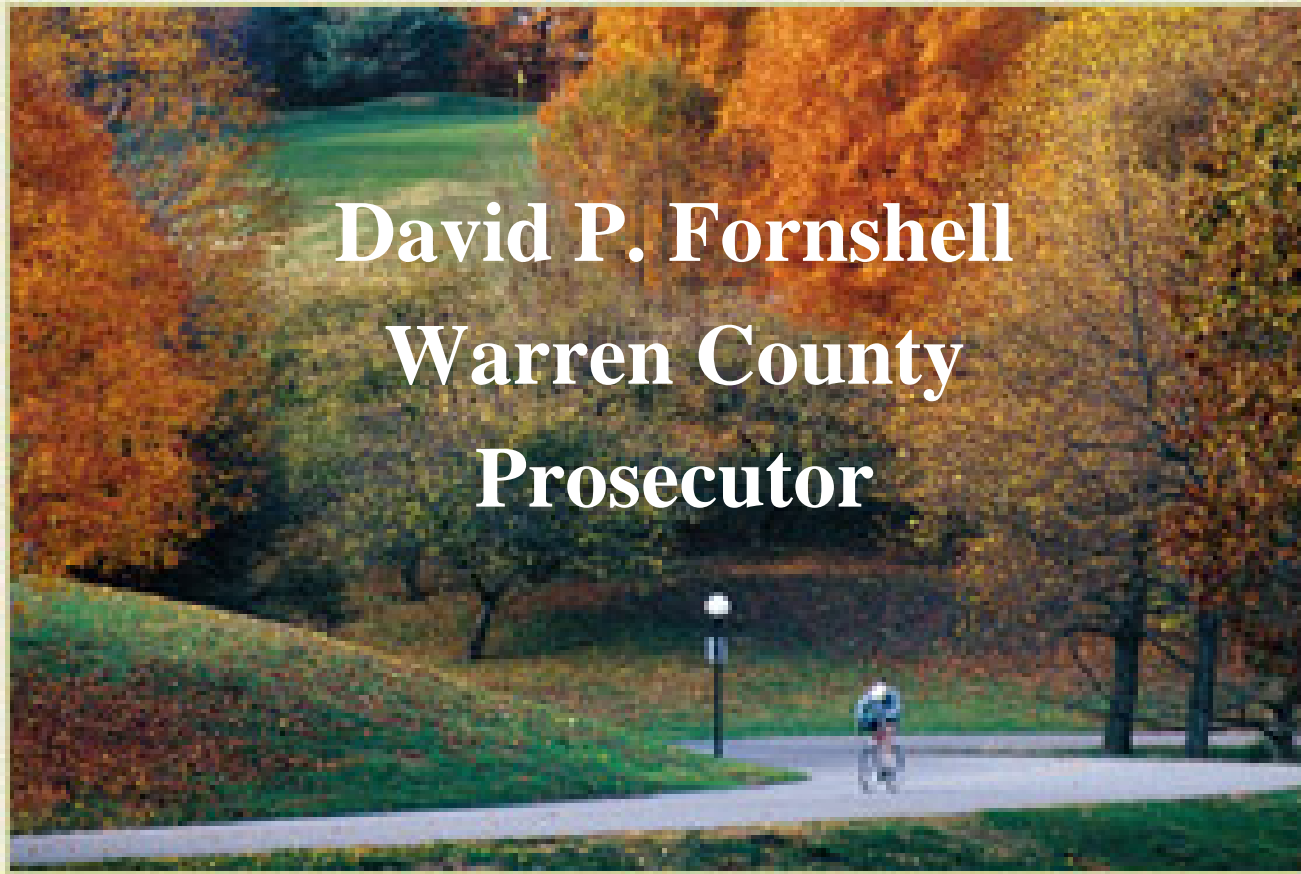


Sexual Assault on College Campuses



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Campus Life



- ◆ College women today are at higher risk for sexual assault than their non-college peers.
 - Nearly 3% of all college females become rape victims (completed or attempted) every academic year.
 - If considered over a 5-year college career, this means that one in five college women experience rape during college.

Reporting The Crime



- ◆ Sexual assault is the most underreported crime in America (less than 5% of rapes are reported).
- ◆ On campuses, 80-90% of assaults are committed by an acquaintance of the victim.
- ◆ Half of all student victims do not label their assault “rape.”
 - This is true especially when no weapon is used, there is no sign of physical injury, and alcohol was a contributing factor.

Federal Law



- ◆ The Clery Act requires that schools annually disclose information about crime, including specific sexual crime categories, in and around campus.
- ◆ Only 37% of schools fully comply in reporting crime statistics.
- ◆ Schools are responsible for notifying students about crimes on campus, publicizing their prevention and response policies, maintaining open crime logs, and ensuring assault victims their basic rights.

Sexual Assault Response Policy



- ◆ A formal policy addressing sexual assaults on campus.
- ◆ To meet the intent of the Federal law, this policy should be easily and widely accessible to students.
- ◆ Traditional 4-year public and private schools are the most likely to have such a policy.
- ◆ State and school definitions of what acts constitute sexual assault vary.
- ◆ Only a small majority of schools mention acquaintance rape in their sexual assault response policy.

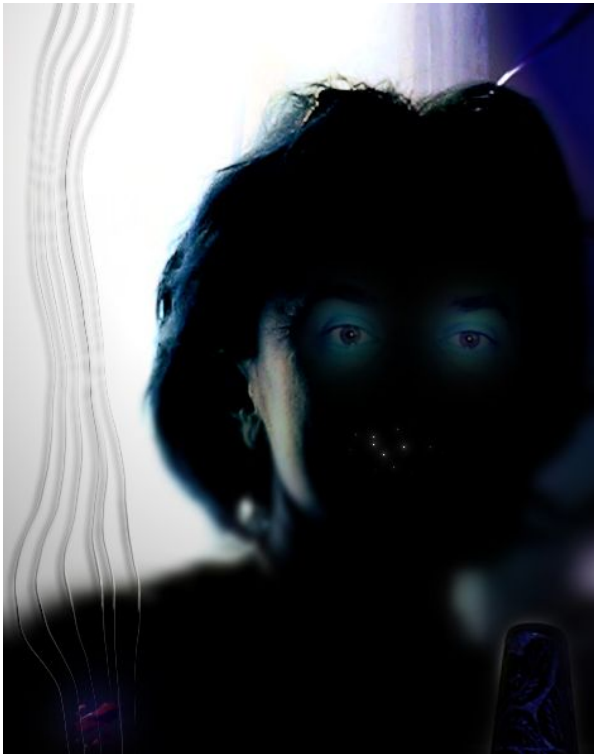
“First Responders”



Despite knowing how important these responses are, only 4 in 10 schools offer any sexual assault training, and this training, when it does exist, is usually offered only to resident advisers.

- ◆ Assaulted students are most likely to report the incident to their friends first.
- ◆ It is these confidants who often help the victim recognize that they have been assaulted.
- ◆ Let the victim talk about the incident but don't force a discussion. Listen non-judgmentally and suggest actions (medical, psychological, etc.), but let the victim decide what action to take.

Anonymous Reporting



Most schools have a hotline you can call to report an assault. If not, there will be a form to fill out.

- ◆ Anonymous reporting encourages victims to come forward.
- ◆ This reporting allows the assault to be “counted” while allowing the victim time to decide whether to file an official report.
- ◆ 84% of schools offer confidential reporting, but only 46% offer anonymous reporting.
- ◆ If victimized, seek medical attention to 1) treat any injuries you may have obtained and 2) collect evidence you’ll need if you choose to prosecute later.

What discourages victims from reporting?



- ◆ $\frac{3}{4}$ of schools have drug and alcohol policies.
 - Students may worry that reporting an assault could get them in trouble if drugs or alcohol were involved.
- ◆ Some students simply may not want to participate in the prosecution of the crime (as $\frac{1}{3}$ of schools still require), and others may not be certain that they can prove a crime occurred.
- ◆ Victims often deal with shame and self-blame after an assault, and this may inhibit reporting as well.

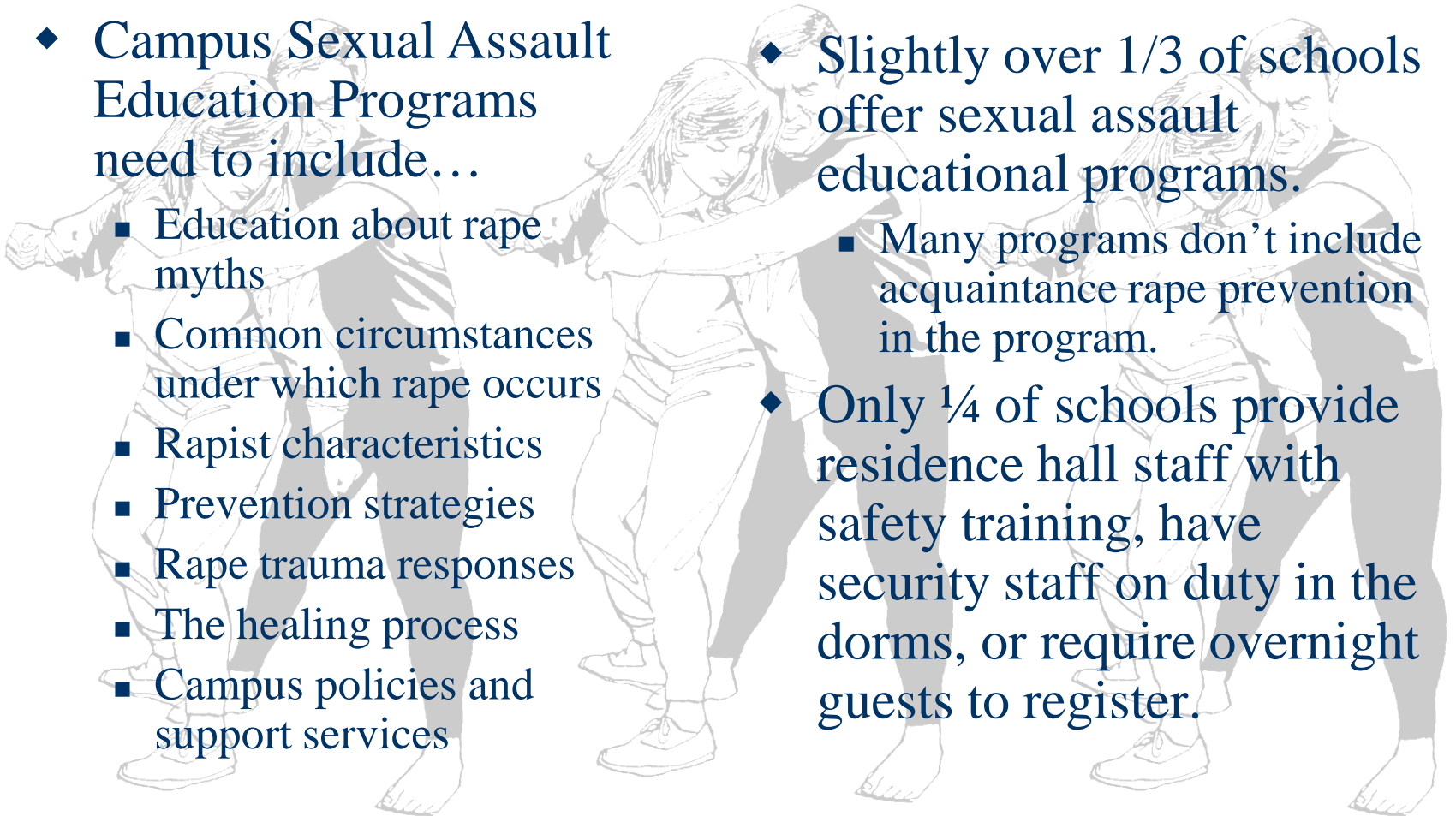
Campus Prevention Efforts

◆ Campus Sexual Assault Education Programs need to include...

- Education about rape myths
- Common circumstances under which rape occurs
- Rapist characteristics
- Prevention strategies
- Rape trauma responses
- The healing process
- Campus policies and support services

◆ Slightly over 1/3 of schools offer sexual assault educational programs.

- Many programs don't include acquaintance rape prevention in the program.
- ◆ Only 1/4 of schools provide residence hall staff with safety training, have security staff on duty in the dorms, or require overnight guests to register.



More Research Needed



- ◆ More research is needed into the perpetration of stranger-rape myths, the relationship between sexual assault victims and assailants, the use of alcohol before assaults, and all other contributory factors.

Information For This Report



- ◆ Most of the factual information in this presentation was obtained from a 1999 study conducted by the National Institute of Justice as seen in the December 05 U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice booklet.
 - www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij

The Warren County Prosecutor's Office



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- ◆ Additional information about sexual assault can be found on the Warren County Prosecutor's website

www.co.warren.oh.us/Prosecutor