Abstract

With the advent of what many are calling the #MeToo era, the topics of sexual assault and harassment have been at the forefront of many conversations throughout society. However, when a story emerges, more often than not discussions tend to tilt towards the perpetrator as opposed to the victim. Sexual violence victimization is particularly nuanced given the technicalities of evidence collection and traumatic impacts on the victim both during and after the attack. This training attempts to cover some of the particularities of sexual violence victimization, including the nuances of victims’ responses to sexual assault, sexual assault evidence, law enforcement reporting challenges, and the role of drugs and alcohol in sexual assault, among others. Participants will leave the training with a better understanding of how to assist victims of sexual violence.
Learning Objectives

- Identify the differences among the various kinds of sexual violence and the impacts that they can have on victims
- Understand the nuances in working with different populations of sexual assault victims, including child victims, male victims, and LGBTQ+ victims
- Explain the various responses victims can demonstrate after experiencing sexual violence, including the role that trauma plays in these responses and how to cultivate trauma-informed practices when interacting with victims.
- Review the challenges that come with reporting sexual assault and the particularities that come with handling sexual assault evidence, especially sexual assault kits.
- Recognize and be able to explain to victims some of the legal challenges and options that are associated with sexual assault cases, including barriers placed by statute of limitations and options available through the civil justice system
- Evaluate community coordinated responses to sexual assault and recognize their importance in providing a comprehensive and trauma-informed response and assistance to sexual assault victims.

Methodology

The training is built on a set of principles designed by assessing a multitude of research and literature on the intersection of sexual assault with various other topics, including the biology of trauma and relevant legislative and judicial measures. This research was conducted extensively and included assessing many sources including published researchers, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, and End Violence Against Women International. This training is designed to be presented as a whole or in parts as deemed most relevant to the site it is being provided to, and can be presented in person or in an electronic format via webinar or other available methods.

Agenda

- What is Sexual Violence?
- Sexual Assault Victims
- Initial/Emergency Response
- Reporting Sexual Assault
- Drug/Alcohol Facilitated Sexual Assault
- Issues in the Courtroom
- Community Coordinated Responses to Sexual Assault
- Victim Support Services