Promoting Advocacy, Education, and Prevention

SUMMER 2012

The Advocate

Drug Facilitated Assault

Drug facilitated assault is when drugs or alcohol are used to impair an individual's ability to consent to sexual activity. These can also be used to minimize the resistance and memory of the victim of a sexual assault.

Alcohol is the number one drug used in these types of assaults. It is a legal substance that can be obtained almost anywhere.

You may wonder how often these types of assaults take place. There are no conclusive estimates as to the number that occur each year; however, nationwide reporting indicates that the number of such assaults appear to be increasing. Many of these drug-facilitated assaults are not reported. People chose to not report for various reasons: embarrassed, guilt, or blame themselves for the incident.

No matter how you look at these assaults they are ILLEGAL. There are other drugs that can be used besides alcohol that may leave the body within a number of hours.

Perpetrators use alcohol and other substances at various places like bars, social gathering, college campuses, and at private parties.

You can protect yourself by not accepting drinks form people you don't know; drink beverages that are not opened; don't share or exchange drinks; don't leave your drink alone; and toss your drink if it has been.

If you want more information please contact AMHC Sexual Assault Services at 1-800-550-3304.

Sexual Assault Response Team

SART which stands for Sexual Assault Response Team is a group comprised of law enforcement, medical professional, victim advocates, and representatives from the district attorney's office.

This multidisciplinary team partners together to provide information and coordinate responses that make victims' needs a priority. This team support's victims rights, commit to meeting the victim's needs, and organize their service delivery to enhance evidence collection.

This is a national model that promotes ongoing dialogue and information sharing across disciplines.

The benefits of SART are: assisting communities to build specific services to address violence at the individual and systemic levels; integrate intervention and prevention; streamline access to victim services; hold offenders accountable; provide consistent response through civil and criminal justice systems; address sexual violence as a major public health and criminal justice concern.

Since the first SART created in 1995, all sexual assault centers in Maine now have a SART. Over the past 16 years Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) have fostered relationships among law enforcement, prosecutors, and healthcare professionals to develop policies and make system-wide changes that simplify the sexual assault reporting process. SARTs have built crucial links between systems which had previously been wrought with conflict; these links have eased the burden on victims and their families in terms of reporting such a deeply personal crime.

Since the inception of SART in Maine reports of sexual violence have increased. In Aroostook County these SART meetings happen multiple time through times through the year. We appreciate all those who take time to participate and look forward to our continued work..

AMHC SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES

AMHC

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SUPPORT LINE
1-800-550-3304

E-MAIL:
stars@amhc.org

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.amhc.org

Meet Our Staff Members

Lydia Christie has been with AMHC since 1997 at which time she worked at the Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit. In 2002 she transitioned to AMHC Sexual Assault Services where she has remained filling various roles. Currently, she is the Program Coordinator and leads day to day operations within the SAS team. Lydia holds a BS in Criminal Justice.

Vicki Canales has worked for AMHC off and on for four and a half years. She began working as a crisis counselor and now is the school-based education coordinator for sexual assault services. Vicki provides prevention education to students of all ages throughout the County.

Cara Berube has been with AMHC Sexual Assault Services since 2009 as a Sexual Assault Specialist in the St. John Valley. Cara is a lifetime Valley resident with over two years post-secondary education in Behavioral Health/ Human Services and more than 7 years in experience working with the Mental Health population.

Bonnie Dickison joined the AMHC team in 2006 working in the Administrative Office. In 2011, Bonnie switched roles to take on Sexual Assault Advocacy. She is a native to the Houlton area; grew up in Monticello and attended local schools. Bonnie has worked within the community in a variety of capacities over the course of her life.

Wendy Page has been with AMHC since the fall of 2011 as the Community Outreach & Resource Educator. Wendy comes to this position with lots of outreach experience within Aroostook County. Wendy holds a BS in Health Education: emphasizing Community Promotion.

Survivors Quotes

Presque Isle outpatient just ended a female TREM (Trauma Recovery Empowerment Model) Group. In this group the clients design tee shirts that depict their feelings regarding the abuse they have been through. Here are some quotes taken from the shirts:

"SURVIVE: These are all possible after abuse. You just need healthy supports."

"I'm a survivor of abuse. Instead of withering away I'm BLOSSOM-ING!"

"I am okay and I am on my way"

"I am me not you don't try and make me who you are"

"Bruises go away broken bones heal. Words don't . No means No"

"I am a survivor I broke the cycle"

"No means no...not yes please hurt me"

Our Mission

To promote healing and justice to all who are affected by sexual violence through advocacy, education and prevention.

Our Vision

To end sexual violence and support those affected by it.

Services

Support/Advocacy Services:

AMHC Sexual Assault Service provide support and advocacy to past and recent suvivors of sexual violence as well as their firend and family members.

Services:

- Face to face appointments
- Accompaniment
  - -Medical Appointments
  - -Law Enforcement Reports
  - -Legal Proceedings
- 24/7 support line
- Free and Confidential

Groups Services:

We offer groups for men and women:

- **TREM** (Trauma Recovery Empowerment Model) for any survivor of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. This is for adult females and males.
- **Non-offending parent group**: education and support to parents around various topics.

Referrals are ongoing in each AMHC office for more information on groups please call 1-800-550-3304

Prevention Education:

Sexual Assault Services provides school based, community and prevention education throughout Aroostook County.

Girl Zone: program to help build character, self-esteem and much more.

If you would like more information regarding the topics or want to schedule a presentation please contact 1-800-550-3304.

AMHC Sexual Assault Services is a member of the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault

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MAINE COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT