

Child Abuse – Back To Basics:

Fact? Or Myth? Test Your Knowledge.

1. Child molesters typically use physically force and/or threats to gain compliance from their victims.

Fact? Myth?

1. Myth - Only 10- 15% of child molesters use force or threats.

2. Most child abusers find their victims by frequenting such places as schoolyards and playgrounds; therefore, all parents should be extremely concerned for their children's safety in such places.

Fact? Myth?

2. Myth - Most child molesters offend against children they know (85 – 90%) and/or with whom they have a relationship.

3. Most child molesters are "dirty old men."

Fact? Myth?

3. Myth - Majority of sex offenders are men, typically in their late 20's/early 30's and lead average lifestyles.

4. Child abusers are only attracted to children, and, therefore, are not capable of engaging in appropriate sexual relationships with consenting adults.

Fact? Myth?

4. Myth - Most child molesters fall into 2 categories: Regressive offenders are primarily interested in adults but may regress and seek inappropriate comfort from a child. They represent the majority of molesters. Fixated child molesters (about 35%) are usually called paedophiles and are attracted to children as their primary sexual interest.

5. Victims of child molestation are harmed only when offenders use force to make the victim have sex with them.

Fact? Myth?

5. Myth - Victims can suffer many forms of physical and emotional harm including fear, shame, guilt, embarrassment and rejection.

6. Children often lie by making up stories of sexual abuse.

Fact? Myth?

6. Myth - Cases of children making up stories are very rare.

7. If a child doesn't tell anyone about the sexual abuse, then he/she must have liked it.

Fact? Myth?

7. Myth - Children won't tell because they are often forced, manipulated or ashamed, afraid, and protective of parents, afraid they'll be blamed.

8. Children generally recover from the effects of sexual abuse on their own. It is best to keep the abuse a secret, so that they don't have to endure talking to any one else about it.

Fact? Myth?

8. Myth - The level of trauma that is incurred is based on many factors. With early intervention and appropriate support, children can work through their trauma but it NEVER goes away.

9. A rape offender commits his offence for sexual gratification.

Fact? Myth?

9. Myth - Rape is not about sex, but rather, anger, control and power.

10. Offenders could stop their sexually offending behaviour on their own, if only they really wanted to stop.

All it takes is a desire to do so.

Fact? Myth?

10. Myth - Sex offenders are not able to stop their offending on their own.

11. Men who rape do so because they cannot find a consenting partner.

Fact? Myth?

11. Myth - Most rape offenders are married or have relationships with consenting adults.

12. Some men rape because they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Fact? Myth?

12. Fact - Some offenders may be under the influence of drugs and/ or alcohol, which may lower their inhibitions, but it cannot be blamed or used as an excuse for rape.

13. Raping a virgin cures Aids

Fact? Myth?

13. Myth – raping a child does not cure Aids.

14. A child who behaves “badly” or wears short skirts or shorts is just asking to be abused and raped.

Fact? Myth?

14. HUGE Myth – a child is NEVER responsible for being abused or raped, no matter what how they behave, or how they dress.

Wo+men Against Child Abuse – Fighting For Their Rights
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