



A Comprehensive Approach to Sex Offender Management: The Importance of Victim-Centeredness

Indian Nations 2016



Learning Objectives

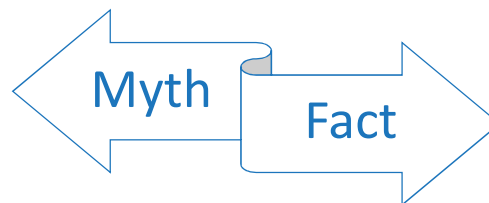
As a result of this session you will be able to:

- Understand the role of victim centeredness in sex offender management .
- Identify the impacts of sexual victimization.
- Discuss supervisory team development to support victim centeredness.
- Review promising practices for sex offender reentry/treatment.

*What do we Know about Victims
of Sexual Abuse:*

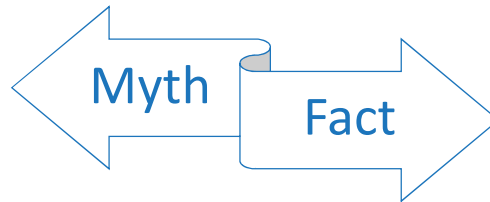
Myth vs. Fact

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**The majority of Child Victims
are Abused by Strangers?**

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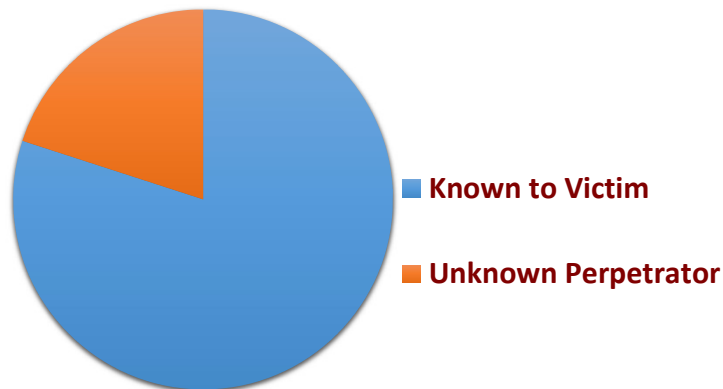


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MYTH

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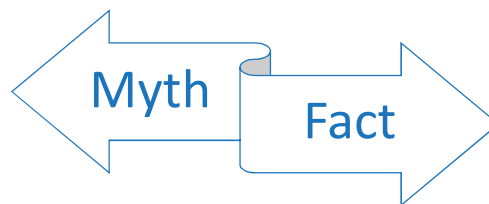
Fact



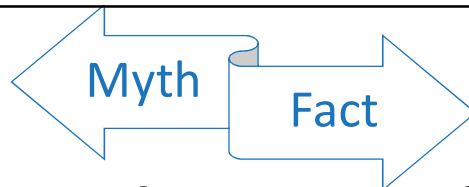
- **Less than 20% of abusers** are strangers
- The perpetrator is **often related to the child**

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**The Highest rate of
Rape/Sexual Assault
Occurs with 20-24 year
olds?**



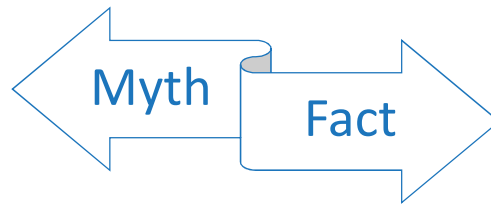
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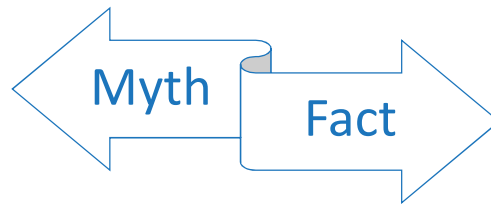
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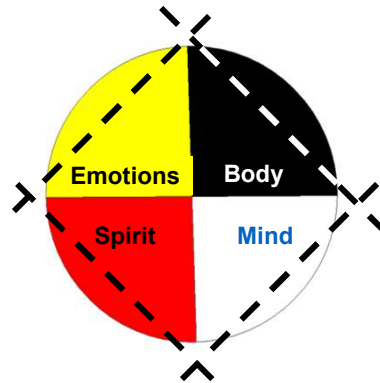
**Over 70% of Rapes
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FACT

How Sexual Assault Hurts Victims



— — — Sexual Assault Violation

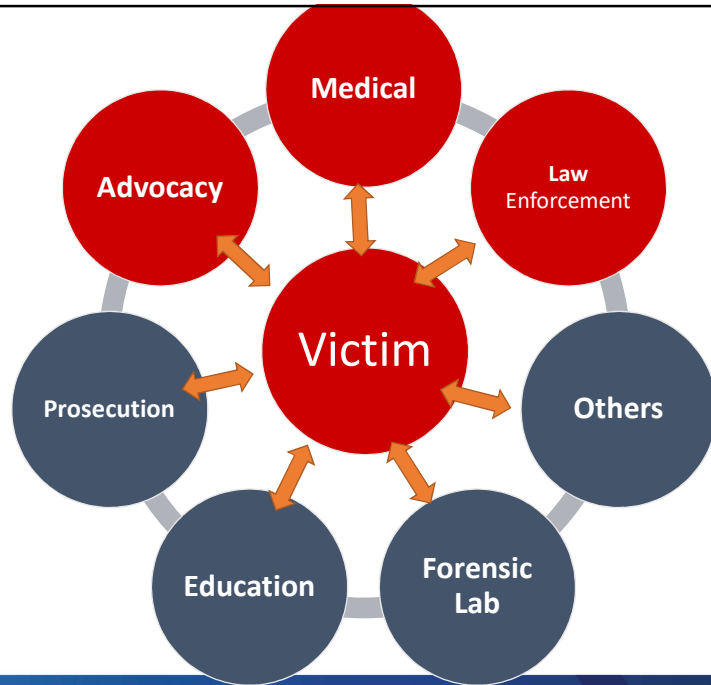
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Possible Long Term Effects of Adult/Adolescent Sexual Assault

- Low self esteem
- Self destructive behaviors (eating disorders, cutting)
- History of bad relationships/no relationships
- Alcohol/drug abuse
- Depression/suicidal tendencies
- Promiscuity/aversion to sex
- Physical problems/undiagnosed illnesses
- Fear/ Anxiety
- Hopelessness
- Self-blame
- Guilt
- Shame
- Anger
- Irritability
- Avoidance
- Loss of Independence
- Loss of Trust

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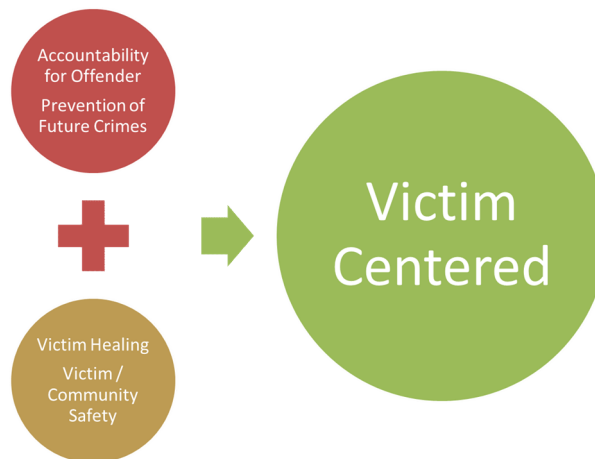
Victim Centered Response



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The Intersection



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Victim Centered Response

Focus is on the needs and concerns of a sexual assault victim during all phases of the justice system response

Purpose is to ensure the compassionate and sensitive delivery of services in a nonjudgmental manner.

Victim Response

- No one right way
- May also be affected by personal factors:
 - responsibilities,
 - familial position,
 - reaction from others...
- Expressed vs. suppressed response

Federal Laws that Support Protection of American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Children

- Major Crimes Act 18 U.S.C. §2241-2248 (Broad enactment)
- Victims of Child Abuse Act 18 U.S.C. §3509
- Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act 25 U.S.C. §3201 et seq. and 18 U.S.C. §1169
- 1978 - Indian Child Welfare Act
- 1990 – Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act
- 2013 Violence Against Indian Women Act: Title IX

Tribal Laws

- Many tribes have enacted Victims Rights legislation (be sure to look to Tribal Code)
- Some tribal laws prohibit contact between offenders and victims or require that reparations be made such as restitution. Probation Officers may play a role in monitoring compliance with such directives.

Core Rights for Victims of Crime

- The right to:
 - attend criminal justice proceedings;
 - apply for compensation;
 - be heard and participate in criminal justice proceedings;
 - be informed of proceedings and events in the criminal justice process, of legal rights and remedies, and of available services;
- The right to:
 - protection from intimidation and harassment;
 - restitution from the offender;
 - prompt return of personal property seized as evidence;
 - a speedy trial; and
 - enforcement of these rights.

How to be victim centered...

- Victim safety must be the main priority
- Include victim advocates in the sex offender management program
- Keep victims informed and provide opportunities for victims to have their voices heard where necessary and appropriate

Identify Victim Needs & Supports

Victim Needs

- Caring, compassionate response
- Physical/psychological safety and protection
- Being believed
- Therapy and other resources
- Opportunity for input
- Information regarding the offender management, supervision and treatment
- Accurate information be provided to the offender's and victim's support system

Victim Supports

- Listen to victims and allow them to be heard
- Provide information about team members roles and responsibilities
- Reassure victims' that the abuse was not their fault
- Hold the offender fully accountable
- Validate the victims experience
- Be clear on what information can and cannot be shared
- Be willing to repeat information
- Be sensitive to where victims are in their recovery process

SOMB Standards



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What Good Sex Offender Management *Can Do*

- Ensure victim rights across a spectrum of their experiences
- Promote victim healing and access to resources
- Prevent re-victimization
- Promote effective offender re-entry
- Inform and educate the community



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Effective Sex Offender Management Strategies

Do Not:

- overlook the needs of victims
- re-traumatize or negatively impact victims
- inadvertently jeopardize the safety of victims or community members

How Victims Might be Involved

- Victim notification
- Assist with supervision planning
- Identify monitoring/supervision resources
- General community education
- Safety planning/wrap around
- Victim initiated, or agreed to restorative justice programs

Informed Victim

- A key component to any victim-centered approach is to do your part to ensure the victim is informed.
 - may occur through a direct relationship between the probation office and the victim
 - may occur collaboratively by and through a victim advocacy or services program

Providing information regarding an offender is key to victim safety planning especially in cases such as domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking.

Promising Practices

- NASOM- Native American Sex Offender Management
- COSA- Circles of Support and Accountability

Closing Considerations

- Victim awareness should be part of the process
- Establish fair and consistent guidelines
- Maintain appropriate boundaries

Questions