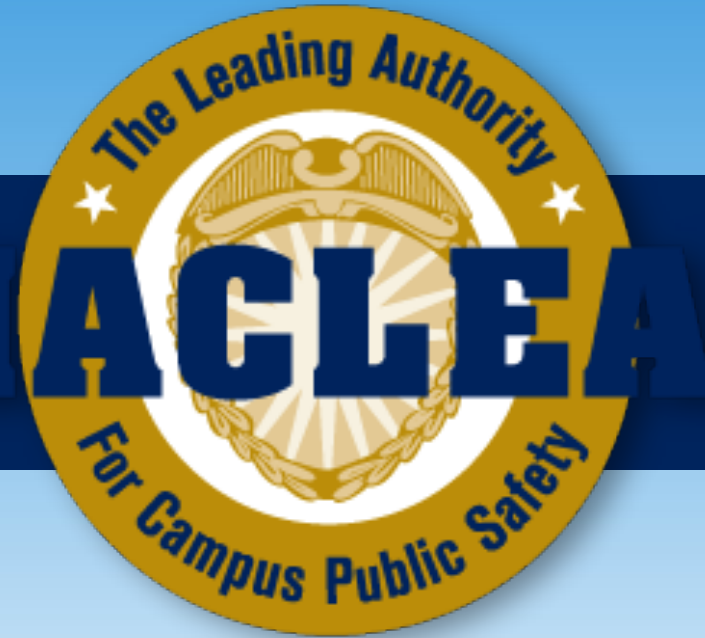
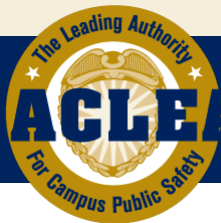
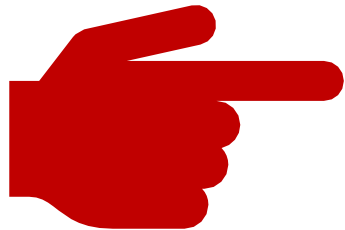


Victim Dynamics

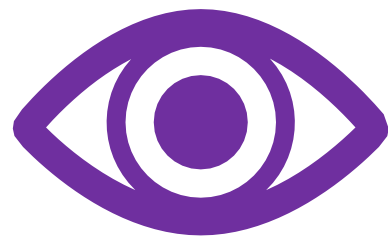




Outline



Victim Blaming



Campus Challenges
And Rape Culture



“Why Didn’t
You Report?”

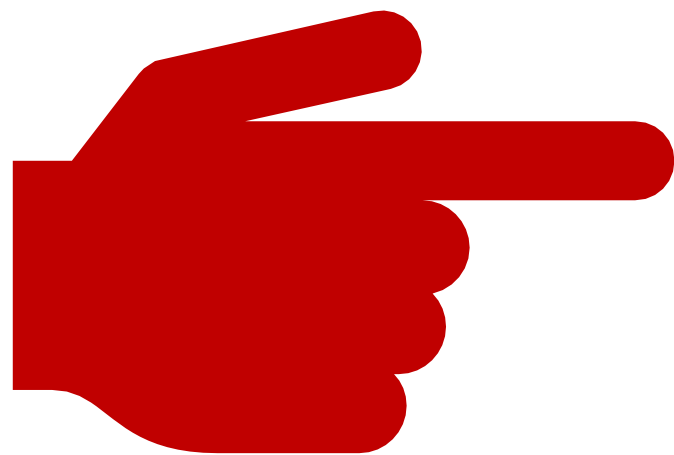
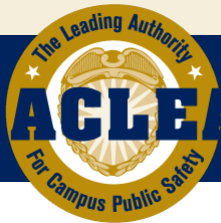


Consent

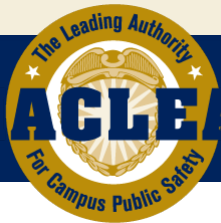


Disclaimer

- Language:
 - We will use the terms “victim” and “survivor” interchangeably, but we do want to acknowledge the importance of following the “person first” model, whereby we would say “person who identifies as a victim” rather than “victim.”



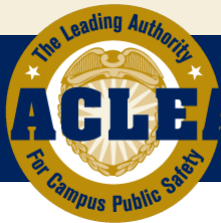
Victim Blaming



VICTIM BLAMING – What Is It?

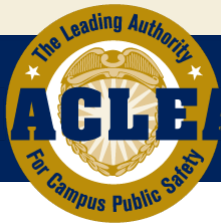
- holding a victim of a crime responsible for the criminal's actions
- Usually this looks like focusing on the victim's choices or behaviors that others see as putting them at a higher risk of being victimized.





Why do people blame victims?

- Victims of sex crimes face a prejudice that other crime victims don't often experience: the belief that they contribute to their own victimization.
- WHY?
 - In groups, discuss reasons why people engage in victim blaming
 - *Consider groups like the criminal justice system, higher ed, family members, friends.*



VICTIM BLAMING – Why Do People Do It?

■ **Victims / Survivors:**

- A way to rationalize
- Regain control/power
- Separate themselves from those who are victimized (avoid stigma)
- Protect self from “labels” and being “a statistic”

■ **Supporters:**

- An attempt to find safety and security in society
- Striving to find something that will keep loved ones “at risk,” safe



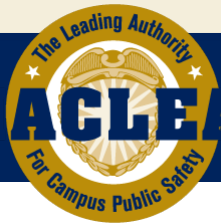
VICTIM BLAMING – Why It’s A Problem

- **Self Blame**

- Consider impact of victim blaming messages that permeate our culture
- Carries immense shame

- **Other (Non Self) Blame**

- Creates a false sense of security
 - “[Victim] didn’t do XYZ. That’s why they were raped. If I just do XYZ, I will be safe.”



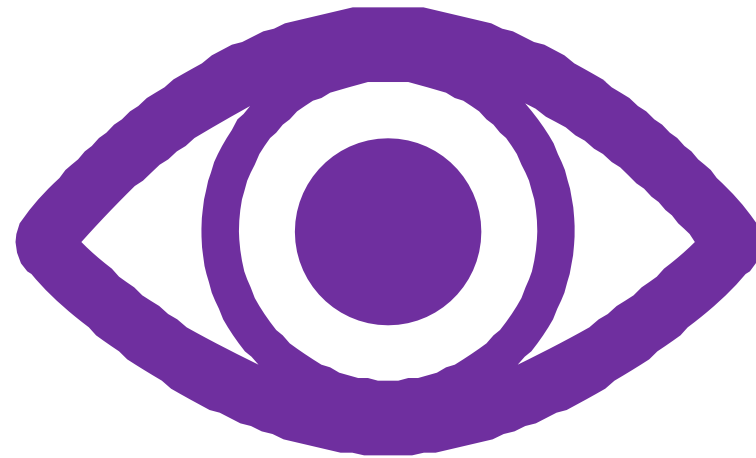
"Can't you control yourself?"

"You're so weak!"

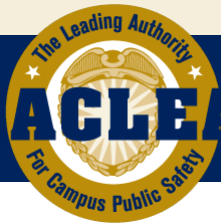


"Stop crying!"

I bet if I was cutting onions I wouldn't tear up like that!"



Campus Challenges & Rape Culture



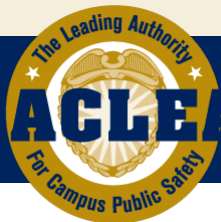
Victim Realities

I was at a party last night and really liked this one guy. We hung out all night and had a great time.

Later we were kissing and fooling around and he wouldn't stop. We had sex, but I really didn't want to and told him no over and over.

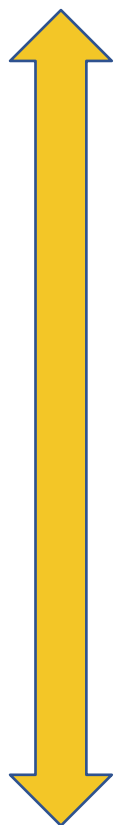
Did I get Raped???





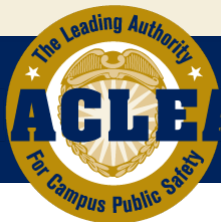
SEXUAL VIOLENCE CONTINUUM

LEAST VIOLENT



MOST VIOLENT

- Sexist jokes
- Sexual objectification
- Jealousy
- Minimizing partner's feelings and needs regarding sex
- Criticizing partner sexually
- Unwanted touch
- Withholding sex and affection
- Sexual labels like "whore" or "frigid"
- Always demanding sex
- Forcing partner to commit humiliating sexual acts
- Cheating
- Forcing partner to watch sexual acts with others
- Demanding sex with threats
- Forcing sex
- Forcing sex with others
- Forcing uncomfortable sex
- Forcing sex after beatings
- Sadism
- Murder



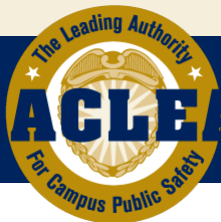
Rape culture =
a culture in which rape is prevalent & pervasive and is sanctioned & maintained through fundamental attitudes/beliefs about gender, sexuality & violence

Rape Culture



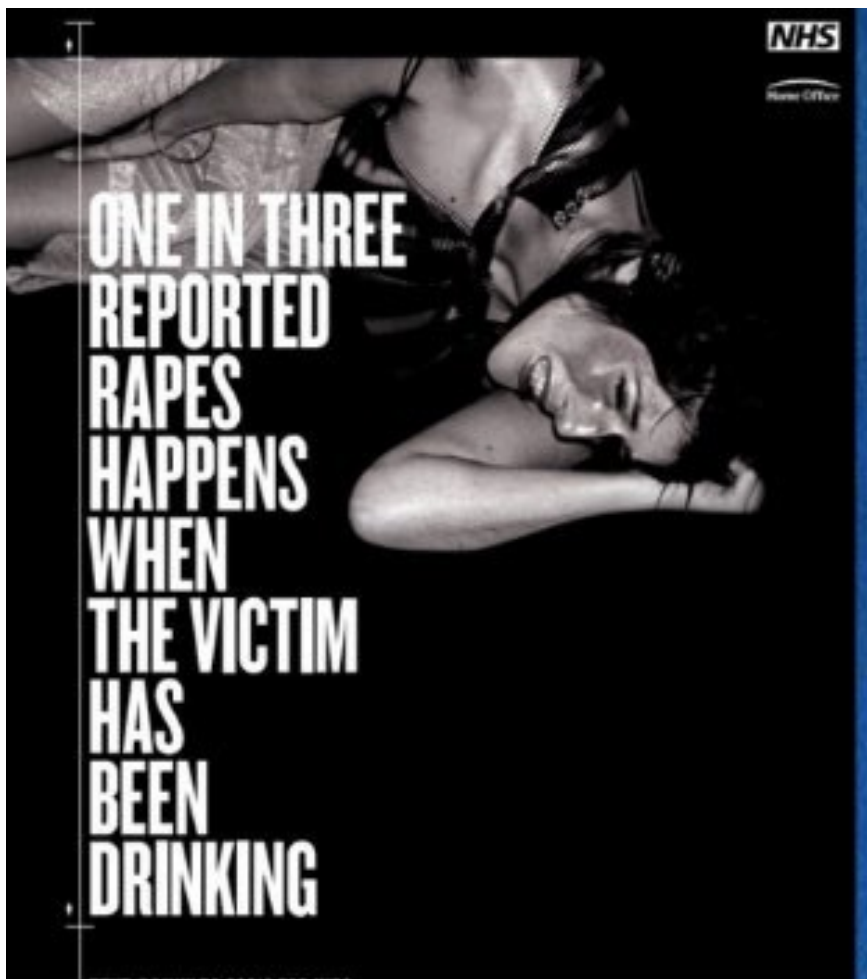
Tolerance of the behaviors at the bottom supports or excuses those higher up. To change outcomes, we must change the culture.





Media, Bias, and Sexual Assault

Think about the subtle messages we learn from media and where to place blame



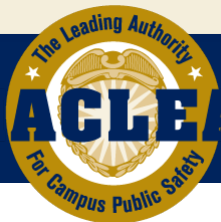


Unique Campus Challenges

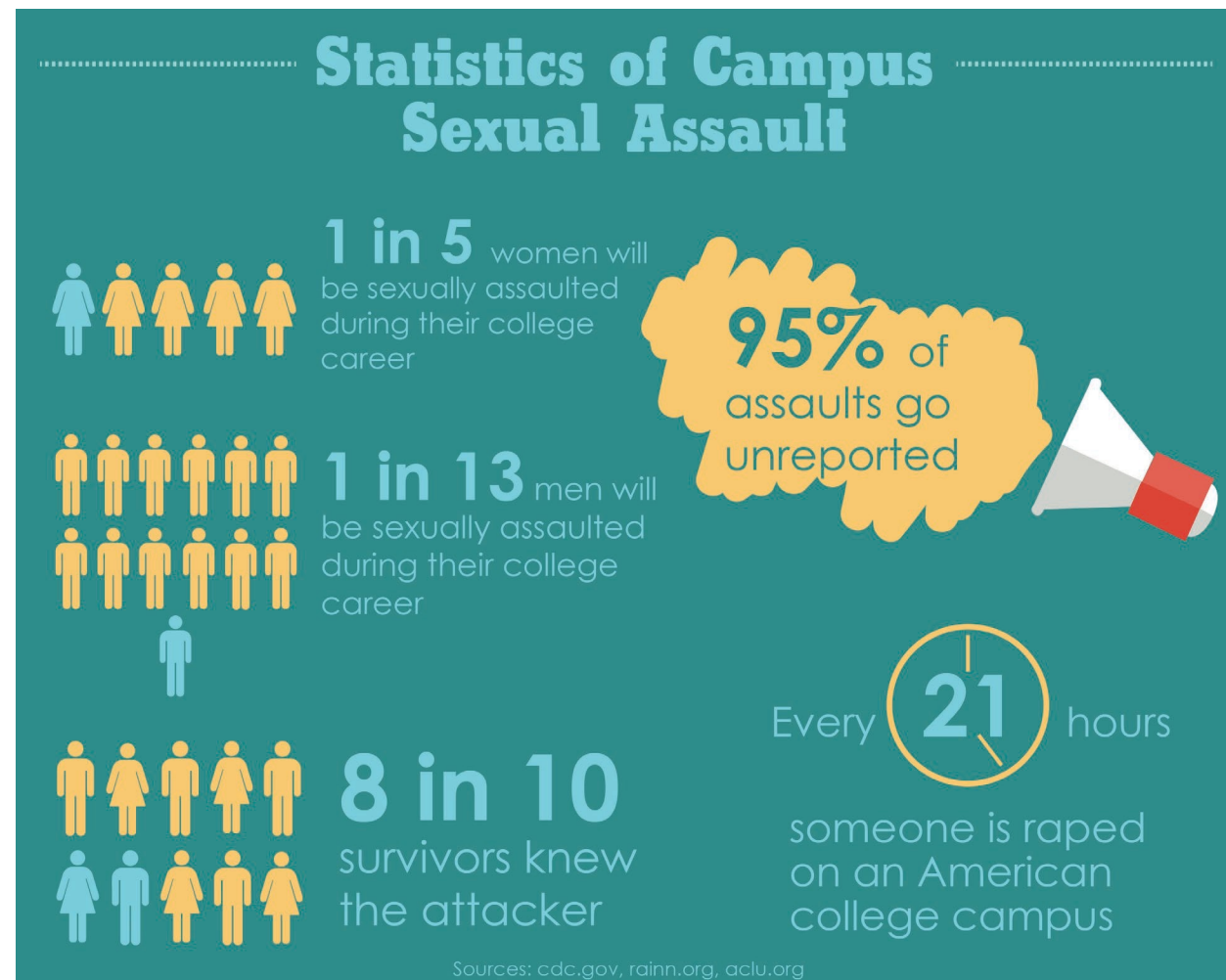
- First (serious) romantic relationships
- Closed environment of campus
- First time away from home/isolated personal support network
- Small/limited social network on campus
- Shared spaces (class, dorms/apartments, & social groups)
- Not perceived as relationship violence by student, peers, or administrators
- Campus specific social networking
- Financial constraints
- Easier access for abusers to stalk survivors
 - Rates on college campus are higher than general public (25% of women & 11% of men)
 - 18-24 year olds have the highest rate of stalking victimization (NCVC)

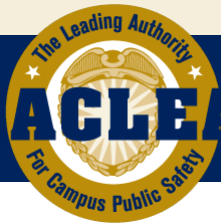


“Why Didn’t You Report?”



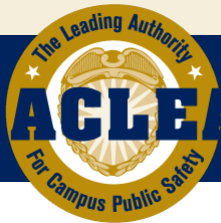
“95% of assaults go unreported”





Generally, why DON'T survivors report?

- Fear of being blamed/judged/not believed
- Difficulty acknowledging event/triggering to use labels like “assault”
- No desire to “become a statistic”
- Uncertain of what happened/was it a crime
- Traumatic response (F/F/F)
- Account of event could be “inconsistent”
- The event itself reinforced sense of worthlessness (“I don’t deserve help/support so I won’t try”)
- Immigration or cultural concerns
- Being “outed” or shamed by family/community (faith-based, etc)



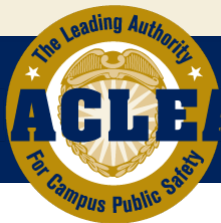
Obstacles to Reporting

- Fear or distrust of law enforcement
- Fear of retaliation for coming forward
- Difficulty in effectively communicating their victimization
- Avoidance in labeling experience/using different labels (“I didn’t physically struggle, so it wasn’t rape”)
- Being “part of a statistic” / having victim blaming messages now apply to them
- Feeling responsible for their involuntary, unconscious survival response (“I didn’t fight back, so I am at fault”)

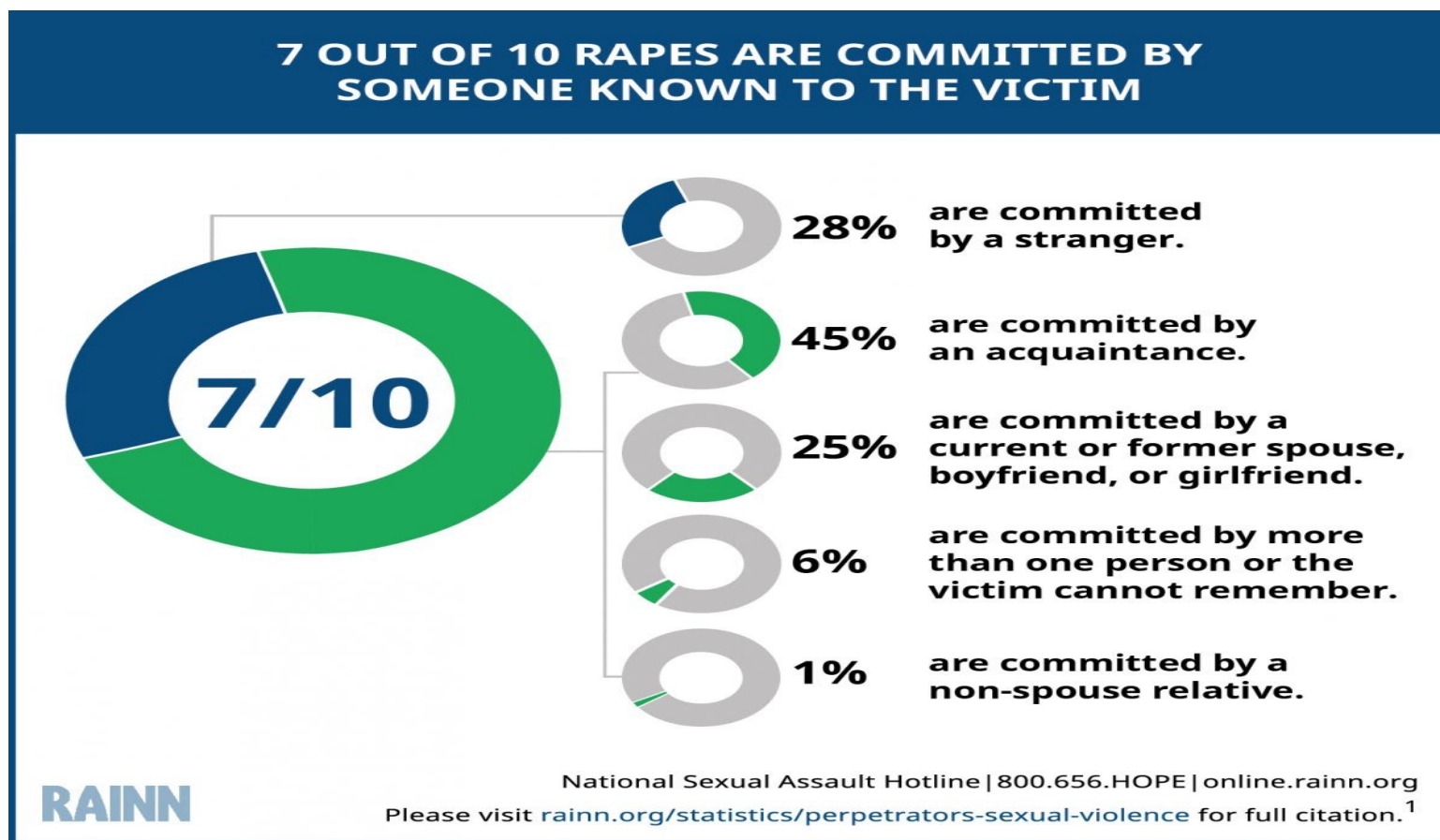


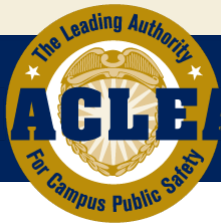
Sexual Assault Stereotypes and their Effects

- “Stranger in the bushes” stereotype
- Avoidance in labeling experience/using different labels (“I didn’t physically struggle, so it wasn’t rape”)
- Result = minimizing own victimization



Relationship to the offender



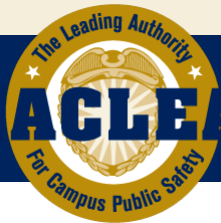


Obstacles to Reporting

- May have been drinking/using drugs
- May have invited the suspect home
- May have consented to some sexual activity

MYTH: Sexual assaults may be incidents of poor judgment, miscommunication or “sex gone bad”.

- This fails to recognize the *premeditated* nature of these crimes and the *pattern of offending* that is common to perpetrators
 - Research with a group of identified sex offenders showed they had committed or attempted rape an average of 5.7 times (Lisak, 1999)



The Facts about False Reports

REFLECT:

What is the percentage of sexual assault reports that are found to be “false?”

REALITY:

Research estimates for the percentage of false reports to be around 2% – 7% - *No higher than any other crime*

“False Reports: Moving Beyond the Issue to Successfully Investigate and Prosecute Non-Stranger Sexual Assault”

By Dr. Kimberly A. Lonsway, SGT Joanne Archambault (Ret), Dr. David Lisak

http://ndaa.org/pdf/the_voice_vol_3_no_1_2009.pdf

Rapists

Reported

Faced Trial

Jailed





False Reports

Regarding the preoccupation with false rape allegations *“It serves to undermine the criminal justice response to rape, thereby permitting serial rapists- who commit the vast majority of rapes- to continue preying on the vulnerable.”*

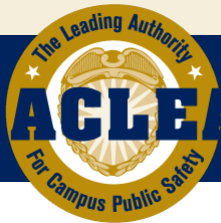
David Lisak,
Department of Psychology
University of Massachusetts, Boston



“Inconsistent” Information

REALITY:

- Trauma can impact the victim’s ability to recall information
- Alcohol and drugs can impair memory
- Victims may be uncomfortable talking about details of the sexual act
- Victims may not want to share details that might affect their credibility
- Victims might have immigration or cultural issues that might lead to some details being omitted



Delayed Reporting

REALITY:

Victims might report days, weeks, months, even years later

- *Not sure if they were raped*
- *Afraid they won't be believed*
- *Blame themselves*
- *Victims fear re-victimization by Campus/University, Police, Criminal Justice System*

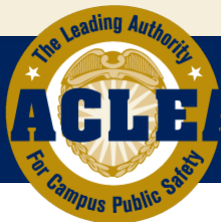


Victim Behavior

REALITY:

Victims Do Not Ask to be Raped

- The victim's flirtatious behavior or dress does not equal consent.
- Intimate contact or a previous sexual relationship does not equal consent.
- Submission does not equal consent.
- Using alcohol or drugs does not equal consent.



Why I Didn't Report



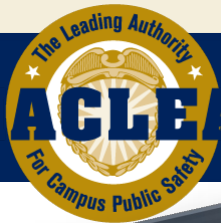


Alcohol Use: The Double Standard

Drinking is often viewed as an excuse or justification for the perpetrator's behavior

Drinking is held against the victim

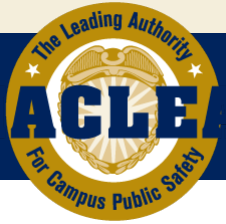
Alcohol or drug use cannot be used by the defendant as an excuse for criminal behavior.



JUST BECAUSE SHE ISN'T SAYING NO...
DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S SAYING YES.



Drinking is not a crime. **Rape is.**



Questions?

Thank you!