Title IX: What Lies in the Wake of Sexual Assault

Kristen Harrell
Offices of the Dean of Student Life

Hilary Park
Student Health Services

April-Autumn Jenkins
Offices of the Dean of Student Life
Survivors

• Trauma vs crisis
  – Trauma – extreme versions of stressful events, with continual effects even after the event has passed. Memories of traumatic events linger, with continued arousal
  – Crisis – a threat to homeostasis, a disruption of coping and problem solving skills, which does not necessarily present as a life threatening experience

• Sexual assault is seen as a trauma
Survivors: processing trauma

• Processing of traumatic events is different from processing of ordinary or novel events
  – Trauma is first organized on a perceptual level, based on sensory components (smell, sound, feelings)
  – Day to day events are recorded with sensory and narrative together
Survivors: mental health after trauma

- **Acute Stress Disorder (ASD):**
  - Develops within one month of traumatic stressor, lasts from 2 days-4 weeks
  - Traumatic event is persistently re-experienced

- **Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):**
  - Acute if symptoms last less than 3 months, chronic if more than 3, delayed onset if symptoms begin six months after the stressor
  - Traumatic event is persistently re-experienced in one or more ways: relieved through recurrent recollection of the event, distressing dreams, exposure to cues or reminders of the event, physical reactivity of the event

- **Rape Trauma Syndrome (RTS)**
  - Nursing diagnosis used by SANEs, historically was used before PTSD was created and defined by the DSM
  - Acute stage and long term processes of reorganization
Survivors: common reactions to traumatic events

• Physical:
  – GI: nausea, indigestion, stomach upset
  – Cardiovascular: flushing, palpitations, tachycardia, sweating palms, dry mouth, chills
  – Respiratory: shortness of breath, pressure/tightness around the chest
  – Neuromuscular: numbness and tingling of extremities, muscular tension, aches, vision disturbances, exhaustion/fatigue
Survivors: common reactions to traumatic events

• General:
  – Fear for personal safety, distrust of others
  – Anger or outrage
  – Helplessness, hopelessness, powerlessness
  – Sadness or grief
  – Denial, disbelief, or numbness
  – Guilt

• Cognitive:
  – Decreased attention span, poor concentration, calculation difficulties
  – Distortion to memories, distortion to time/orientation
Survivor Supporters

• Who are they?
  – Friends
  – Significant Others
    • Intimate Partners
    • Parents
    • Other Family
  – Staff
  – Faculty
Survivor Supporters

Emotions

- Anger
- Guilt
- Denial
- Depression
- Needs for Justice
- Frustration
- Helplessness
- Confusion
- Betrayal
- Fear
- Burdened
- Anxiety
Survivor Supporters

**Women**
- Deepening of intimacy
- Personal safety
- All men are evil

**Men**
- All men are evil
- Anger primary
- MSO’s
  - Sexual Dysfunction
  - Loss of relationship
  - Man as protector
Survivor Supporters

• All
  – Feelings of being able to or not able to help
  – Lack of skills to help
  – Confusion on definitions of assault
  – Not sure where to go for help
  – Burnout
  – Lingering guilt
Alleged Offenders and Offenders

- Due process rights
- Title IX Rights
- Remember they are also our students
- Stress of being charged
- Ignorance vs. Predator
Alleged Offenders and Offenders

• Does Texas A&M have alleged offenders and offenders in our campus/community?
• Who are they?
• What can we do as a community to prevent these assaults from happening?
All alleged offenders and offenders are male.

There is no “typical” alleged offender or offender. They can:

- be male or female;
- come from any race or ethnic background;
- be wealthy or poor;
- do well in school or have learning disabilities and experience challenges in school; and/or
- have no history of any type of offense and pose little risk for re-offense, or can have a history of nonviolent and/or sexual abuse behavior and require careful management.
An offender is more likely to assault a partner or friend than a stranger.

85% of sexual assaults are perpetrated by someone known to the victim.

Usually (70% of the time), it is in or near the victim/survivor’s place of residence.

Most sexual assaults are reported and adjudicated.

On college campuses, although 25% of college women are sexually assaulted by the time they graduate, only 5% of campus sexual assaults (or 1 in 20) are reported.

http://rainn.org/get-information/statistics/reporting-rates
Bystander Intervention

Bystander intervention asks everyone in the community to take responsibility for stopping potentially violent situations from escalating.

VIDEO...
Live Green Dot:
Make Aggieland a Safer Place...
One Green Dot at a Time

need
iHelp
can
Click to add your credits

Subtitle