Alcohol and Sexual Violence: The connections

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Let’s sort it out.
Our campuses are unsafe for many

- 25% of college men admit engaging in sexual assault

- 26% of women are assaulted by time they are seniors
  - 2007 Krebs Campus Sexual Assault
Why do we care?

• Life-long consequences for many:
  – Increased health concerns
  – Difficulty completing coursework

• Legal mandate to provide safety

http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/consequences.html
Accepted model

- Committed by people who know the victims/survivors
- They select victims who are vulnerable
- Committed by men against women and other men. Women do assault
- Most men not doing this behavior
- People committing assaults do so repeatedly
Direct Risk Factors

• Masculinity that is hostile towards women

• Attraction to impersonal sex

• Misperception of sexual intent
Indirect Risk Factors

- Childhood victimization
- Subclinical psychopathy
- Alcohol consumption
Community Risk Factors

- Lack of institutional support from police and judicial system
- General tolerance of sexual violence within the community
- Weak community sanctions against sexual violence perpetrators
David Lisak’s Model
Role of alcohol

- Antonia Abbey’s work
- model for alcohol-related acquaintance sexual assault, Abbey 2002
- pdf’s of papers at website
Pre-existing Beliefs

Effects of Alcohol during interactions

Effects of alcohol at point when forced sex is likely
Pre-existing beliefs

• sexual behavior
• aggression
Effects of Alcohol during Heterosocial Interactions

• Biased appraisal of partner’s sexual motives
• Impaired communication
• Misperception of sexual intent
• Peer influences on how to act when drinking
Effects of Alcohol at Point Forced Sex is Likely

- impairs ability to rectify misperceptions
- diminishes ability to resist
- justifies aggressive behavior
Role of Administrators - and all people

• Take sexual violence seriously

• Speak out to change to students’ beliefs about sexual violence

• Do not excuse sexual aggression

• Support survivors
Role of Student Conduct System

Hold students accountable for their sexual aggression
Prevention

A safe learning environment for all
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