

*Reducing and Preventing Violence Against Women:
Implementing Education about sexual assault to
adolescents
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Objectives

Reducing Myths, Attitudes, and Stereotypes Surrounding Sexual Assault

- What is rape? How would you define it? How do others define it? And does the sex of an individual i.e. male or female change the perspective on how rape is defined?
- When is the appropriate age to discuss sex with young adults?
- Where did you first learn about how to view sex? Where did you first learn about sexual assault? If at all!
- The research I have found will present the issue of rape/sexual assault in relation to adolescence, and how education can change people's attitudes on rape, and can decrease the rate at which the incidences occur.

Introduction

- Attitudes About Sexual Assault
 - Parrot (1990) states: Attitude change is necessary to decrease acquaintance rapes.
 - Although there are many miscommunications between the sexes, this factor alone is not the problem; the biggest problem is the myths about rape that not only adolescents believe but society
 - The study, which Kershner conducted, found that the most confusion within the survey given to participants related to female responsibility for rape such as manner of dress, rape fantasy, and provocation (1996)

Education is Important

- “The department of Health and Human Services has strict guidelines about the content of abstinence-only sex education” (Anderson, 2010).
- Education is empowering and can enact change. A little education can go a long way.
- There are very few programs geared toward preventing sexual assault, and there is little empirical evidence as to whether these programs are effective; however, many studies have indicated that these programs lead to an attitude change and a decrease in the endorsement of rape myths

Implications for Social Work Practice

- Based on the research that I have found I conclude that educating middle and high school students about the myths and dangers of sexual assault will help to reduce the incidences of sexual assault that occur within this age group
- Although there are no implications that a change in attitude will decrease sexual assault incidences it is a start.
- As previously mentioned we cannot expect a change in behavior without a change in attitude.

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