

* Sexual Violence, Slut Shaming, and Suicide Prevention



* Objectives

- * Identify the intersections of sexual violence and suicide.
- * Gain an increased understanding of the role and importance of primary prevention of sexual violence and suicide.
- * Increase understanding of community resources to support the primary prevention of sexual violence and suicide.

“Sexual violence is any type of sexual activity committed by one person without the consent of the other. It involves the use of threats, force, or any other form of coercion or intimidation. Sexual contact with a person who is **unable to give consent** is also considered sexual violence.”

MECASA



* Sexual Violence: Umbrella term

- * Sexual harassment
- * Gender-based bullying
- * Sexual coercion
- * Commercial sexual exploitation
- * Sex trafficking
- * Child sexual abuse
- * Elder sexual abuse
- * Drug- and alcohol-facilitated sexual assault
- * Sexual assault
- * Sexual violence in an intimate partner relationship
- * Any power differential which makes sexual violence inappropriate or illegal – e.g., teacher-student or doctor-patient

*SV Impact: Long-Term Response

*Survivors often report experiencing....

- Denial and self-doubt
- Self-blame
- Guilt, shame, embarrassment
- Anger
- Fearfulness
- Phobias
- Low self-esteem
- Sexual concerns
- Self-medication
- Insecurity
- Dissociation
- Emotional numbness
- Memory loss
- Flashbacks
- Isolation
- Hyper-vigilance
- Increased startle response
- Difficulty concentrating
- Irritability
- Feeling out of control
- Trust and intimacy issues
- Suicidal thoughts

*Defining Slut Shaming

“When we insult a woman because she expresses her sexuality in a way that we don’t like or approve of.”

-Laci Green

What is missing from this definition?

* Social Media

*** What are the negative impacts of social media? What are the positive impacts of social media?**

* Cyberbullying

* What is it?

* How often does it happen?

* At what stage do adults hear about it?

During the past 12 months, have you ever been electronically bullied?
(Count being bullied through email, chat rooms, instant messaging, websites, or texting.)

Sexuality of student	Percentage of students
Heterosexual	18.8%
Gay/Lesbian	40%
Bisexual	48.8%
Not sure	32.2%

Maine CDC. (2013). Maine Integrate Youth Health Survey: High School Detailed Report. Retrieved from <https://data.mainepublichealth.gov/miyhs/report-fact-sheets>



* **What if we do
nothing?**

* What happens when we combine the impacts of sexual violence and shaming women & girls victims/survivors of sexual violence in a public space?

*Rehtaeh Parsons

“People texted her all the time, saying ‘Will you have sex with me?’” she (her mother) remembered. “Girls texting, saying ‘You’re such a slut.’” - Herald News, 4.9.13 <http://goo.gl/uvC2f>



"On March 3, Rehtaeh posted a photo of herself on Facebook next to a quote from Martin Luther King Jr.: 'In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.'" - Ibid.

* Audrie Pott

"She killed herself on September 10, 2012 — eight days after she was allegedly sexually assaulted after passing out at party." The Wire, 4.12.13, <http://goo.gl/iJtNOc>



"That photo apparently made its way around the party by way of text messaging and email and, eventually, to Facebook, where Pott's family says she ended up posting her own message — 'worst day ever' — before taking her own life." - Ibid.

* Daisy Coleman

Three suicide attempts - most recently in January 2014.



"I had let her go to a party with a friend, she was there for an hour and a half. Then she came home and saw Facebook. (One girl) decided to write something saying 'you're a fake and a phoney,' 'you wanted it' and 'you're a slut' because she went to the party," Dr. Coleman said. - Daily Mail, 1.6.14 <http://goo.gl/glekPg>

* A note about gender....

Men and boys experience sexual violence as well, although at a lower rate than women and girls.

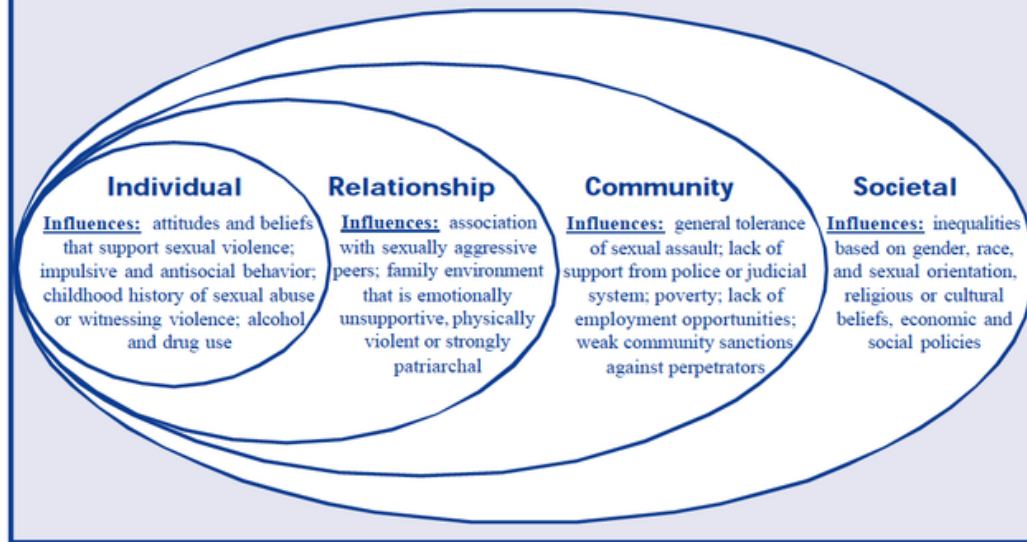
Over one-quarter of male victims of completed rape experienced their first rape at or before the age of 10.

Black, M.C., et al. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



* Sexual Violence Primary Prevention

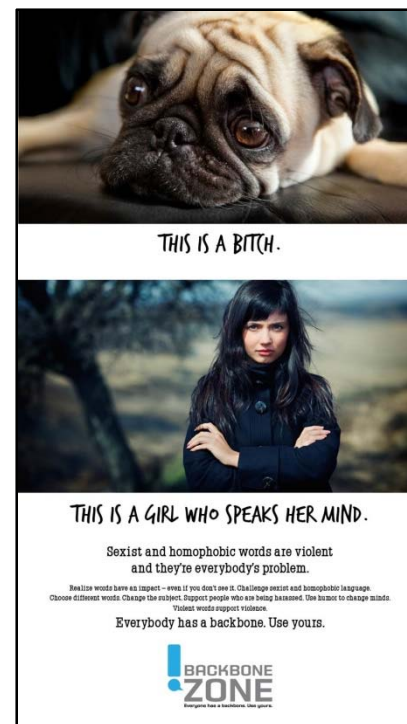
Table 1. The Ecological Model



Beyond "what can the victim do to prevent sexual violence against them?" to "what can we all do to prevent sexual violence?"

Sexual violence is a public health issue.

* Sexual Violence Primary Prevention



*Suicide Primary Prevention



The public health approach to suicide prevention focuses on identifying broader patterns of suicide and suicidal behavior throughout a group or population.

*Suicide Primary Prevention

L.D. 609/Public Law Chapter 53: An Act to Increase Suicide Awareness and Prevention in Maine Public Schools

The training and education will include suicide prevention awareness education for all personnel and more advanced suicide prevention and intervention training for at least 2 persons per school district.

*Primary Prevention

What do both sexual violence primary prevention & suicide primary prevention have in common?

* Primary Prevention

- * Both about decreasing risk factors and increasing protective factors.
- * Both sexual violence & suicide can be prevented by:
 - * increasing community connectedness
 - * increasing positive adult presence in adolescents' lives
 - * cultural norms change which support health, healthy relationships, healthy sexuality, self-esteem, conflict resolution, etc.

*Remember:

- * Sexual violence & suicide are preventable.
- * Prevention opportunities require community involvement, support, and action.
- * Services cannot exist in a vacuum and must support each other.

*What You Can Do

*Partner!

Maine's sexual violence prevention educators: www.mecasa.org

Boys to Men: www.maineboystomen.org

Add Verb Productions: www.addverbproductions.org

Hardy Girls, Healthy Women: www.hghw.org

NAMI Maine: www.namimaine.org

Co-Occurring Collaborative Serving Maine: www.ccsme.org

Statewide Sexual Assault Crisis and Support Line:

1-800-871-7741 or TTY 1-888-458-5599

Free, confidential, 24/7



*Questions?

Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault

www.mecasa.org

207-626-0034

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