# What is Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence?



Georgia Network to End Sexual Assault

Webinar Series 2013



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## Objectives

The Learner Will:

- 1. Gain an understanding of the definition and purpose of primary prevention
- 2. Gain knowledge on the Ecological Model
- 3. Be able to identify risk and protective factors
- 4. Be able to identify what level of the spectrum of prevention they are participating in
- 5. Be able to identify their role as a bystander

#### What is sexual violence?

• The CDC defines sexual violence as any sexual act perpetrated against someone's will



#### Facts about Sexual Violence

- Rape is about power and control, NOT SEX
- At least 70% of sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows
- Young women ages 16 thru 19 are four times more likely to be sexually assaulted than women in the general population

#### Sexual Violence Affects Everyone

- Males and females can be victims
- Males and females can be perpetrators
- Sexual violence is prevalent in all communities regardless of race/ethnic group or socio economic status

## What is primary prevention?

• Approaches taking place <u>before</u> sexual violence or dating violence have occurred to prevent initial first time perpetration or victimization.

#### Ecological model



http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/SVPrevention-a.pdf

#### Individual

- Biological and personal history factors.
- Factors include age, education, alcohol/drug use, and/or history of abuse.
- PREVENTION activities could promote attitudes and beliefs that prevent violence.
- Basically education for the individual.

## Relationship

- Examines close relationships including partners, family members, and close friends.
- Common PREVENTION activity mentoring programs.
- Promotes problem solving skills and healthy relationships.

#### Community

- Explores community settings such as neighborhoods, schools, and churches.
- PREVENTION strategies designed to impact process and policy.
- Examples: Social norm and social marketing campaigns to promote healthy relationships.

#### Societal

- Looks at broad societal factors that help create a climate where violence is inhibited or encouraged.
- Social and cultural norms.



#### Sprinkle

#### Saturation





#### THE SPECTRUM OF PREVENTION

Influencing policy & legislation

Changing organizational practices

Fostering coalitions & networks

Educating providers

Promoting community education

Strengthening individual knowledge & skills

## YOUR Steps to Prevention



#### Men in Prevention Effort

- Critical to success.
- Most perpetrators are men, but most men aren't perpetrators.
- Men can educate themselves on the issue and share the information with other men and boys.

#### Bystanders Intervention

Continuum of Behaviors Diagram



#### Bystanders Intervention

- Focus on Prevention and Early Intervention Activities
  - Encouraging Healthy Relationships
  - Know your schools policy
  - Encourage Administrators to enforce policies
  - Be role model for males

## Why is it important to know what to do as a bystander?

• Most people have no idea what to do or say.

• Currently, our system is set up for 2 options – do nothing or report abuse to authorities. There's no middle ground and focus not on prevention.

#### Contact Information

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#### **Governor's Office for Children and Families**

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