CAMDEN COUNTY
PROSECUTOR’S SEXUAL
ASSAULT NURSE
EXAMINER PROGRAM

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The numbers of women and children victimized both by known and unknown assailants is steadily increasing in the US.

In this country there is one sexual assault on average every two minutes.

Many victims choose not to report assault.
FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT

- Sexual Assault is a violent crime
- It is a crime of power and control which sex is used as a weapon to punish the victim
- Sexual assault is vaginal, oral or anal sex without the victim's consent or with a victim who is unable to consent
FACTS

- Penetration can be by the assailant’s penis, finger or by any object
- One in three girls and one in five boys will be sexually assaulted before age 18

- *84% of sexual assaults are perpetrated by someone the victim knows
- A rape occurs on the average every other day in Camden County
FACTS

- Only 27% of the women whose sexual assault met the legal definition, thought of themselves as victims

- **NO MEANS NO!**

- **DOESN’T MATTER IF SHE DIDN’T RESIST OR FIGHT BACK.**

- Victims can be:
  - Female
  - Male

- Age:
  - Infants to elderly
WHY VICTIMS DON’T REPORT

- Embarrassment

- Lack of faith in follow up and treatment in the health care system

- Fear they will not be believed

- Lack of confidence in the criminal system

- May feel guilty or responsible for being victimized
WHY VICTIMS DON’T REPORT

- Many who have been victimized have been treated with skepticism
- Their actions may have involved risky or illegal behavior
- Some fear offender retaliation
CAMDEN COUNTY SART

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM = SART Team consists of the following:

- SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER
- RAPE CARE ADVOCATE
  - SERV = SERVICES EMPOWERING THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS
  - Serving Camden and Gloucester Counties
- POLICE DEPARTMENTS
SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER

- Formal training Program
- Trained in Forensic photography, colposcopy and genital injury assessments
- Standards Set by State of NJ in 2004
- Legislation passed in 2001
- Advanced certification required by the NJ State Board of Nursing
- Every County in NJ must have a SANE Program according to the State Attorney General Standards
WHY THE NEED FOR SANES?

- Lack of proficiency in forensic evidence collection by ED staff
- ER staff have no formal training in forensics
- Time consuming for busy ED’s
- Multiple professionals examine victim
## PROPORTION (%) OF PROVIDERS WHO CORRECTLY IDENTIFIED GENITALIA

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<td>94</td>
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ADVANTAGES

- **EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS**
  - Prevents long delays in busy ED’s
  - Frees up physicians and nurses
  - SANE Maintains competence in forensic evidence collection

- **Prosecutor’s Office**
  - SANE functions as fact or expert witness
  - SANE can provide useful information
    - *Colposcope photographs*
    - *Increased documentation of injuries*
CURRENT PROGRAMS HAVE SHOWN

- Increase in reported sexual assaults
- Increase in guilty pleas
- Increase in guilty convictions
RAPE CARE ADVOCATE

TRAINED TO ASSIST WITH:

- Escorting victim to the hospital
- Supporting victim through evidentiary exam
- Providing crisis intervention and short term counseling
- Providing information and referrals

SERVICES
EMPOWERING THE RIGHTS OF VICTIMS

SERVING CAMDEN AND GLOUCESTER COUNTIES
ROLE OF POLICE OFFICER

- Team interview
- Conduct criminal investigation
- Apprehend Assailant
- Provide safety to the victim
PURPOSE OF TEAM INTERVIEW

- **Victim Centered Approach**
  - Minimize number of times victim must report details of the incident
  - Details can be traumatizing and embarrassing
EVIDENTIARY EXAM CRITERIA

- Victim is 13 years old, under age of 13 done on a case by case basis by a pediatric trained SANE

- Assault window should be within 5 days of assault

- The victim consents to the evidentiary exam
CONSENT ISSUES

- All patients 13 and above must consent to this exam. It is not the parents or police say so.

- Victims who are unable to consent due to trauma, temporary mental condition or developmental delay, must have next of kin or court order to perform exam.
HOW SART IS ACTIVATED

- Victim arrives in the Emergency Department
- Police escorts victim to Emergency Department
- Victim is referred to the Emergency Department from Rape Crisis Hot Line

- Triage Nurse pages:
  - On call SANE and SERV advocate
  - Police with consent of victim
FIRST RESPONDERS

- Believe them
- Words
- Facial expressions
- Body Language
FIRST RESPONDERS

- Ask patient to refrain from:
  - EATING
  - DRINKING
  - SMOKING
  - CHEWING GUM
  - WASHING IN ANY WAY
  - VOIDING

- All emergency medical care supersedes SANE exam
SART INTERVIEW

- Conducted in a private room
- Conducted prior to evidentiary exam
- Interview conducted in the presence of SANE and SERV advocate and Law Enforcement, if victim consents
- Law Enforcement may tape interview eliminating victim returning for taped statement at later time
INTERVIEW

- Forensic interview determines the type of exam
- Detailed information is elicited from victim about the type of assault
- Determine when the sexual assault occurred: Our window of opportunity is five days in order to do a forensic kit.
- DFSA 48 hours to collect blood and up to five days for urine.
FORENSIC EVIDENCE

- Victim acts as crime scene
- Evidence is transferred from the doer to the victim
- Collection of evidence is guided by the interview whenever possible
- Physical evidence which can scientifically be matched with a known individual or item
PATIENT’S ACTIVITIES SINCE ASSAULT

- Urinated, Defecated
- Ate, Drank
- Vomited
- Bathed, Showered, Douched
- Brushed Teeth/Gargled
- Changed Clothes
- Had any consensual sex within last five days and if so was a condom used.
FORENSIC EVIDENCE

- EVIDENCE INCLUDES HEAD TO TOE EXAMINATION:
  - Fingerprints
  - Footprints
  - Body fluids
  - Hair and fibers
  - Collect as evidence and bagged up clothing that is relevant to assault
  - Blood and Urine, if possible Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault
DNA

CAN BE FOUND
- Blood stains
- Flesh
- Seminal fluid
- Saliva
- Hair
- Perspiration stains

NO TWO PEOPLE HAVE THE SAME DNA EXCEPT IDENTICAL TWINS
FORENSIC EXAMINATION AND EVIDENCE COLLECTION:

EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURES
FORENSIC EQUIPMENT

- Equipment is kept locked and secured
- Colposcope
- Digital Camera
- Alternate Light Source
- Swab Dryer
- Evidence Collection Kits
- Misc. supplies
- **GLOVES** – worn and changed frequently throughout exam
ROOM SET-UP
COLPOSCOPE & COMPUTER
FORENSIC EQUIPMENT
SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EVIDENCE COLLECTION KIT – “SAFE” KIT

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION KIT

CHECK OFF EACH ITEM OF EVIDENCE PLACED INTO THE EVIDENCE KIT

- Debris
- Underpants
- Dried Secretions
- Public Hair Comblings
- External Genital Specimen
- Vaginal Swabs/Slide
- Cervical Swabs/Slide
- Anal Swabs/Slide
- Buccal Swabs
- Other Evidence

CHAIN OF CUSTODY OF SEALED EVIDENCE KIT

- Head Hair Comblings
- Oral Swabs/Slide
- Fingernail Swabs

TREAT SEALED KIT AND CLOTHING AS EVIDENCE: STORE IN SECURE LOCATION

PRINT NAME | SIGN NAME | AGENCY | DATE

AFTER BIOHAZARD STICKER HERE
DEBRIS COLLECTION

The flap of each envelope must be initialed by the individual sealing the envelope.
DEBRIS COLLECTION

- Collect debris from body and clothing
- Use separate collection paper for each area of debris
- Individual papers are sealed, labeled and packaged together in Debris Envelope
CLOTHING COLLECTION

✓ Collect clothing worn at time of the assault:

- SANE collects at time of exam
- Police collect from scene
CLOTHING COLLECTION

If victim has **changed clothes**:

- Collect the Underwear worn **after** the assault
  
  - Up to 5 days
  
  - Secretions drain
SKIN SURFACE ASSESSMENT

✓ Head-to-toe assessment
✓ Document complaints of pain or discomfort
✓ Document External Injuries and Findings
  • Written description
  • On Body Diagram
  • Photograph (with & without ruler)
✓ Document positive ALS Findings
BODY DIAGRAMS

- Document injuries and findings
- Distinguish pre-existing injuries from those resulting from the assault
- Note “+ALS” findings
INJURIES AND FINDINGS

- Document cuts, lacerations, bruises, abrasions, redness, swelling, bites, burns, scars, stains and foreign material
- Record size, color and appearance of all injuries
- Photograph with and without ruler
Injuries that occur from foreign objects will often leave specific patterns or markings:
- Ropes
- Cords
- Belts and belt buckles
- Shoes
- Kitchen tools

Differs from a Pattern of injury. Injuries in various stages of healing including new and old scars, fractures, contusions and wounds.
BITE MARKS

- Photograph using Bite Mark (ABFO) Ruler
- Photograph at 90° angle
- Swab Bite Marks for saliva/DNA of Offender
- Follow county policy for consulting Forensic Odontologist
BITE MARKS
ALTERNATE LIGHT SOURCE (ALS)
AIDS IN VISUALIZING DRIED SECRETIONS
POSITIVE ALS FINDINGS:
POSITIVE ALS FINDINGS

- Some body fluids fluoresce
  - Semen, Saliva, Urine
- Non-body fluids may also fluoresce
  - Soaps, Lotions, Powders
  - Substances must be identified by laboratory testing
ORAL SWABS AND SMEAR

- Swab mouth to collect DNA of Offender
  - Only done if oral assault reported or suspected
  - Saliva sample from Victim not needed
INSPECT LIPS, TEETH, GUMS AND MOUTH FOR INJURIES
HANDS AND FINGERNAILS

- Inspect hands for injuries
- Swab under nails for DNA of Offender
  - No cutting or scraping needed
  - Swabbing vs. scraping:
    - More likely to get DNA from just the offender, instead of mixed with victim’s DNA
  - Can perform this step even if washed hands
HISTORY

- Was the patient strangled?
  - Look for fingernail marks under the chin
  - Inspect mouth and lips for trauma or residual adhesive material
  - Scratches, tenderness, swelling
  - Facial petechiae over the face, eyelids
  - Retinal hemorrhages
PHYSICAL SIGNS OF RESTRAINT

- Depends on the tightness and length of time of restraint

- Lack of injuries may be affected by fear to resist
FORENSIC PELVIC INSPECTION

- Designed to detect trauma
- Must differentiate between disease and trauma
- Only 20-32% of sexual assault victims have evidence of genital trauma
- Current research underway looking at injury from sexual assault at University of Penn. Dr Lynn Sommer is studying elasticity of skin, race and ages of participant, pre and post consensual sex
Injuries can be photographed with attached digital camera

Can photograph external and internal genital areas
FOR FEMALE VICTIMS:

- Pubic Hair Combing, External Genital Specimen, Anal, Rectal, Vaginal and Cervical Specimens/speculum used only on post-pubertal females
FOR MALE VICTIMS:
PUBIC HAIR COMBING, EXTERNAL GENITAL SPECIMEN, ANAL AND RECTAL SPECIMENS
PUBIC HAIR COMBINGS

✓ Comb hair to collect debris, hairs, trace evidence of Offender

✓ Catch debris in paper

✓ Paper and comb are both put in envelope

➢ Pull ed hairs from victim not needed
LACERATIONS OF THE FOSSA NAVICULARIS AND POSTERIOR FOURCHETTE ON ELDERLY FEMALE

FIGURE 2-16 Lacerations with Toluidine Blue dye uptake (35mm).
NORMAL HEALTHY CERVIX
CERVICAL LACERATION WITH BLOOD ACCUMULATION
HYMEN
MYTHS AND TRUTHS

- SANES do not perform **VIRGIN** checks.
- A hymen is a fold of tissue in the lower entrance to the vagina, that comes in different shapes and changes with puberty, becomes more elastic after puberty.
- Hymenal injury in prepubertal and adolescent girls tend to heal rapidly often leaving no evidence of trauma.
- Hymenal measurements are rarely used as a diagnostic tool.
HYMEN DOCUMENTATION

- Note the presence or absence of mounds, notches, transactions/lacerations, bruises and/or abrasions on hymenal rim.

- **Do not measure hymenal openings** – varying diameters are non-specific findings.
Normal Hymen

Imperforate Hymen

Microperforate Hymen

Septate Hymen
VAGINAL AND CERVICAL SPECIMENS
ANAL SWABS AND SMEAR:

- Use 2 swabs to collect specimen from anal folds and anal opening

- Routinely done
  - Victim may not admit anal contact
  - Secretions from vaginal area tend to drain to this area
PERIANAL LACERATIONS AND REDNESS: LACERATIONS AT 10 AND 12 O’CLOCK
RECTAL SPECIMENS: SWABS AND SMEAR

- Only collect if anal assault reported or suspected
- Rectal specimens new addition to 2004 Kit.
- Added to help determine anal penetration vs. anal contact
BUCCAL SWABS FOR DNA CONTROL

The flap of each envelope must be initialed by the individual sealing the envelope.
BUCCAL CONTROL SWABS

- Done to collect Victim’s DNA reference sample
- Inside of cheek (Buccal area) swabbed to collect skin cells
- Victim rinses mouth before swabbing

✓ **Blood sample from victim not needed**
DRUG-FACILITATED SEXUAL ASSAULT

“Red flags” for DFSA
- Loss of time
- Loss of memory, flashes of memory
- Level of intoxication greater than expected for amount of alcohol/drugs ingested

Must be physical signs, other indications, or strong suspicion that sexual assault/contact occurred
TIME FRAME FOR DFSA TESTING

- If < 48 hours since possible ingestion, collect both:
  - Blood – 30 ml in Gray Top Tubes
  - Urine – 60 to 100 ml
TIME FRAME FOR DFSA TESTING

- If > 48 hours since possible ingestion:
  - Only collect **Urine**, 60-100 ml
  - Blood sample is not necessary
EVIDENCE MUST BE THOROUGHLY DRIED

- Swab Dryer speeds drying
- Simply blows air – not heated or cooled
- **Do not refrigerate** “SAFE” Kit:
  - Evidence is dry
  - Refrigeration causes condensation (moisture)
Evidence must be properly labeled, packaged and sealed – SANE cannot leave evidence unattended
CUSTODY OF SAFE KIT/EVIDENCE

- Done according to County procedure

- If Victim *Reporting* to police at time of exam:
  - SAFE kit/evidence given directly to law enforcement at time of exam, or
  - Secured until picked up by law enforcement

- If Victim *Not Reporting* at time of exam:
  - Outside of Kit labeled “Jane (or John) Doe”
  - Kit/evidence handled according to county procedures for storing evidence for mandatory “90 day” hold
AFTER THE EXAM

- Pregnancy prophylaxis (tested first)
- STD prophylaxis
- Replacement clothing, if needed
- Discharge instructions/Information:
  - Follow-up referrals
  - Victim-Witness services
  - Rape Crisis services
  - Confidential SART Survey Form
ONCE EVIDENCE IS TURNED OVER TO POLICE

- If assault was committed in NJ it will be turned over to the State Police Crime Lab in Hamilton Twp, N.J.

- If assault was committed outside of NJ it will be sent via FedEx to the police dept. who is investigating the crime.
CODIS-COMBINED DNA INDEX SYSTEM

- Used for linking serial crimes and unsolved case with repeat offenders
- Launched in October 1998
- Links all 50 states
- All 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th degree felony convictions are mandated to have their DNA entered in CODIS
- Signed into law by the NJ AG November 2008 new FBI VICAP DATABASE
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SAFE KIT AND THE EVIDENCE COLLECTION PROCESS, PLEASE CONTACT:

- Your County SANE Coordinator through your County Prosecutor’s Office, or
- The SART/SANE Unit in the NJ Division of Criminal Justice at 609-984-7346

Some Photos taken from:
- “Quick Reference Sexual Assault” by Giardino, Datner, Asher, Girardin, Faugno, and Spencer.
- “Color Atlas of Sexual Assault” by Girardin, Faugno, Seneski, Slaughter, and Whelan.
THANK YOU!