Sexual Violence and People with Developmental Disabilities

ISAC Meeting

www.dhs.pa.gov

NPR Series

SPECIAL SERIES

abused and betrayed

Sexual Violence

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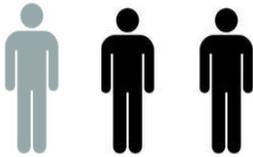
Sexual violence refers to:

- Any sexual activity where consent is not obtained or freely given.
- Anyone can experience or perpetrate sexual violence.
- Most victims of sexual violence are female.
- Perpetrators are usually someone
  known to the victim.

Center for Disease Control (CDC.gov)

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Sexual Violence by the Numbers

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Nearly 1 in 4 men (24%)

Nearly 2 in 3 women (63%)

CDC, 2010   www.dhs.pa.gov   4

4/9/2018

Rape by the numbers

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Report being raped in their lifetime

1 in 5 women

1 in 71 men

CDC, 2010

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Sexual Violence Continuum

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Death
Mutilation
Rape
Unwanted Sexual Touch
Unwanted Physical Touch
Invasions of Space & Harassment
Inequality & Oppression
Attitudes & Beliefs

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Consent

[Consent, It's Simple As Tea (video)](#)

Sexual Abuse and Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

- People with intellectual disabilities are sexually assaulted at **seven times** the rate of those without a disability
  - Is almost certainly an underestimate because;
    - The Justice Department numbers only count people ages 12 and older
    - The numbers from household surveys don't include people living in institutions and the 373,000 people living in group homes.

    (Shapiro, 2017, NPR-*Special Investigation-Abused and Betrayed)*

Trauma and People with DD

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It is important that normal trauma responses not be attributed to the person's developmental disability or pre-existing mental illness.

People with developmental disabilities generally have the same types of symptoms following trauma that anyone else would

Trauma responses generally represent a change from the person's normal level of functioning.

The Neurobiology of Trauma

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Neurobiology of Trauma - D'anniballe (video)

First Responders

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- **Listen**, and **believe**
- Discuss with person alone and in private
- Determine immediate safety
- Report all suspected abuse
- Advocate for community inclusion
- Safety planning

Prevention and Risk Reduction

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- Body autonomy and boundaries
- Sexual education and sexuality
- Staff accountability
- Care giver accountability
- Follow through/not minimizing
- Safety planning for victims and
      perpetrators

4/9/2018

What do we know from our data?

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Annually, approximately 1% of the people registered with ODP have a report of sexual abuse.

Registration numbers for ODP as of January 2017-54,281
Sexual abuse reports in 2016- 530 total

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What do we know from our data?

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Verbal Communication Skills

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Recognition and Reporting of Sexual Abuse

- 91% of incidents of sexual abuse reported are for people that have a verbal primary mode of communication

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What do we know from our data?

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- People with the most significant disabilities and no verbal communication skills, have the lowest numbers of sexual abuse reports (1.5%)
- People know their perpetrators
  - 82% of reports indicate a relationship such as staff, friend, family, existed prior to the incident
    - Target Breakdown
      - Individual/consumer-43%
      - Staff-15%
      - Relative-13%
      - Friend-11%

What do we know from our data?

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- Women are the most often reported victim of sexual abuse
  - 66% of reports indicate that the victim is a woman
- Men are most often the perpetrators of sexual abuse
  - 66% of reports indicate a male target
  - 22% of reports indicate a target of unknown gender
  - 12% of reports indicate a female target

What do we know from our data?

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- Sexual abuse confirmations are the lowest among all types of abuse
  - Average confirmation rate for all other types of abuse is approximately 55%
  - Confirmation rate for sexual abuse is 34%
- Referral to law enforcement is low
  - Overall 46% of sexual abuse reports are referred to law enforcement
  - 40% of confirmed sexual abuse reports are referred to law enforcement

What have we done?

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- Conducted a training for rape crisis center staff and allied professionals in 2016
  - Training was for approximately 30 people from 12 centers
  - Discussion of bias
  - Intro to the ODP service system
  - The importance and variety of communication styles
  - Guardianship, individual rights
  - Facts about sexual abuse and people with developmental disabilities
  - Tips to better support people with developmental disabilities

What have we done?

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- Partnered with PCAR and conducted trainings in all regions of the state for ODP stakeholders in 2016 and 2017
    - Trained approximately 360 people over 12 sessions
    - Intro to Sexual Violence and the intersection with people with developmental disabilities

- Developed a Victim's Assistance resource guide for service and support professionals
    - Currently in the final review process prior to release
    - Develop training for providers regarding the use of the guide

What have we done?

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- Worked with National Public Radio to provide data and information related to sexual abuse

- Supported SAU1 Peer to Peer Empowerment Trainings
    - 48 Empowerment sessions in FY17-18 (12 in each region)

Next Steps

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- Continue with PCAR to offer -Intro to Sexual Violence and the intersection with people with developmental disabilities in 2018
- Expand partnership with PCAR to begin collaborations among local groups:
  - Self-Advocates
  - Families
  - Providers
  - Law Enforcement
  - District Attorney Offices
  - Advocacy Organizations
  - Protective Services
  - Victim Service Providers

Next Steps

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- Update The Training Partnership Guide -
  "The Power to Know and Say No-Sexual Abuse Awareness for Self-Advocates"

- Expand Support for SAU1 Peer to Peer Empowerment Trainings across the state
  - 12 trainings on Sexual Abuse Awareness by and for self-advocates through 3/31/19

- Work with partners to support individual education
  - HCQUs, ASERT, LRCCs (Local Rape Crisis Centers), and other training partners
  - Focus on: Body autonomy, Healthy sexuality, & Caregiver culture; Giving choice and control to people for all aspects of their lives

Next Steps

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- Enhance Certified Investigator curriculum

- Encourage and support professional development for all
  levels of the system involved in the review/closure of
  incident reports
  - Trauma informed practices
    - Victim Centered Service Planning
    - Supporting Choice and Control
  - Sexual Abuse Education
    - Prevention
    - Recognition
    - Reporting
    - Victim Services

Next Steps

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- Licensing interpretive guidelines will include a
  standardized method to manage sexual abuse
  allegations
  - Accessing victims assistance and the legal system
  - Connect this back to the Individual Rights regulations

- Develop a Victim's Assistance resource guide for self-
  advocates

Group Discussion

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- What can we do/are we doing to educate families of all ages?

- How can we reach all self-advocates so they know how to report feeling unsafe or harmed?

- How do we reach all direct care staff so they will listen and know what to do?

- What can we do/are we doing with the education system?

- What strategies can be used to build and maintain caregiver awareness to be respectful of the experience of the person?