

# Sexual Assault

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- Everyone in Canada has the right to choose when or if they engage in sexual activity. Sexual activity without consent is sexual assault, and is a crime.
- Sexual assault includes any unwanted sexual act forced by one person on another. It includes a wide range of behaviours, from unwanted touching to forced sexual intercourse.
- Most sexual assaults are committed by friends, family members and acquaintances of the victim.
- Sexual assault can happen to people of any age, gender, social class or sexual orientations
- Most cases of sexual assault go unreported.

## What is Consent?

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- You give consent when you agree to take part in sexual activity.
- **No consent** is given if:
  - A **third party** consents for you.
  - You are **not capable** of giving consent (ie. you are unconscious or passed out or unaware of what was happening to you; you have a mental or physical disability that prevents you from giving consent).
  - You communicate, in words or actions, a **lack of consent** to take part in or continue with the sexual activity.
  - The other person is in a **position of trust, power or authority** over you.
  - There are specific laws concerning the age when you are considered able to give consent. In Canada, persons **under the age of 16** are not considered mature enough to give consent. There are exceptions for teens that are close in age.