TALK ABOUT:
Bystander Intervention
Things to Talk About

What are the warning signs that a sexual assault is about to occur and bystander intervention is needed?

What are effective strategies for preventing sexual assault as a bystander?
HOW TO RECOGNIZE SEXUAL ASSAULT
Part 1: What is Consent?

Consent is:
Voluntary (freely given)
Only Active (not passive)
Informed
Clear
Engaged Permission
Part 2: Acquaintance Rape

90% of college women who were victims of attempted or completed rape knew their attacker.

Acquaintance rape is not an accident. Perpetrator’s often choose the target carefully and plan the assault, involving three different stages:

- Intrusion: accidental touches and stares
- Desensitization: the target dismisses their unease
- Isolation: separates the target from others
Attitudes that Enable Sexual Assault

Victim blaming

– Places partial or complete blame for the assault in the victim

Rape myths

– The idea that “real rape” is only committed by a stranger who ambushes a woman unexpectedly

Studies have shown most men disagree with such attitudes, but are afraid to speak out

– Silence encourages harmful behavior
STRATEGIES FOR INTERVENTION
The best model for preventing sexual assault as a bystander is to:

- Notice the event
- Identify it as an emergency
- Take responsibility
- Decide how to help
- Act to intervene
Specific Steps

• Step in and ask if the person needs help
• Don’t leave
• Have a buddy system, and let your friends know if you’re worried about them
• Ask directly, “Do you need a ride?”
• Find their friends or call 911
• Distract the perpetrator so there’s time to intervene
Bystander Effect

The more people who are there to witness a situation where someone needs help, the less likely it is that someone will actually intervene.

A person’s feeling of responsibility is not as strong when that responsibility is shared by others.
Things to Think About

What are reasons someone might NOT intervene in a situation?

What can we do on campus to overcome these barriers to intervention and create a more supportive campus climate?
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For more resources like this one, including workshops, posters, and online training tailored to prevent sexual assault and substance abuse, visit our website at https://www.campusclarity.com, or call 800-652-9546.