Preventing the Perpetration of Sexual Abuse

Using what we know!
Goals

• Define prevention

• Identify how your knowledge plays a critical role in primary prevention

• Highlight examples of effective and promising prevention approaches

• Identify ways that you can contribute to primary prevention
Why Add Prevention When You’ve Already Got Your Hands Full?
...You’re A Perfect Fit For Extending Prevention Efforts

- **Unique knowledge** of offenders & factors that lead to sexual violence
- Having seen the impact of sexual violence you **can effectively communicate** the value of prevention
- Your work puts you **in contact with community members** motivated to increase community safety
...You’re A Perfect Fit For Extending Prevention Efforts

- You’re comfortable having difficult conversations about sexual violence and community safety

- Your prevention efforts in the community can impact large segments of the community

- If not you, then who?!
What is Prevention?
Types of Prevention

Prevent Initial Occurrence
Apprehension, Incarceration, & Prevent Reoccurrence

BALANCED APPROACH

Primary Prevention
Secondary Prevention
Tertiary Prevention

(Knight, 2012)
Ecological Model

Societal  Community  Relationship  Individual
## Prevention Matrix

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(Tabachnick et al., 2016)
Where Do Our Resources Go?

- 10-18% reported (London et al., 2005)
- 6% went to trial (Stroud, et al., 2000)
- 3% convicted (Abel et al., 1987)

Vast majority of our resources are here.

100 Incidents
10-18 Reports
6 Go to Trial
3 Convictions
Prevention Targets the Whole Problem

- 100 Incidents
- 10-18 Reports
- 6 Go to Trial
- 3 Convictions
Why Primary Prevention?

We cannot...

- Educate
- Treat
- Arrest
- Or incarcerate our way out

It will take all of that and more
Why Primary Prevention?

A focus on primary prevention...

• Prevents harm of individuals

• Increases individual and community strengths, capacity and protective factors that support healthier living

• Over time decreases costly corrections and justice system services

• Increases our ability to eradicate sexual violence in our lifetime
Ending Sexual Violence Must Include Preventing Perpetration
Perpetration Prevention

“No epidemic has ever been resolved by paying attention to the treatment of the affected individual”

~George W Albee, PhD
IF we want to stop sexual abuse at its source (for first time perpetration) we need to understand...

• Root causes
• Risk factors
• Protective factors
Considering the Range of Violent Behaviors

- Peer verbal and physical sexual aggression
- Harassment
- Use of child pornography/Child sexual abuse images
- Child sexual abuse
- Child sexual exploitation
- Technology facilitated/Internet
- Adult sexual assault/rape
Perpetration Prevention

“All of the signs were there and no one... no one in my family, not one of my friends, and no one at work ever bothered to ask me about them”

~Sex Offender in Prison
The Value Of Primary Prevention: A Community Example
WHAT WE KNOW: “After-the-fact” intervention...Helping Victims Is Necessary But Is NOT Enough To Solve The Problem
Advantages Of
“Looking Up-Stream”
How Does Prevention Work?
Reducing Risks & Increasing Protective Factors…

Identification of Risk Factors → Strategies to Reduce Risks → Target Group & Ecological Level → Effective Prevention Strategies

Identification of Protective Factors → Strategies to Increase Protective Factors
Using Sexual Violence Risk & Protective Factors To Guide Prevention
SOMAPI Report

• SOMAPI points to critical risk factors that can inform prevention efforts
• SOMAPI highlights differences in risk factors between adults and juveniles
• SOMAPI also discusses the assessment of protective factors

http://smart.gov/SOMAPI/index.html
Research Provides Other Sources For Identifying Risk & Protective Factors
Diverse Population

CHILDREN

CULTURAL

TYPES

YOUTH

ADULTS

FEMALES

MALES
Perpetration: Individual Risk Factors

- Alcohol and drug use
- Delinquency
- Empathic deficits
- General aggressiveness and acceptance of violence
- Early sexual initiation
- Coercive sexual fantasies

Tharp, DeGue, Valle, Brookmeyer, Massetti, & Matjasko, 2013; Jewkes, Sen, & Garcia-Moreno, 2002
Perpetration: Individual Risk Factors

- Preference for impersonal sex and sexual-risk taking
- Exposure to sexually explicit media
- Hostility towards women
- Adherence to traditional gender role norms
- Hyper-masculinity
- Suicidal behavior
- Prior sexual victimization or perpetration

Tharp, DeGue, Valle, Brookmeyer, Massetti, & Matjasko, 2013; Jewkes, Sen, & Garcia-Moreno, 2002
Perpetration Risk Factors: Relationship

- Family environment characterized by physical violence and conflict
- Childhood history of physical, sexual or emotional abuse
- Poor parent-child relationships, particularly with fathers
- Association with sexually aggressive, hyper-masculine, and delinquent peers
- Involvement in a violent or abusive intimate relationship

Tharp, DeGue, Valle, Brookmeyer, Massetti, & Matjasko, 2013; Jewkes, Sen, & Garcia-Moreno, 2002
Perpetration Risk Factors: Community

- Poverty
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Lack of institutional support from police and judicial system
- General tolerance of sexual violence within the community
- Weak community sanctions against sexual violence perpetrators

Tharp, DeGue, Valle, Brookmeyer, Massetti, & Matjasko, 2013; Jewkes, Sen, & Garcia-Moreno, 2002
Perpetration Risk Factors: Society

• Societal norms that support sexual violence
• Societal norms that support male superiority and sexual entitlement
• Societal norms that maintain women’s inferiority and sexual submissiveness
• Weak laws and policies related to sexual violence and gender equity
• High levels of crime and other forms of violence

Tharp, DeGue, Valle, Brookmeyer, Massetti, & Matjasko, 2013; Jewkes, Sen, & Garcia-Moreno, 2002
Protective Factors For Sexual Violence Perpetration
Perpetration: Protective Factors

• Parental use of reasoning to resolve family conflict
• Emotional health & connectedness
• Academic achievement
• Empathy and concern for how one’s actions affect others

Tharp, DeGue, Valle, Brookmeyer, Massetti, & Matjasko, 2013; Jewkes, Sen, & Garcia-Moreno, 2002
Evidence-based Approaches To Prevention
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(Tabachnick et al., 2016)
Shining Examples
Community/Society

Community Notification
As Education
Shining Example
Community/Society

Situational Prevention
Situational Prevention

Risky Situations

Environmental Risks

Policy Gaps

Protective Factors
Youth Serving Organizations

COMMIT TO KIDS

Boys & Girls Club

Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth-serving Organizations: Getting Identification Policies and Procedures

Gatekeepers for Kids: A Practical Guide to Make Your Organization Safer
SMART Office Grantees

Campus Sexual Assault Prevention

- Dr. Kurt Bumby
  Center for Sex Offender Management

- Dr. Keith Kaufman
  Portland State University
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Shining Examples

Individual/Relationship

Reaching out to those at risk to abuse
Promising Programs
Shining Example
Individual/Relationship

Bystander Programs
Traditional Prevention Focus

Victim
Abuse Dynamic

Victim

Abuser

2016 NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
Paradigm Shift for Prevention

- Victim
- Abuser
- Aunt
- Parent
- Minister
- Friend
- Sister
- Neighbor
Bystander Research

Higher Engagement $\rightarrow$ Increased Number of Reported Interventions

- Repeated exposure
- Multiple channels
- Multiple approaches
- Community ownership
Bystander Programs

You've got to be kidding. Your friend raped her.

Your friend's pathetic.

Speak up when you hear stories that glorify sexual violence. Your responses can make a difference.

Coaching Boys into Men

2016 National Symposium on Sex Offender Management and Accountability
How You Can Promote Prevention

How Can I Get Involved?
Getting Involved In Prevention

• Provide expert consultation to develop and enhance prevention programs

• Foster access to evidence based and promising prevention approaches

• Develop expertise and train others to use a particular prevention approach

• Implement a prevention approach in your community

• Influence policy, guidelines, & legislation to enhance safety
It’s Just This Easy To Foster Prevention…

A Brief Interactive Bystander Intervention Exercise

"tell me and i’ll forget. show me and i may remember. involve me and i learn."
- Benjamin Franklin
Bystander Intervention Exercise
(“Speed Dating Format”)

• **Goal:** To brainstorm active bystander intervention strategies in a format that allows considerable practice in a brief time period.

• **Preparation:**
  – Work in groups of 6 in adjoining rows
Bystander Intervention Exercise
(“Speed Dating Format”)

Steps:
1. Very brief introduction (with partner your facing)
2. Blue row reads their scenario to red row partners
3. Red row folks spend 2 minutes responding
   a) What strategy would they use to keep the person safe?
   b) Which other bystander could they involve?
   c) What policy or resource would support this in the future?
4. Blue row folks give 1 minute constructive feedback
5. Red row folks shift one seat left (Blue - STAY PUT)
6. Repeat process 3x
7. Reverse roles with red reading & blue responding
8. Wrap up with group debrief
9. Keith & Joan keep time
Bystander Exercise Debrief

- What was the exercise like for you?
- What did you learn?
- What surprised you?
Questions?
Thank You

Joan Tabachnick
DOJ SMART Office

Keith Kaufman
Portland State University