed out.
- You **INTEND** to have sex by any means necessary.
- Your partner stops or is **NOT RESPONSIVE**.

You should always **CONSULT** with your parent or a concerned adult before making choices about engaging in any sexual activity.



## KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

- **Do Something.org**  
[www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org)
- **Enough•Is•Enough**  
[www.internetsafety101.org/  
Predatorstatistics.htm](http://www.internetsafety101.org/Predatorstatistics.htm)
- **Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence**  
[www.lcadv.org](http://www.lcadv.org)
- **Statewide Hotline**  
(888) 411-1333
- **National Hotline**  
(800) 799-7233
- **Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault-LaFASA**  
*(A complete list of all the sexual assault programs in the state)*  
[www.lafasa.org](http://www.lafasa.org)
- **Love is Respect**  
[www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)
- **National Sexual Violence Resource Center**  
[www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)
- **Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN)**  
[www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org) | (800) 656-HOPE

Parts of this booklet were derived from these sources:

Bureau of Justice Statistics | [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov)

Do Something.org | [www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org)

Enough•Is•Enough | [www.internetsafety101.org](http://www.internetsafety101.org)

Louisiana Criminal Code

Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) | [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)

Shifting the Paradigm: Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence

American College Health Association | [www.acha.org/SexualViolence/](http://www.acha.org/SexualViolence/)

American Academy of Pediatrics | Talking to Kids and Teens About Social Media and Sexting | [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

Teens, Sex, And The Law, A Guide for Teens and Parents: Make educated and informed choices that will last a lifetime. New Orleans Children's Advocacy Center | [www.nocac.net](http://www.nocac.net)

US Department of Justice, NSOPW | [www.nsopw.gov](http://www.nsopw.gov)

This public document is published at a total cost of \$9464.19. 1000 copies of this public document were published in this fourth printing at a cost of \$2065.00. The total cost of all printings of this document including reprints is \$9464.19. This document was published by the Louisiana Office of State Printing for the Louisiana Department of Justice to be used as a youth crime prevention resource for teens. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by State Agencies established in R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes. Printing of this material was supported by Subgrant number 2012-JB-02-2586 awarded by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement through the Bureau of Justice Assistance.



**Louisiana Department of Justice  
Office of the Attorney General**

P.O. Box 94005 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
225-326-6705