

# NEWS RELEASE



## **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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## **TORONTO**

**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Close to one fifth of women have been sexually assaulted or raped (17%).
- Among those women who say they have been raped, one quarter say it was by an acquaintance or date (24%).
- Just more than one tenth of the women who had been raped in our sample reported the assault to the police (12%).
- One twentieth of males (5%) report having been raped.
- "These findings quantify what has been anecdotally obvious since the Ghomeshi and Cosby affairs became news; women do not trust the authorities, nor the way their cases will be handled, enough to report something as deeply damaging as rape to the police. The higher than expected incidence of males who have been raped indicates this is a problem which crosses gender barriers," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **As many as 3-in-10 women may have been raped**

#### **Just one tenth reported rape to police**

TORONTO December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - In a random sampling of public opinion taken by the Forum Poll™ among 1658 Canadian adults, 795 of whom were women, close to one fifth of women have been sexually assaulted or raped (17%), and a further one eighth decline to answer the question (12%), for a total of 3-in-10 women who may have been raped (29%). Incidence of having been raped is higher among the least wealthy (23%), in BC (23%), the least educated (22%) and among those with children (21%).

#### **Assailant most likely date or acquaintance or family**

Among those women who say they have been raped, one quarter say it was by an acquaintance or date (24%), followed by those who mention a family member (16%), then a person in authority (9%), a friend (7%) or more than one of these (9%). One fifth say the assailant was someone other than those listed (21%).

#### **One tenth reported rape to police**

Just more than one tenth of the women who had been raped reported the assault to the police (12%), one twentieth prefer not to answer (4%), and more than 8-in-10 say they did not (85%).

#### **1-in-20 males report being raped**

One twentieth of males (5%) report having been raped, and a further tenth prefer not to answer (12%), which may suggest as many as just less than a fifth of males have been raped (17%). Incidence of reported male rape is highest in Atlantic Canada. Males are most likely to report the assailant as family (19%), acquaintance (14%) or person in authority (10%). Just more than a twentieth of males who have been raped reported it to police (7%), while the vast majority say they did not (82%).

"These findings quantify what has been anecdotally obvious since the Ghomeshi and Cosby affairs became news; women do not trust the authorities, nor the way their cases will be handled, enough to report something as deeply damaging as rape to the police. The higher than expected incidence of males who have been raped indicates this is a problem which crosses gender barriers," said Forum Research President, Dr. Lorne Bozinoff.

Lorne Bozinoff, Ph.D. is the president and founder of Forum Research. He can be reached at [lbozinoff@forumresearch.com](mailto:lbozinoff@forumresearch.com) or at (416) 960-9603.

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## **Methodology**

The Forum Poll™ was conducted by Forum Research with the results based on an interactive voice response telephone survey of 1658 randomly selected Canadians 18 years of age or older. The poll was conducted on December 10 - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Results based on the female sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate.

Results based on the male sample are considered accurate +/- 3%, 19 times out of 20. Subsample results will be less accurate.

Margins of error for subsample (such as age, gender) results are available at [www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp](http://www.forumresearch.com/samplestim.asp)

Where appropriate, the data has been statistically weighted by age, region, and other variables to ensure that the sample reflects the actual population according to the latest Census data.

This research is not necessarily predictive of future outcomes, but rather, captures opinion at one point in time. Forum Research conducted this poll as a public service and to demonstrate our survey research capabilities. Forum houses its poll results in the Data Library of the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

With offices across Canada and around the world, 100% Canadian-owned Forum Research is one of the country's leading survey research firms. This Forum Poll™ and other polls may be found at Forum's poll archive at [www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp](http://www.forumresearch.com/polls.asp)

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**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Assault or Rape**

*'Have you been sexually assaulted or raped? You can just press 9 if you'd prefer not to answer.'*

[Female]

**Age**

| %                                | Total | 18-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Sample                           | 795   | 128   | 108   | 152   | 183   | 224 |
| Have been assaulted or raped     | 17    | 19    | 18    | 20    | 18    | 11  |
| Have not been assaulted or raped | 70    | 70    | 72    | 69    | 66    | 74  |
| Prefer not to answer             | 12    | 11    | 10    | 10    | 16    | 15  |

**Region**

| %                                | Total | Atl | Que | ON  | Man/Sask | AB | BC  | English | French |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|----------|----|-----|---------|--------|
| Sample                           | 795   | 61  | 213 | 273 | 61       | 73 | 114 | 595     | 200    |
| Have been assaulted or raped     | 17    | 18  | 11  | 18  | 16       | 22 | 23  | 19      | 10     |
| Have not been assaulted or raped | 70    | 68  | 74  | 72  | 68       | 64 | 66  | 69      | 76     |
| Prefer not to answer             | 12    | 14  | 14  | 10  | 16       | 14 | 11  | 12      | 14     |

**Income**

| %                                | Total | <\$20K | \$20-\$40K | \$40-\$60K | \$60-\$80K | \$80-\$100K | \$100-\$250K |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Sample                           | 795   | 101    | 152        | 137        | 99         | 85          | 113          |
| Have been assaulted or raped     | 17    | 23     | 16         | 14         | 20         | 13          | 20           |
| Have not been assaulted or raped | 70    | 53     | 71         | 74         | 71         | 82          | 71           |
| Prefer not to answer             | 12    | 24     | 13         | 12         | 9          | 5           | 9            |

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**Sexual Harassment, Assault or Rape: Assailant**

*'Who was the assailant? You can just press 9 if you'd prefer not to answer.'*

*[Have been sexually assaulted: Female]*

**Age**

| %                      | Total | 18-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Sample                 | 132   | 22    | 19    | 31    | 34    | 26  |
| Partner or spouse      | 5     | 3     | 0     | 9     | 7     | 4   |
| Family member          | 15    | 7     | 25    | 12    | 28    | 8   |
| Friend                 | 7     | 7     | 7     | 9     | 4     | 11  |
| Acquaintance or date   | 24    | 19    | 26    | 28    | 18    | 31  |
| Person in authority    | 9     | 5     | 5     | 14    | 12    | 9   |
| Co-worker              | 3     | 0     | 5     | 4     | 6     | 0   |
| Someone else           | 21    | 33    | 16    | 12    | 14    | 26  |
| More than one of these | 9     | 12    | 5     | 8     | 9     | 11  |
| Prefer not to answer   | 7     | 14    | 11    | 4     | 3     | 0   |

**Region**

| %                      | Total | Atl | Que | ON | Man/Sask | AB | BC | English | French |
|------------------------|-------|-----|-----|----|----------|----|----|---------|--------|
| Sample                 | 132   | 11  | 24  | 44 | 11       | 14 | 28 | 110     | 22     |
| Partner or spouse      | 5     | 0   | 9   | 5  | 0        | 0  | 6  | 5       | 5      |
| Family member          | 15    | 5   | 40  | 12 | 7        | 7  | 13 | 10      | 50     |
| Friend                 | 7     | 0   | 11  | 10 | 9        | 0  | 8  | 7       | 13     |
| Acquaintance or date   | 24    | 30  | 5   | 14 | 37       | 33 | 48 | 27      | 0      |
| Person in authority    | 9     | 33  | 7   | 11 | 8        | 3  | 0  | 9       | 8      |
| Co-worker              | 3     | 0   | 0   | 2  | 0        | 3  | 8  | 3       | 0      |
| Someone else           | 21    | 27  | 14  | 25 | 14       | 31 | 13 | 23      | 9      |
| More than one of these | 9     | 5   | 9   | 16 | 7        | 0  | 2  | 9       | 10     |
| Prefer not to answer   | 7     | 0   | 5   | 5  | 19       | 23 | 2  | 8       | 6      |

**Income**

| %                      | Total | <\$20K | \$20-\$40K | \$40-\$60K | \$60-\$80K | \$80-\$100K | \$100-\$250K |
|------------------------|-------|--------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Sample                 | 132   | 20     | 23         | 18         | 19         | 12          | 24           |
| Partner or spouse      | 5     | 6      | 0          | 0          | 9          | 0           | 11           |
| Family member          | 15    | 0      | 9          | 29         | 31         | 5           | 15           |
| Friend                 | 7     | 3      | 16         | 0          | 0          | 21          | 8            |
| Acquaintance or date   | 24    | 22     | 44         | 27         | 43         | 11          | 7            |
| Person in authority    | 9     | 8      | 12         | 7          | 0          | 22          | 3            |
| Co-worker              | 3     | 7      | 0          | 8          | 3          | 0           | 0            |
| Someone else           | 21    | 43     | 2          | 28         | 10         | 17          | 28           |
| More than one of these | 9     | 2      | 8          | 0          | 3          | 10          | 17           |
| Prefer not to answer   | 7     | 8      | 10         | 0          | 0          | 14          | 11           |

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***Sexual Harassment, Assault or Rape: Reported to Police***

*‘Did you report this assault to the police or not? You can just press 9 if you’d prefer not to answer.’*

*[Have been sexually assaulted: Female]*

**Age**

| %                                | Total | 18-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Sample                           | 132   | 22    | 19    | 31    | 34    | 26  |
| Reported assault to police       | 12    | 13    | 4     | 17    | 15    | 8   |
| Did not report assault to police | 85    | 84    | 85    | 83    | 82    | 92  |
| Prefer not to answer             | 4     | 3     | 11    | 0     | 3     | 0   |

**Region**

| %                                | Total | Atl | Que | ON | Man/Sask | AB | BC | English | French |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|----|----------|----|----|---------|--------|
| Sample                           | 132   | 11  | 24  | 44 | 11       | 14 | 28 | 110     | 22     |
| Reported assault to police       | 12    | 40  | 3   | 14 | 15       | 7  | 6  | 13      | 3      |
| Did not report assault to police | 85    | 60  | 97  | 86 | 66       | 77 | 91 | 83      | 97     |
| Prefer not to answer             | 4     | 0   | 0   | 0  | 19       | 16 | 2  | 4       | 0      |

**Income**

| %                                | Total | <\$20K | \$20-\$40K | \$40-\$60K | \$60-\$80K | \$80-\$100K | \$100-\$250K |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Sample                           | 132   | 20     | 23         | 18         | 19         | 12          | 24           |
| Reported assault to police       | 12    | 16     | 10         | 4          | 4          | 18          | 11           |
| Did not report assault to police | 85    | 76     | 90         | 96         | 96         | 82          | 83           |
| Prefer not to answer             | 4     | 8      | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0           | 6            |

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**Assault or Rape**

*'Have you been sexually assaulted or raped? You can just press 9 if you'd prefer not to answer.'*

[Male]

**Age**

| %                                | Total | 18-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Sample                           | 863   | 179   | 131   | 172   | 178   | 203 |
| Have been assaulted or raped     | 5     | 6     | 4     | 5     | 5     | 5   |
| Have not been assaulted or raped | 84    | 82    | 89    | 86    | 81    | 80  |
| Prefer not to answer             | 11    | 12    | 8     | 9     | 15    | 15  |

**Region**

| %                                | Total | Atl | Que | ON  | Man/Sask | AB | BC  | English | French |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|----------|----|-----|---------|--------|
| Sample                           | 863   | 63  | 206 | 316 | 52       | 89 | 137 | 669     | 194    |
| Have been assaulted or raped     | 5     | 12  | 5   | 5   | 6        | 3  | 3   | 5       | 5      |
| Have not been assaulted or raped | 84    | 67  | 88  | 81  | 82       | 91 | 86  | 82      | 88     |
| Prefer not to answer             | 11    | 21  | 7   | 14  | 12       | 6  | 10  | 13      | 7      |

**Income**

| %                                | Total | <\$20K | \$20-\$40K | \$40-\$60K | \$60-\$80K | \$80-\$100K | \$100-\$250K |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Sample                           | 863   | 67     | 129        | 141        | 140        | 89          | 172          |
| Have been assaulted or raped     | 5     | 8      | 6          | 9          | 4          | 5           | 2            |
| Have not been assaulted or raped | 84    | 68     | 80         | 82         | 86         | 87          | 93           |
| Prefer not to answer             | 11    | 24     | 14         | 9          | 10         | 9           | 5            |

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**Sexual Harassment, Assault or Rape: Assailant**

*'Who was the assailant? You can just press 9 if you'd prefer not to answer.'*

*[Have been sexually assaulted: Male]*

**Age**

| %                      | Total | 18-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Sample                 | 42    | 9     | 5     | 9     | 8     | 11  |
| Partner or spouse      | 3     | 9     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0   |
| Family member          | 19    | 24    | 0     | 45    | 0     | 9   |
| Friend                 | 7     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 37    | 9   |
| Acquaintance or date   | 14    | 23    | 0     | 23    | 0     | 9   |
| Person in authority    | 10    | 7     | 0     | 22    | 12    | 9   |
| Co-worker              | 8     | 0     | 42    | 0     | 0     | 9   |
| Someone else           | 20    | 24    | 0     | 9     | 26    | 36  |
| More than one of these | 4     | 14    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0   |
| Prefer not to answer   | 15    | 0     | 58    | 0     | 24    | 18  |

**Region**

| %                      | Total | Atl | Que | ON | Man/Sask | AB | BC | English | French |
|------------------------|-------|-----|-----|----|----------|----|----|---------|--------|
| Sample                 | 42    | 6   | 10  | 16 | 3        | 3  | 4  | 32      | 10     |
| Partner or spouse      | 3     | 0   | 0   | 7  | 0        | 0  | 0  | 4       | 0      |
| Family member          | 19    | 24  | 28  | 13 | 49       | 0  | 0  | 17      | 28     |
| Friend                 | 7     | 10  | 7   | 5  | 0        | 0  | 17 | 7       | 7      |
| Acquaintance or date   | 14    | 14  | 17  | 12 | 0        | 45 | 0  | 13      | 17     |
| Person in authority    | 10    | 0   | 8   | 11 | 31       | 0  | 27 | 11      | 8      |
| Co-worker              | 8     | 0   | 14  | 13 | 0        | 0  | 0  | 6       | 14     |
| Someone else           | 20    | 27  | 7   | 26 | 0        | 26 | 24 | 23      | 7      |
| More than one of these | 4     | 0   | 20  | 0  | 0        | 0  | 0  | 0       | 20     |
| Prefer not to answer   | 15    | 26  | 0   | 13 | 20       | 29 | 31 | 20      | 0      |

**Income**

| %                      | Total | <\$20K | \$20-\$40K | \$40-\$60K | \$60-\$80K | \$80-\$100K | \$100-\$250K |
|------------------------|-------|--------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Sample                 | 42    | 4      | 7          | 13         | 5          | 4           | 5            |
| Partner or spouse      | 3     | 0      | 0          | 10         | 0          | 0           | 0            |
| Family member          | 19    | 0      | 51         | 0          | 73         | 0           | 17           |
| Friend                 | 7     | 0      | 0          | 18         | 13         | 0           | 0            |
| Acquaintance or date   | 14    | 35     | 14         | 5          | 0          | 52          | 0            |
| Person in authority    | 10    | 17     | 9          | 0          | 14         | 26          | 0            |
| Co-worker              | 8     | 0      | 0          | 22         | 0          | 0           | 18           |
| Someone else           | 20    | 36     | 9          | 15         | 0          | 22          | 36           |
| More than one of these | 4     | 0      | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0           | 0            |
| Prefer not to answer   | 15    | 12     | 16         | 28         | 0          | 0           | 29           |

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***Sexual Harassment, Assault or Rape: Reported to Police***

*‘Did you report this assault to the police or not? You can just press 9 if you’d prefer not to answer.’*

*[Have been sexually assaulted: Male]*

**Age**

| %                                | Total | 18-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Sample                           | 42    | 9     | 5     | 9     | 8     | 11  |
| Reported assault to police       | 7     | 14    | 20    | 0     | 0     | 0   |
| Did not report assault to police | 82    | 63    | 58    | 100   | 100   | 100 |
| Prefer not to answer             | 11    | 24    | 21    | 0     | 0     | 0   |

**Region**

| %                                | Total | Atl | Que | ON | Man/Sask | AB  | BC  | English | French |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|----|----------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Sample                           | 42    | 6   | 10  | 16 | 3        | 3   | 4   | 32      | 10     |
| Reported assault to police       | 7     | 0   | 33  | 0  | 0        | 0   | 0   | 0       | 33     |
| Did not report assault to police | 82    | 73  | 67  | 84 | 100      | 100 | 100 | 86      | 67     |
| Prefer not to answer             | 11    | 27  | 0   | 16 | 0        | 0   | 0   | 14      | 0      |

**Income**

| %                                | Total | <\$20K | \$20-\$40K | \$40-\$60K | \$60-\$80K | \$80-\$100K | \$100-\$250K |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Sample                           | 42    | 4      | 7          | 13         | 5          | 4           | 5            |
| Reported assault to police       | 7     | 0      | 0          | 11         | 0          | 0           | 0            |
| Did not report assault to police | 82    | 64     | 100        | 68         | 100        | 100         | 100          |
| Prefer not to answer             | 11    | 36     | 0          | 22         | 0          | 0           | 0            |

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