Campus Violence & the Impacts of Trauma

Understanding the complexities of sexual harassment, violence, + misconduct
Introduction

Confidential Campus Advocate: Crisis Support Services of Nevada

- Works with the Northern Nevada college communities: UNR, TMCC, and WNC
- Has supported and advocated for 200+ student survivors of GBV
Today's Agenda

1. Introduction to gender-based violence, sexual harassment + violence, and consent
2. Symptoms and impacts of trauma
3. Statistics and reporting
4. Gaps in services and resources (on and off campus)
Gender-Based Violence

GBV includes physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and psychological abuse, threats, coercion, and economic or educational deprivation

- Violence that is directed at an individual based on their biological sex OR gender identity
- ANYONE may experience and be impacted by GBV, although women and minorities are the most at risk and disproportionately harmed
- Can impact a survivor through serious physical, mental, economic, and social repercussions
Physical VIOLENCE Sexual

Using Coercion & Threats
Making and/or carrying out threats to do something
to harm you or threatening to leave or commit suicide.

Using Intimidation
Making you afraid by using looks, gestures, actions.

Using Economic Abuse
Preventing you from getting or keeping a job or asking
you for money.

Using Emotional Abuse
Putting you down, making you feel bad about yourself.

Using Privilege
Treating you like a servant.

Using Isolation
Controlling who you see or talk to.

Using Children
Making you feel guilty about the children.

Denying, Minimizing, Blaming
Making light of abuse, denying it didn't happen.

Power & Control

Using Coercion & Threats
Driving recklessly to frighten you, threatening others
who are important to you.

Using Intimidation
Making you afraid by using looks, actions, gestures.

Using Economic Abuse
Preventing you from getting or keeping a job or asking
you for money.

Using Emotional Abuse
Putting you down, making you feel bad about yourself.

Using Privilege
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Denying, Minimizing, Blaming
Making light of abuse, denying it didn't happen.
Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature.

Sexual violence is an all-encompassing, non-legal term that refers to crimes like sexual assault, rape, and sexual abuse.

- Experiences of non-consensual sexual activity; often through use of force, manipulation, and/or incapacitation

- ANYONE may experience and be impacted by SH+V, although vulnerable populations such as members of the LGBTQ+ community, students with disabilities, sorority and fraternity members, racial and ethnic minority students are at a higher risk.
CONSENT IS LIKE FRIES

**Freely Given**
- Both partners have the freedom to say yes/no. Consent doesn’t involve any type of pressure, force, or manipulation.

**Reversible**
- Anyone can change their mind at any time, even if you’re in the middle of the affection.

**Informed**
- Both partners need to know what exactly they’re consenting to every single time.

**Enthusiastic**
- Both partners should be excited & very much interested in what is happening. If they’re not stop immediately.

**Specific**
- Each individual affection requires consent each time, even if you’ve done it before.
SAMSHA describes trauma as an event or circumstance resulting in:
- physical harm
- emotional harm
- and/or life-threatening harm
“Trauma survivors have symptoms instead of memories” [Harvey, 1990]

Adapted from Bremner & Marmer, 1998
College student survivors of trauma often experience the following challenges:

- Short and long term health problems (eating disorders, chronic illness—mental and physical)
- Lowered academic achievement (falling behind in classes/dropping out of school altogether)
- Loss of social connections (isolating, lack of interest in hobbies and extracurricular activities)
- Financial struggles (losing funding/aid, decreased ability to support self, basic needs not met)
- Increased risk of revictimization, developing maladaptive coping behaviors (substance use and/or self-harm), and experiencing/acting on thoughts of suicide
1 in 4 women experience sexual violence in college

90% of campus assaults occur by someone the survivor knows

"Serial perpetrators" average of 6 rapes each

80% of survivors of stalking knew the perpetrator

Only 12% of survivors report to law enforcement/school officials

More than 50% of assaults occur between August-November (RED ZONE)

Estimated lifetime cost of rape is: $122,461
Reporting Facts

Only 2%-10% of reports of sexual assault are false. This is equal to the number of false reports of every other crime.

Victim shaming/blaming attitudes and behaviors

Fear of not being believed

Unsure if they have experienced a form of GBV

Concern for retaliation or risk for further harm/danger

Felt it was a personal matter and should be handled independently

Distrust of the legal/justice systems
Gaps in Services

- Continuity regarding reporting and receiving FREE supportive services
- Challenges obtaining legal support for both criminal and civil matters
- Affordable/available mental health services (trauma specialized care)
- Safe housing and shelters, relocation support on and off campus (waitlists)
Resources

1. 24/7 Hotlines
   - Local: Sexual Assault Support Services
     775-221-7600
   - National: RAINN
     800-656-4673

2. Campus Police or local Law Enforcement
   Confidential Advocates

3. Title IX
   Counseling Services

4. National Sexual Violence Resource Center
   Know Your IX
   Love Is Respect

Disability Resource Center
Thank you!

Questions?