


SECTION 4: THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY

25 Minutes



Lecture Content	Teaching Notes
<p>TOPIC: INTRODUCTION (10 minutes)</p> <p>LEARNING OBJECTIVES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ To identify the rationale for community members' involvement in the community's response to sexual assault, including the management of sex offenders.❑ To learn about places community members can contact to get more involved in reducing sexual assault and promoting the effective management of sex offenders in their communities.	<p><i>Please note that this section of the curriculum is intended to be used in situations where participation of community members in sex offender management is a desired goal, and where (as mentioned in Section 3 previously) there is a specialized approach to sex offender management in place.</i></p> <p>➤ Use Slides #1-3: Title and Learning Objectives</p> <p><i>You may have to remind the audience that, as previously discussed, the management of sex offenders can be effective if it is coordinated with the community. As long as sex offenders are released back to the community, the community is needed to help create an environment that promotes safety.</i></p>

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<p>program in the schools, a religious community, or other setting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out what the statistics on child sexual abuse, adult sexual assault, offender arrest, and incarceration are in your community. • Beware of the media’s ability to sensationalize the most horrific of stories concerning the sexual assault of children or adults. These stories, while real and very frightening, are not the norm. <p>COMMUNITY RESOURCES</p> <p>A number of local resources exist to help you answer these questions as well as help you get involved in educational and prevention activities about sexual assault in your community. We do not have time to review all of these resources now, but we have collected information from them so that you can contact them.</p>	<p> Refer to Handouts: <i>National Resources on Sexual Assault are included in the participant materials provided with this curriculum. However, it will be particularly important to refer to and distribute any materials from local organizations you have gathered in preparation for the training.</i></p>



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<p>TOPIC: HOW CAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS HELP SUPPORT THE GOALS OF SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT? (5 minutes)</p> <p>Community members may be involved in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accept that sex offenders will and do live in communities. As has been stated repeatedly today, it is not feasible to incarcerate all offenders for life. Therefore, we must recognize that sex offenders living among us is a fact of life and we should be proactive in responding to that fact.• Understand that safely supervising sex offenders in communities is complex but necessary. The strategies that are emerging as promising for preventing individual offenders from reoffending are not simple. Unfortunately, there is no single solution for ending sexual assault.• Refrain from ostracizing sex offenders or their families. When sex offenders or their families are ostracized, the stress that is created can only slow their progress in treatment and may jeopardize their willingness to comply with registration laws and/or conditions of supervision.• Use available channels for expressing concerns. If community members have a concern about a particular sex offender, the information should be brought to the attention of the offender’s supervision officer or other legal authorities immediately. If there is not a satisfactory response, call on the officer’s supervisor. Attempts to confront, harass, or shame a sex offender into compliance can backfire. First, such efforts often have as great an impact on innocent	<p>➤ Use Slides #7-8: How Community Members Can Help</p> <p><i>The Trainer should be prepared to field many questions from participants about their role in the management of sex offenders, and about the specific practices in place in this jurisdiction. Allow time for discussion.</i></p>

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<p>family members as they do on the offender; and second, the kind of stress, fear, and humiliation of such experiences can increase the possibility of reoffense.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate yourself and loved ones about the dangers of sexual assault. As was discussed earlier, many of us as parents and as women hold fears about sexual assault that are based on misconceptions. To protect yourself and loved ones it is important that you know what the actual dangers are. • Help to educate neighbors and friends, in an attempt to give the sex offender a better chance at successful reintegration. It is essential, given the breadth of sexual assault, that sex offenders be given the tools and support to reintegrate and contribute productively to society. • Assist key personnel in monitoring the offender’s behavior and actions while residing in a community. This is not to put community members in a supervisory role, but to empower them to take responsibility for their community’s safety as well as the offender’s attempts to reintegrate into society in a safe and healthy manner. This work must be done in close collaboration with the community supervision agency, where such programs exist. 	



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<p>TOPIC: CLOSING (5 minutes)</p> <p>EVALUATION</p> <p>It is very important to us that we get your feedback about this presentation. Please fill out the evaluation forms and return them to us.</p> <p>CLOSING REMARKS</p> <p>Thank you very much for coming and taking the time to learn more about sexual assault issues and how we can work together to make our community safer.</p>	<p><i>In addition to having participants complete written evaluations, you may want to engage the group in a nominal group process for them to identify their likes and dislikes about the training. This will provide valuable feedback for future meetings.</i></p> <p><i>Your closing remarks will depend upon the context for the training. It is a good time to remind the audience of the main points you want them to take away (e.g., there is a lot we need to do to improve the community's ability to manage sex offenders; or, we know you have concerns about the presence of sex offenders in the community, but we hope we have given you some tools to address those concerns in a productive manner).</i></p>