

## The Silence Mini-Lesson

### ACTIVITY 2: ANSWERS

*What percentage of those who commit sexual assault are men?*

Answer: 94%.

*What percentage of sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows?*

Answer: 78%. Most sexual assaults are not committed by a stranger, but rather by somebody the victim knows.

*Where do the majority of sexual assaults occur?*

Answer: 64% of sexual assaults occur in a private residence, like the home of the abuser, a friend, the victim or a family member.

*What percentage of sexual abuse survivors are physically injured (cuts, burns, bruises, etc.)?*

Answer: 7%. For the most part, the abuser will use psychological violence: manipulation, intimidation, emotional blackmail, insistence, threats, drugs or simply ignoring any indication of non-consent.

*What percentage of sexual assaults are reported to the police?*

Answer: Less than 5% of sexual assaults are reported to the police. There are some 460,000 sexual assaults every year in Canada. Just 33 out of every 1,000 assaults will be reported to the police. Of these, only 12 will result in any charges being laid. Six will go to court, and just three will lead to any sort of conviction.

*What percentage of sexual assaults are falsely reported?*

Answer: Between 2% and 10%. It is important to note that the number of falsely reported sexual assaults is equivalent to the number of false reports of any type of crime. There are no more falsely reported sexual assaults than there are falsely reported thefts. Considering what victims have to go through to report a sexual assault—medical examination, police investigation, stigmatization, the stress of appearing in court, and so on—they are extremely unlikely to make false accusations.