



# **Making a Difference**

## **Your Role in Sexual Violence Prevention**



# Introduction

The story:

- In 1964, 38 people witnessed the rape and murder of Kitty Genovese outside of her NYC apartment.
- The attack lasted for over half an hour.
- No one intervened.



# Introduction

Two women were talking on the sidewalk when a car pulled over and the passenger door opened. Inside, a man and woman were arguing loudly. The woman tried to get out of the car, but the man pulled her back in and sped away. One of the women witnessing the event called the police on her cell phone and reported the car's license plate number.



# What is Sexual Violence?

- Any sexual act without consent.
- Consent cannot be obtained when someone is:
  - A minor
  - Incapacitated
  - Has certain disabilities
- Includes rape, fondling, grabbing someone sexually, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic and dating violence, and many other behaviors.

# What is Sexual Violence?

- **1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men** will be victims in their lifetime.
- Hard for us to see as a problem affecting us personally.

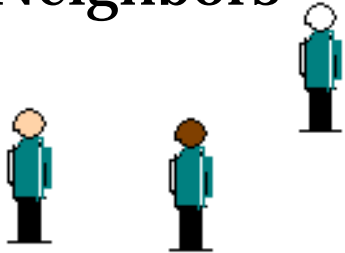


Source: (Tjaden and Thoennes, 2000)



# Who is Impacted?

Neighbors



**Victim**



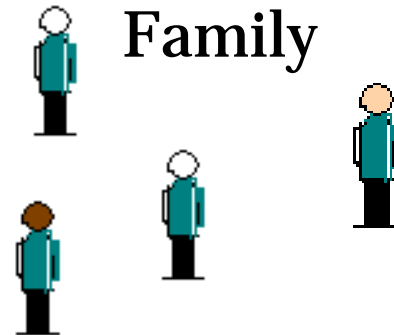
**Perpetrator**



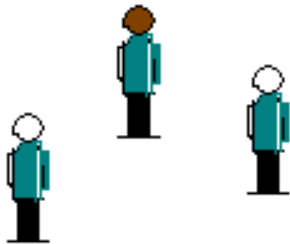
Co-workers



Family



Friends





# What might it look like?

Two teenagers kiss  
in the mall.

A boss sends out an email  
with a “blonde joke” to  
employees.

A woman pressures her  
partner to have sex.

Construction workers  
make comments about  
a woman’s body as she  
walks by.

A man grabs a  
stranger’s behind  
in a bar.



# Range of Behaviors



Healthy, age-appropriate, mutually respectful, safe

Mutually flirtatious, playful

Situation- or age-inappropriate or non-mutual

Harassment

Sexually abusive & violent

*Adapted from Cordelia Anderson*



# What can I say or do?

“Do you need help?”

“Can I walk you home?”

“Are you alright?”

“Do you want me to call someone for you?”

“Should I call the police?”

“Do you want me to talk to so-and-so for you?”

“What can I do to help you?”

“Is everything OK?”



# What can I say or do?

“What you said earlier really bothered me...”

“I don’t like what you just did.”

“I know you well enough to know that you would not want to hurt someone...”

“I wonder if you realize how that feels/comes across.”

“How would you feel if someone did that to your sister?”

“I am saying something because I care about you...”



# In Your Workplace

- What is my company's sexual harassment policy? Does it protect victims from retaliation by abusers?
- How can my workplace collaborate with our local rape crisis center to learn more about this issue?
- How can my company demonstrate to our community that we care about promoting respectful, healthy relationships?

# Let's Practice





## Imagine...

**You are working in a store. Your 39-year-old boss makes some comments to you about a 16-year-old girl in the store. He begins to flirt with her. When she leaves, he laughs and says it's really fine since it's only flirting.**

# Discussion Questions

- What did you see or hear that concerns you?
- How does the situation affect you?
- Someone else?
- What are the risks if you act? Is it dangerous?

# Discussion Questions

- What are my options?
- Can I talk with someone else in a more appropriate position to do something?
- Are there any other resources I need?



# Take-Home Points

- **You** have a role to play in preventing sexual violence.
- There are many opportunities all day long to make a difference in small ways.
- There are many ways to speak up or take action, not just one “right” way.
- Always consider the consequences; if there is immediate danger, call 911.

# Resources

- (INSERT LOCAL INFORMATION HERE)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)
  - Toll Free Phone: 1-877-739-3895
  - Email: [resources@nsvrc.org](mailto:resources@nsvrc.org)
  - Website: [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)



# Acknowledgments

- This presentation was developed in collaboration with Joan Tabachnick, an expert on bystander involvement and author of the book *Engaging Bystanders in Sexual Violence Prevention*.
- Order a free copy of the book from [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org) or call 1-877-739-3895.



**Any Questions?**