



SAFESTAR

SEXUAL ASSAULT
FORENSIC EXAM,
SUPPORT, TRAINING,
ACCESS, RESOURCES



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SAFESTAR: The Project

SAFESTAR is a unique model of healthcare that trains community-based, lay healthcare providers (such as midwives, traditional healers, community health representatives, etc.) to provide medical/forensic examinations for Indian victims of sexual assault.



SAFESTAR: The Project

- Designed by experts in Indian Country health care, advocacy and criminal justice, the SAFESTAR project is:
 - Community Developed
 - Community Implemented
 - Community Integrated
 - Public Health Supported
 - Individual and Community Focused



SAFESTAR: Our Mission

- To avoid further trauma to all sexual assault survivors



Why do we need SAFESTARs?

- When someone is sexually assaulted on tribal lands, access to a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) who perform healthcare exams and collect evidence from a victim's body is not available in most of the Tribal communities.



- “A 2005 survey of IHS facilities found that in areas served by facilities that do not provide emergency services for rape victims, women can face a round trip of up to 150 miles in order to reach a facility where the forensic examination can be performed.” – *Maze of Injustice*, Amnesty International, 2007



SAFESTAR Purpose:

- Address the lack of sexual assault nurse examiners in Indian Country
- Address the relatively low number of tribal and federal prosecutions of sexual assault crimes committed against Native women



SAFESTAR Purpose

- Use Traditional healthcare delivery systems
- Train how to preserve forensic evidence that may be important for prosecution
- Provide healthcare to victims who have limited access



Who is a SAFESTAR?

- A person who is specially trained to provide health care to sexual assault survivors and who demonstrates competency and respect when conducting the medical/forensic exam





What is the Role of a SAFESTAR?

Role:

- Provide a compassionate and sensitive approach to sexual assault care
- Provide timely healthcare examination with evidence collection, as appropriate
- Provide referral for follow-up care and counseling
- Provide testimony in court as needed

Characteristics of a SAFESTAR:

- Non judgmental
- Compassionate
- Respectful
- Culturally aware of tribal community
- Maintains confidentiality





SAFESTAR Training

- Culturally appropriate
- Establish or enhance the attitudes, knowledge and skills to perform an exam



SAFESTAR Training

This training will teach you how to:

Determine if a victim of sexual assault needs to be sent to a hospital or clinic for immediate treatment





You will learn how to:

Perform an exam to check a victim for injuries and, if the victim chooses to, collect evidence from his/her body



You will learn how to:

Create a written report (documentation) describing a victim's sexual assault

SAFESTAR
SEXUAL ASSAULT MEDICAL/FORENSIC RECORD

Location of Examination _____
Address _____
Date of Examination _____ Time _____
Full Name of Patient _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____
Brought In By _____
Others Present _____
Date of Assault _____ Time _____
Location of Assault _____
Patient Choosing _____
 To report the crime and authorize release of evidence to law enforcement
Law Enforcement Agency _____
Case # _____
Officer Name _____
Officer ID _____
 The Anonymous Sexual Assault Option
Kit # _____
 Medical forensic exam without kit



You will learn how to:

Provide medicine to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy



You will learn how to:

Make referrals to help in healing the mind, body, and spirit after the assault





You will learn how to:

Testify in a court of law should the offender be prosecuted for the sexual assault




SAFESTAR Training:


- SAFESTARs are tribal community members that are part of a multidisciplinary team
- The success of the multidisciplinary team is dependent upon its ability to work together to provide the best possible outcome for the sexual assault victim
- Most important is safety for the victim and surrounding the victim with holistic care



Victim-Centered Approach



Collaboration : A well-defined relationship entered into by two or more organizations or individuals to achieve



Working together to end violence