

Bystander Intervention

Risk Reduction

Note: The **ONLY** person that can prevent the crime of sexual assault is the perpetrator. Risk reduction is a method attempting to interrupt or stop a sexual assault in progress.

Sexual Assault Risk Reduction

- Offer to drive your friend(s) home from social events
- Use the 'buddy-system'
 - Accompany friend(s) to social events
 - Keep an eye on your friend(s) at all times
 - Make sure your friend(s) always keep an eye on their drink
 - Go to social events with a designated sober person (someone who can tell when someone in your group is not acting like themselves)

If you witness something suspicious...

- Intervene and find out what is going on
- Try to distract the potential perpetrator
- Offer to call a cab
- Track down the potential victim's friend(s) and tell them what's going on
- Keep an eye on the situation
- Interrupt the scene
- Call for help

Bystander Intervention

What is bystander intervention?

Aiming to reduce sexual assault victimization and perpetration, while holding perpetrators more accountable for their actions

How do I know when to intervene?

Ask yourself:

- Is there a potential problem?
- Does someone need help?
 - (If YOU were in the same situation, would you want help?)
- Are you able to help? Is it safe for you to intervene?
- Will anyone else help or stand up for this person if you don't?
 - REMEMBER the bystander effect!

Look out for sexually or physically aggressive behaviors:

- Inappropriate touching
- Pushing boundaries
- Overly sexual remarks
- Targeting an intoxicated person
- Encouraging or pressuring heavy drinking
- Isolation (i.e., taking someone to a room, outside, etc.)

When in doubt, trust your *gut instincts!*

Bystander Roles

Bystander: A person who witnesses an act of violence

Bystander Effect: The more bystanders that witness the incident, the less likely they all are to call for help

- In 1964, Kitty Genovese was raped and murdered
 - There were 38 bystanders who witnessed and/or heard the assault
 - *Not a single person called for help during the attack*

Examples of Bystander Situations:

- You're at a party and you overhear someone's plan to sexually take advantage of another person
- You hear someone joke about getting someone drunk in order to have sex with them
- You think you see someone slip something into a drink
- You see someone who is clearly impaired being taken away from the party and are unsure of their safety

Being a Bystander Everyday:

- Share this handout with others (drop or post copies at local businesses, share online, etc.)
- Coordinate PAVE Bystander Intervention trainings at your school, workplace, community organization, etc.
- Speak up when you hear someone making jokes that trivialize sexual assault or dehumanize others (sexist, racist, homophobic, transphobic language)
- Learn and educate others on how male socialization (masculinity) can add to the epidemic of sexual assault
- Volunteer with local organizations focused on combatting sexual assault

References:

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center Tabachnick, J. (2008) Engaging bystanders in sexual violence prevention. Retrieved May 22, 2010 from http://www.nsvrc.org/_cms/fileUpload/Projects/Engaging_Bystanders.pdf.

Promoting Awareness Victim Empowerment (www.pavingtheway.net)

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (www.rainn.org)

Stimulate Conversation (www.whynotask.org)

William & Mary Sexual Assault Resources and Education (http://web.wm.edu/sexualassault/geteducated_community_bystander.php)

Mission Statement: Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment (PAVE) is a multi-chapter national 501c3 non- profit organization that uses education and action to shatter the silence of sexual violence through targeted social, educational and legislative tactics.