SA 101: Foundations of Sexual Assault
For Deaf / Deaf Blind / Hard of Hearing Service Providers
Today’s agenda

01 Intro
   NCCASA and sexual assault 101

02 Prevalence
   Commonalities in sexual assault

03 Impact
   Impact on survivors

04 Resources
   How to get help
About me

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She/ her/ hers
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The North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault is an inclusive statewide alliance working to end sexual violence through education, advocacy, and legislation.

www.nccasa.org
NCCASA as a statewide coalition uses a social justice framework. Therefore our work is done from a strong intersectional, social justice perspective. By centering our work around marginalized communities, everyone is served.
Our Work

Organize and sponsor statewide trainings related to sexual violence

Support rape crisis programs

Resource sharing and technical assistance

Legislative agendas and policy change (local and national level)

Colleges and universities

Prevention education

Anti-human trafficking outreach
Acknowledgements

• Not all women are victims
• Not all men are harmdoers
• Any gender can be a victim
• Any gender can be a harmdoer
What is sexual assault?

Any unwanted sexual contact

Sexual Assault is an umbrella term that includes many things
What is sexual assault?

Sexual Assault (SA) / Sexual Violence (SV)

Sexual violence or sexual assault means that someone forces or manipulates someone else into unwanted sexual activity without their consent.

Reasons someone might not be able to consent:

- Fear
- Power dynamic
- Manipulation
- Confusion
- Age
- Illness
- Disability
- Influence of alcohol or drugs
Sexual Violence Can Include:

- Completed sex act without the victim's consent, or involving a victim who is unable to consent or refuse;
- An attempted (non-completed) sex act without the victim’s consent, or involving a victim who is unable to consent or refuse;
- Abusive sexual contact;
- Non-contact sexual abuse.
Types of Sexual Violence

- Rape
- Attempted and completed
- Known and unknown perpetrator
- Penetration by an object
- Touching of a sexual nature
- Groping
- Oral sex
- Child sexual abuse
- Incest
- Someone sharing sexual photos of you without your consent
- Sexual Exploitation/ Human Trafficking
People with disabilities are more than three times as likely to experience violent crime, including rape and sexual assault, than are people without disabilities.

Individuals with multiple disabilities experience 69% of rapes and sexual assaults against all persons with disabilities of any kind.

Individuals with disabilities from all racial or ethnic groups are twice as likely to experience violent victimization as individuals in their racial or ethnic groups that do not have disabilities.
Underrepresented survivors

- LGBTQ folx
- People of color (black, indigenous, Latinx, etc)
- People with disabilities
- Elderly
- People with mental health issues
- People with substance use issues
- Men
Every victim will have a unique response to their assault.

- Age
- Past experience
- Finances
- Insurance
- Gender
- Marital status
- Children
- Friends
- Family
- Sexual orientation
- Health
- Work/school
- Religion
- Culture
Identifying and Responding to Survivor Needs

Survivor Needs

- reporting options
- medical
- housing
- food access
- access to therapeutic services
- help finding a new job
- academic assistance

Some survivors may not know what they need following an assault or disclosure and this is normal! It can be a really overwhelming time and they may just want someone to sit with them.
Responding to Survivors

Supportive Responses

- I believe you
- I’m sorry that happened to you, you did not deserve that and this is not your fault
- That sounds really scary, thank you for trusting me with this information, I’m here for you
- I’m really sorry that happened. What do you feel like you need right now?
Deaf culture

Empower
Improve skills to build confidence to disclose.

Communicate
Find ways to communicate with the survivor. Use a trauma informed approach.

Connect
You may not have all the answers, but work with survivors to connect them to those who can help.
Survivors AND Harmdoers may be a part of:

Within the justice system
Criminal/Legal

May not be participating in any of these, but still affected
Unreported

Relational, community based
Healing/Restorative

Childhood sexual abuse, current situation, longterm
Lifespan
Sexual assault is traumatic. Getting help should not be.

Do the work to truly understand the trauma involved in sexual assault. Engage the survivor in ways that feel best for them. Stay with them throughout the process of getting help to ensure their trust is not broken.
Accessibility

Can be a major barrier in accessing resources for your area. However, EVERY RAPE CRISIS CENTER has the ability to provide access to the same services for ALL survivors.
It’s the law!
How to get help

- Seek out the local program for your area
- Ask for specific information for their referral process
- Look for additional information on their website
- Reach out to your state coalition (us) for help
- Cross train with your local program
- Attend their events
- Invite them to attend your events
Victim service providers have an obligation under federal law to provide accessible services to survivors with disabilities, which includes victims who are Deaf/DeafBlind/Hard of Hearing.

This obligation, however, only outlines the minimum requirements and should never represent any organization’s full effort to be accessible and welcoming to survivors in their communities who are Deaf/DeafBlind/Hard of Hearing.
Many thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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