Exploring the Challenges of Violence Against Women Crimes On Campus

Margolis Healy & Associates, LLC
Agenda

- Introduction
- Research
- Challenges
- Legal Landscape
• Campuses have unique challenges due to climate, environment and culture
  – Significant concentration of young adults
  – Mutual support and conflicting goals
• Collaboration, communication, coordination and capitalization are keys
1 in 36 college women in any 7 month period
90% of perpetrators Known to the victim

• 2.8% experienced a rape or attempted rape

• Data suggests nearly 5% of college women are victimized in a calendar year \((5,000 = 250)\)

• Over course of college career, 20 to 25% will experience rape or attempted rape

[National Sexual Victimization of College Women Survey (2000)]

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• 3 in 10 women report being injured emotionally or psychologically from being stalked

• Victim reported threats or attempted harm in 15.3% of incidents

• Victim reported that the stalker forced or attempted sexual contact in 10.3% of incidents

[National Sexual Victimization of College Women Survey (2000)]
Overall, 83.1% of stalking incidents were NOT reported to police

BUT....

93.4% of victims confided in someone, most often a friend, that they were being stalked

[National Sexual Victimization of College Women Survey (2000)]
• The Rape Paradox:
  – Millions of Victims
  – Approx. 5% of rapists are incarcerated or in treatment programs
• Where are all the rapists?
Lisak Study Methodology

• Summary of studies of 1,882 men
  – Men were interviewed as part of the study… they were volunteer participants

Research Published in Violence and Victims, Volume 17, Number 1 (February 2002)
“Have you ever had sexual intercourse with an adult when they didn’t want to because you used physical force (twisting their arm, holding them down, etc) if they didn’t cooperate?”
1882 Men Assessed: 120 Rapists

- 483 rapes & attempted rapes of women they knew
- 63% had committed multiple rapes
- Average = 4/rapist
- Repeat rapist average = 5.8 rapes
- Rapist patterns
- Percentage of population rapists (small)
Lisak Study Findings

Engaged in Multiple Forms of Abuse
9%

Battered Intimate Partner
11%

Physically Abused Children
12%

Sexually Abused Children
31%

Other Forms Sexual Assault
38%

Each of these predators is a crime spree in and of themselves
Many “touch points” offer opportunities and challenges
Challenge # 1 – Touch Points

- Campus Public Safety (sworn/non-sworn)
- Student Affairs (Dean, Residence Life, RAs)
- Health Services
- Counseling Center
- Women’s Center (advocates)
- Academic Dean’s Offices & Faculty
- Off-campus resources
**CHALLENGES**

- Poor collaboration leads to cross purposes and poor support for survivors

- Different institutional policies regarding reporting complicates the process

**OPPORTUNITIES**

- Strong collaboration (before incidents are reported) ensures survivor’s interest remain top priority

- Advocates embedded in PD; appropriate protocols
Coordination with local authorities is often a source of tension
Challenge #2 - Coordination

• Campus public safety
• Local police
• Student Affairs
• Prosecution
• What are community expectations? (several communities)
• Do local police handle cases? If so, which? What protocols exist to determine?
• Do campus police handle? What protocols exist to determine?
• “Administrative” Investigations/Inquiries
CHALLENGES

• Are public safety officers trained to appropriate level?
• Are they representing survivor, institution, or “the people?”
• Deans want to move swiftly (Title IX-criminal sexual conduct included in “sex harassment” defn)
• Prosecutors want to build best possible case

SUCCESSES

• Pre-coordination
• Close coordination when incident reported
Existence and coordination of support services
CHALLENGES

• Not all campuses have victim support services; survivors rely on community resources

• Local providers may not understand campus processes or culture; could lead to poor advice or worst, further danger for the survivor
SUCCESSES

• On and off campus advocates work closely together; some jurisdictions, advocates serve both community and campus (capitalization)

• Close coordination and communication
  - local support services understand campus culture and processes
  - Regular meetings to exercise a coordinated response
Campus may not adequately understand the nature and dynamic of these crimes
CHALLENGES

• Lack of knowledge in Student Affairs and Police/Security Departments
• Correlation between violence against women crimes
• Failure to acknowledge the prevalence of relationship violence
SUCCESSES

• Fully informed campus constituents
• VAWA Grants require joint training
• Presence of viable crime prevention and security awareness programs (Men Against Rape programs)
• Clery Act (educational programming; notifications; crime prevention; support; discipline)

• Campus Sex Crimes Prevention Act (2000)

• Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act) (pending legislation)
Opportunities for Success

• Collaboration
• Communication
• Coordination
• Capitalization
Resources

• www.securityoncampus.org
• Stalking Resource Center (http://www.ncvc.org/src/)
• US DOJ Office on Violence Against Women
• International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) – Law Enforcement Leadership Institute on Violence Against Women
• Dr. David Lisak, UMASS Boston

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