

UNRAPABLE

Racism, Hypersexualization, and Sexual Assault in
Black Communities



RELATIONSHIP & SEXUAL
VIOLENCE PREVENTION
An Initiative of the Katie
Brown Educational Program

Agree/Disagree



Sexual assault is more of an issue for White women than it is for Black women

Agree/Disagree



Bill Cosby has been unfairly treated in light
of his sexual assault charges

Agree/Disagree



Black women are more likely to be sexually assaulted by White men

Agree/Disagree



Black women are more likely to report sexual assault than White women

Agree/Disagree



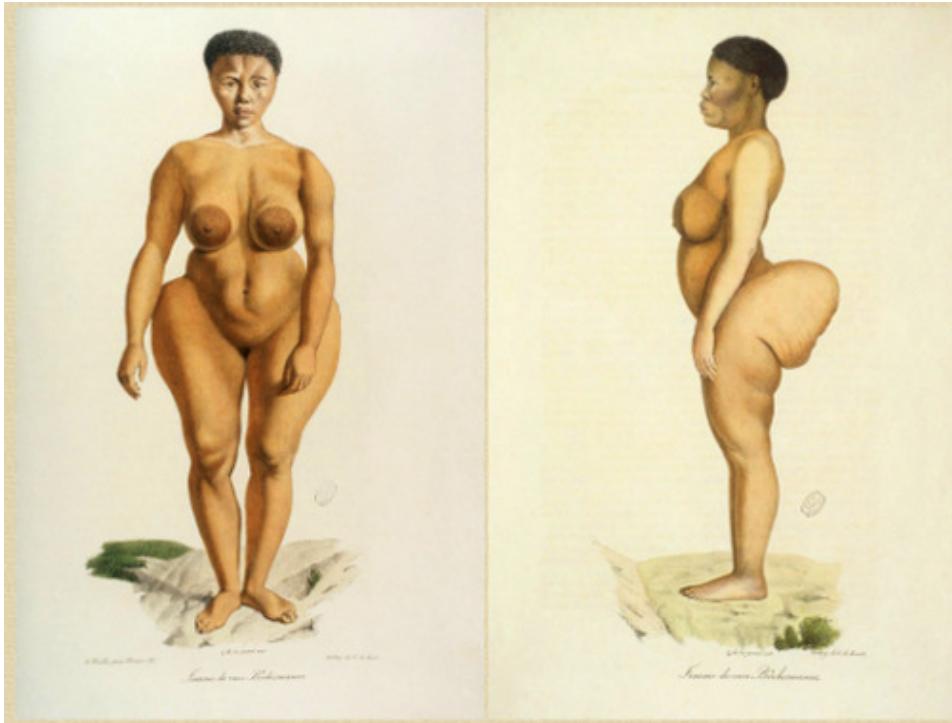
Most sexual assaults involve a Black man
raping a White woman



Black Women's Bodies



“The Hottentot Venus”



- ▶ Saartjie “Sarah” Baartman was Khoi woman from South Africa who was used as a freak show exhibit in Europe. When her circus career waned, she was sold as a sex slave.
- ▶ After her death at the age of 26, her body was dismembered and her skeleton, brain, and genitals were displayed in a Paris museum.



"The Hottentot Venus"

NOW EXHIBITING

AT

N^o 225, Piccadilly,



THE TOP OF THE HAY-MARKET.

From TWELVE 'till FOUR o'Clock.

Admittance, 2s. each.

THE

Hottentot Venus,

JUST ARRIVED FROM THE

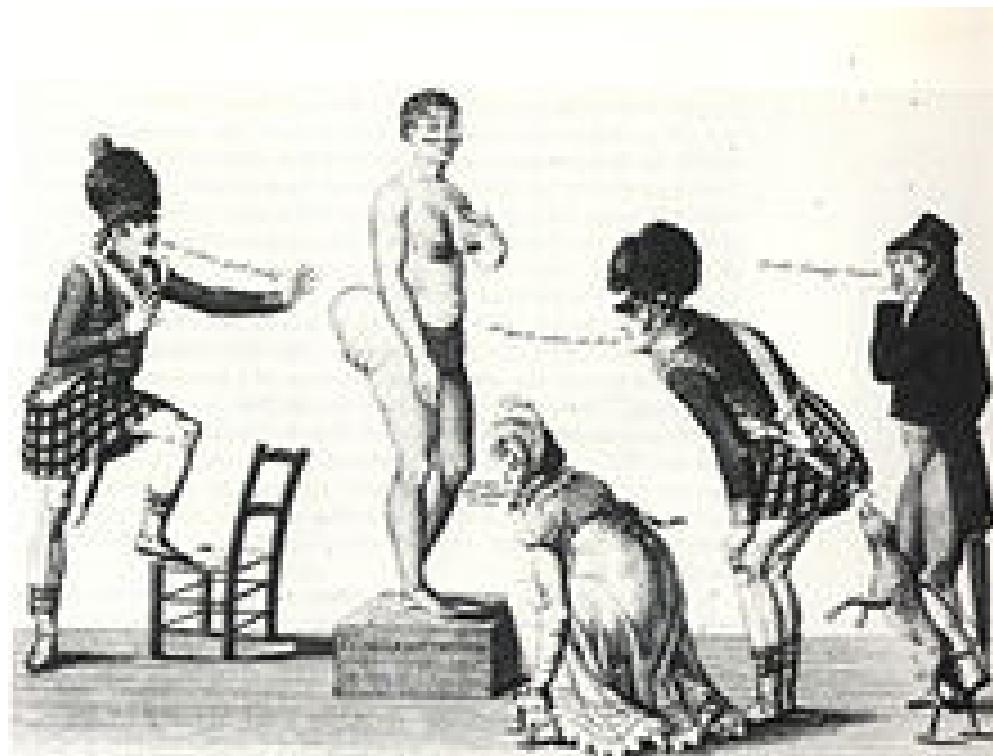
INTERIOR OF AFRICA;

THE GREATEST

PHENOMENON

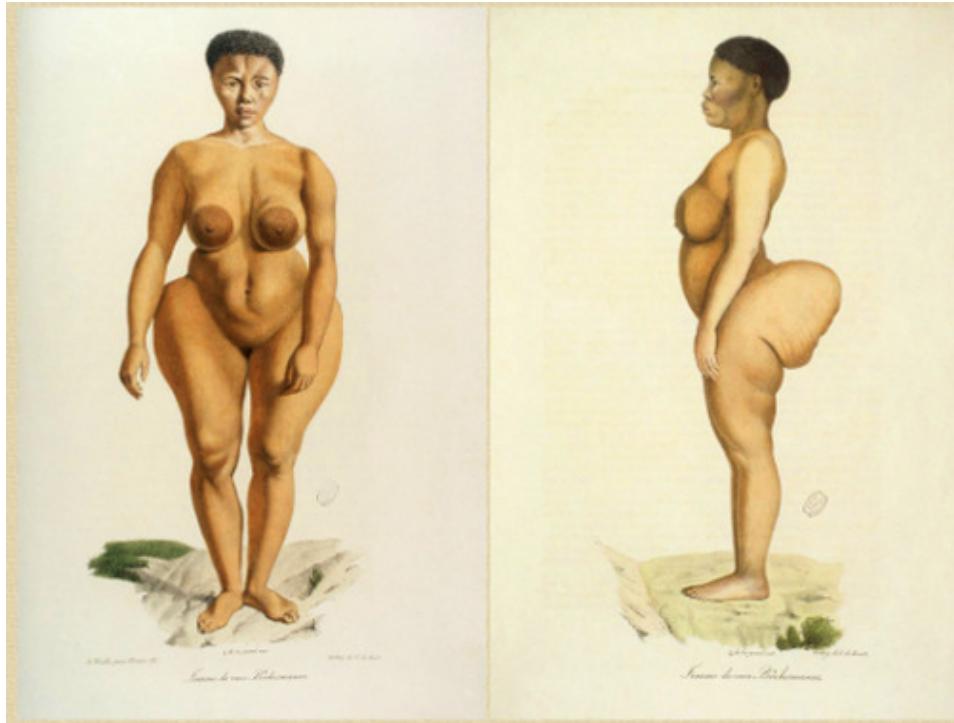
Ever exhibited in this Country;

Whose Stay in the Metropolis will be but short.





“The Hottentot Venus”



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Slave Rape Laws

- ▶ In colonial United States, slaves were equated with property. As such, many colonies' laws governing sexual violence did not apply to slaves.
- ▶ “An evidentiary rule in most slave-holding states disqualified Blacks from testifying against a white person. In short, **for most of American history the crime of rape of a Black woman did not exist**” (*Dorothy Roberts, Killing the Black Body*)



Philip Alexander Bruce

- ▶ “**The rape of a negress by a male of her own color is almost unheard of**, a fact that is a strong proof of the **sexual laxness of the plantation women** as a class; for if they attached any importance to sexual purity, and strenuously resisted all improper encroachment upon it, the criminal records of the negro men would contain details of many such assaults.”—

The Plantation Negro as a Freeman: Observations on His Character, Condition, and Prospects in Virginia (1889)

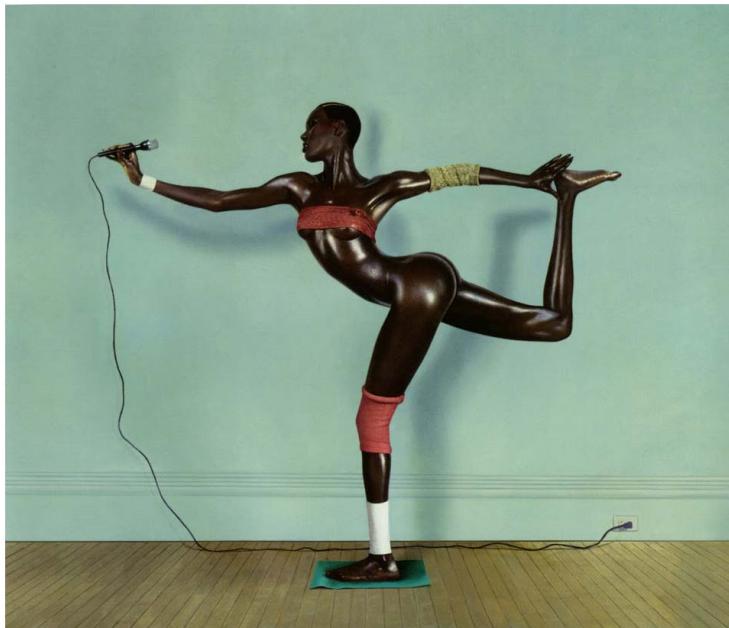


Henrietta Lacks



- ▶ Henrietta Lacks was an African American woman who died on October 4, 1951.
- ▶ Without her or her family's consent, her cells were replicated and sent to scientists around the world and family medical records were published.
- ▶ Her cells and medical records have been used in cancer research, AIDS research, vaccination developments, cloning experiments, and countless other monumental scientific research studies.

Jean-Paul Goude





Jean-Paul Goude

► *Jungle Fever*, 1982





Daniel Holtzclaw



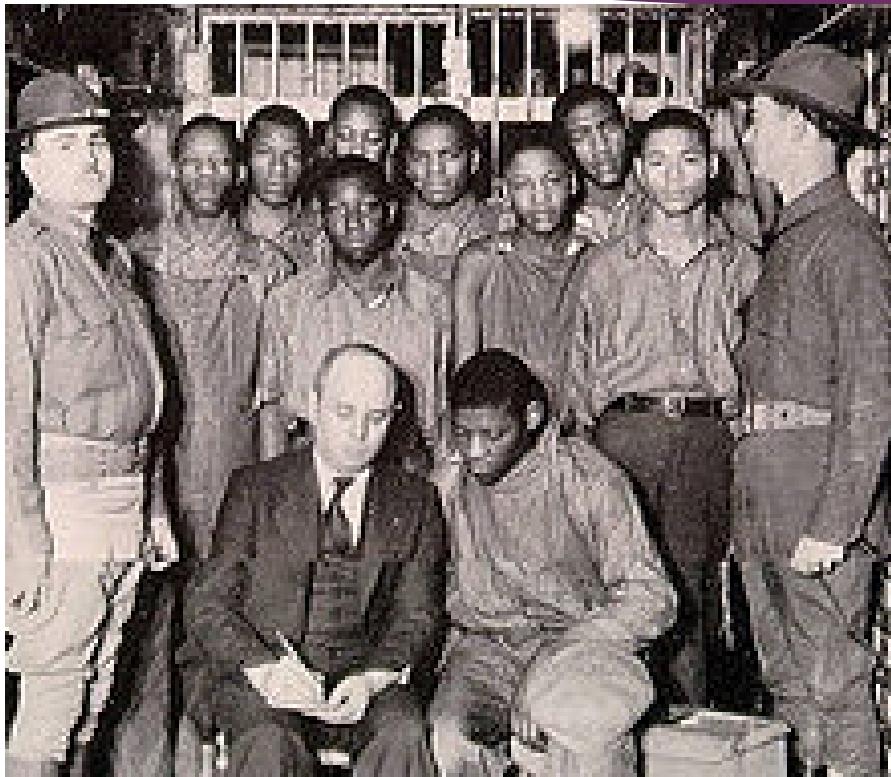
Oklahoma City police officer Daniel Holtzclaw was convicted of the rape and assault of multiple Black women.



Black Men, White Women, and Sexual Violence



Scottsboro Boys



- ▶ In 1931, nine Black teenage boys were accused of raping two White women.
- ▶ Eight of the boys were sentenced to death and one trial resulted in a hung jury.
- ▶ Ruby Bates, one of the alleged victims, later denied that any rape occurred at all.



Emmett Till



- ▶ In 1955, Emmett Till– a 14 year old boy from Chicago who was visiting family in Mississippi– was accused of flirting with 21 year old White woman Carolyn Bryant.
- ▶ Carolyn's husband Roy Bryant, his half-brother JW Milam, and another man kidnapped Till from his great-uncle's house. They severely beat him, shot him, tied a cotton gin around his neck with barbed wire, and threw his body in the Tallahatchie River.
- ▶ On September 23, an all White jury acquitted Roy Bryant and Milam.

WARNING: The next slide contains a graphic image





Racism and Oppression



Anti-Black Racism and Oppression

- ▶ Discriminatory practices
- ▶ Lack of employment opportunities
- ▶ Predatory lending
- ▶ Redlining and urban renewal
- ▶ Unequal access to quality education



Mold and mushrooms can be found in predominately Black school in Flint, Michigan.



Many Black families' homes were destroyed and they were relocated to project and slum housing during urban renewal projects



Anti-Black Racism and Oppression

- ▶ Unequal access to quality health care
- ▶ Racial profiling
- ▶ Judicial biases
- ▶ Lack of voting rights





Representations of Blackness



Representations of Black People in US Media

- ▶ Minstrel shows
- ▶ Coons and mammies
- ▶ Servants, janitors, maids, and nannies
- ▶ Working class
- ▶ Gang members, drug dealers, prostitutes

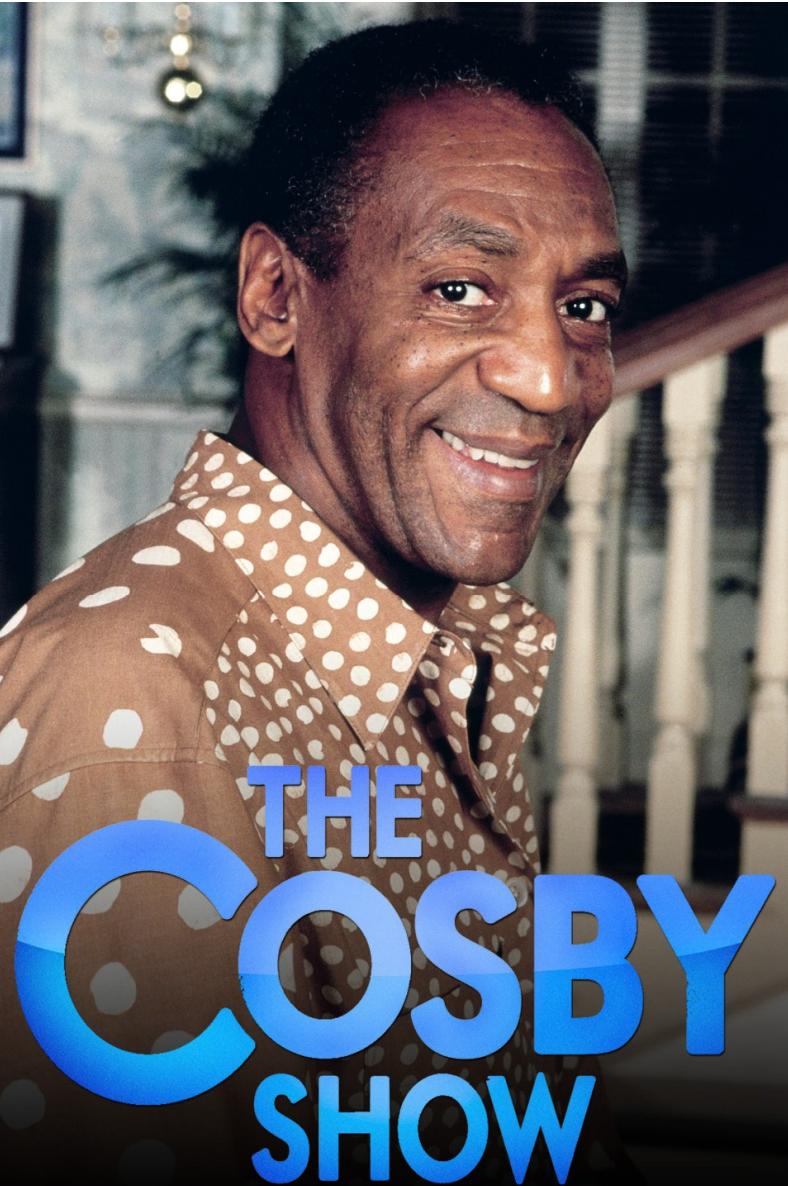




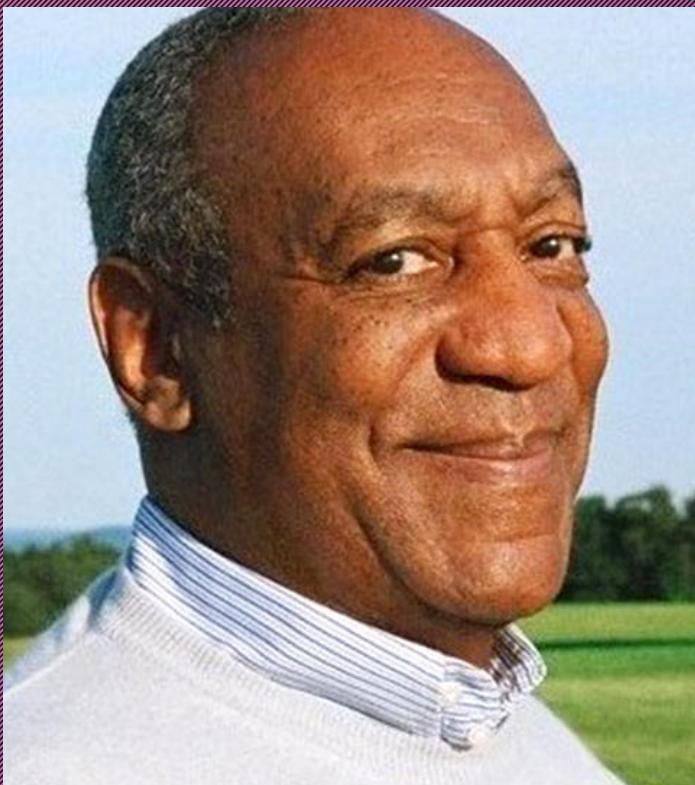
Representations of Black People in US Media

- ▶ Underrepresented or have minor roles
- ▶ Monolithic
- ▶ Specific niches and stereotypes
- ▶ Flat and/or stock characters



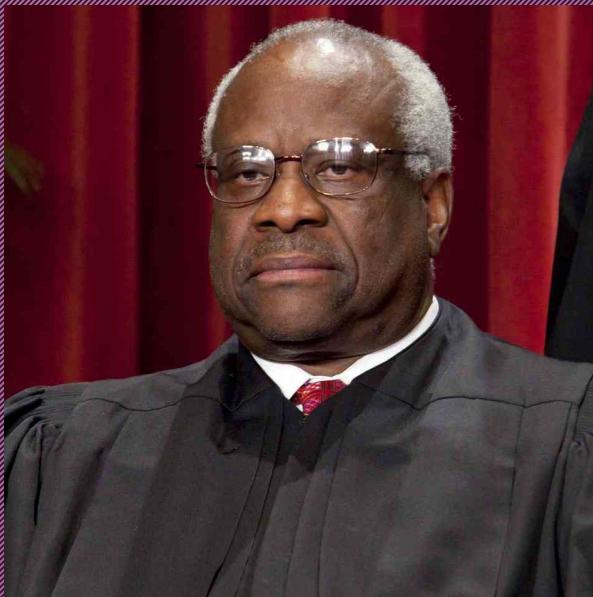


Bill Cosby



Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill

Justice Clarence Thomas, the second African American to serve on the US Supreme Court



Attorney and Law Professor Anita Hill who accused her then supervisor Justice Thomas of sexual harassment in 1991



Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill





Connections to Sexual Assault

Sexual Violence in Black Communities



- 18.8% of African American women reported rape in their lifetime
- Approximately 40% of Black women report coercive sexual contact by age 18
- Black females experience intimate partner violence:
 - at a rate 35% higher than that of White females
 - 22 times the rate of women of other races
- Black males experienced intimate partner violence:
 - at a rate about 62% higher than that of White males
 - 2.5 times the rate of men of other races

Normalization of Sexual Violence against Black Women



Danielle Monique

2 hrs ·

"Well if you aren't a b**** or h*** you shouldn't be offended! Don't act like a b**** or a h*** and it won't be a problem!"

The truth is that in 1994 the only thing I could do to avoid being called a b**** or a h*** by African-American boys and young men was to NEVER LEAVE MY HOUSE. I was a 14 year old virgin but if

I didn't want to give someone my number or objected to them grabbing my a** as I walked past I was all kinds of stank, siditty, stuck-up, you think you better than me b**** b****es and hoes. It never had a fucking thing to do with how I carried myself, because the problem was never me. The problem was boys being raised to think I existed only to present my orifices to them for various acts of assisted masturbation.

Expectations of Black Women



- Resilience
- Protecting Our Men
- Don't Air out the Dirty Laundry!



Impact on Black Women

Underreporting



- For every African American woman that reports her rape, at least 15 African American women do not report theirs¹
- In a study of African-American sexual assault survivors, only 17% reported the assault to police

¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report. Hart and Rennison, 2003. US DOJ

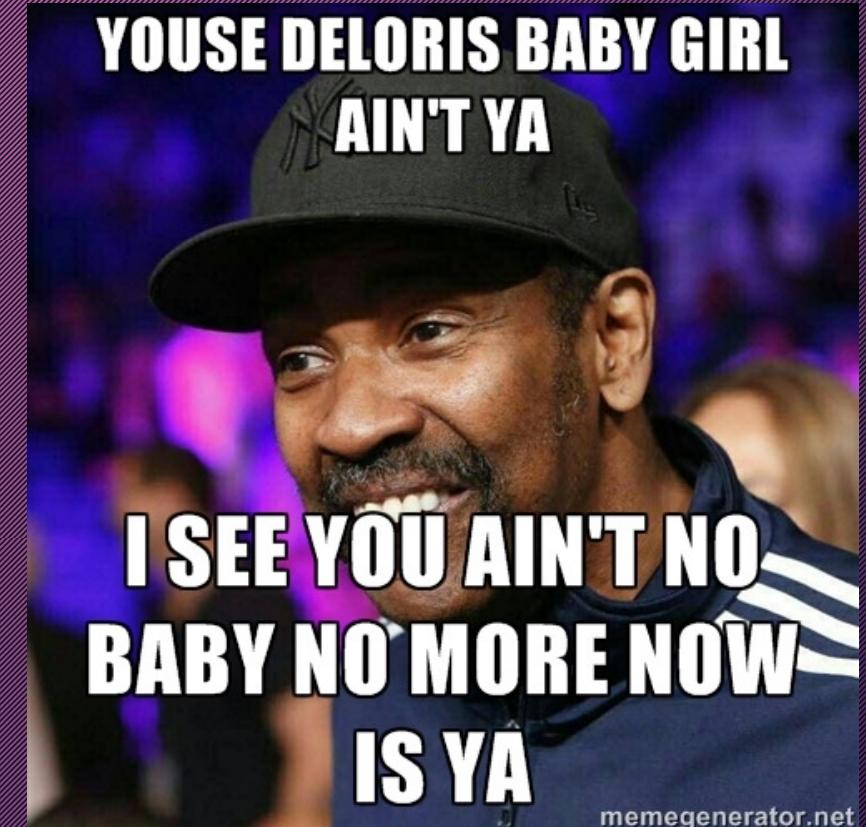
Trauma



- Black survivors report psychological effects including
 - Fear, anger, anxiety, depression, PTSD, suicidal feelings, preoccupation with the rape, and low self-esteem
- Internalization of violence
 - I deserve it
 - I should have expected it
 - That's just the way it is

Other Consequences

- Lack of responsibility in Black male perpetrators
- Continued normalization of violent behaviors among Black men



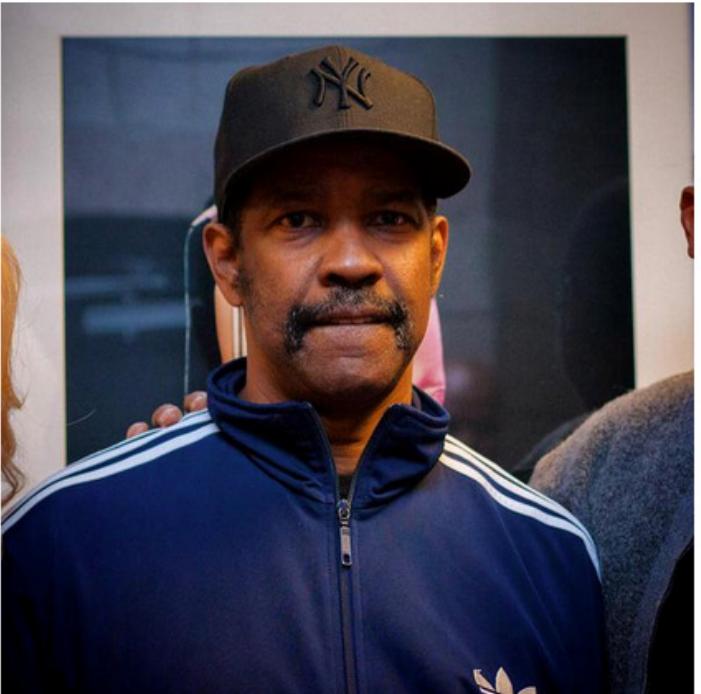
memegenerator.net



 **the almighty johnson**
@faketitojohnsON

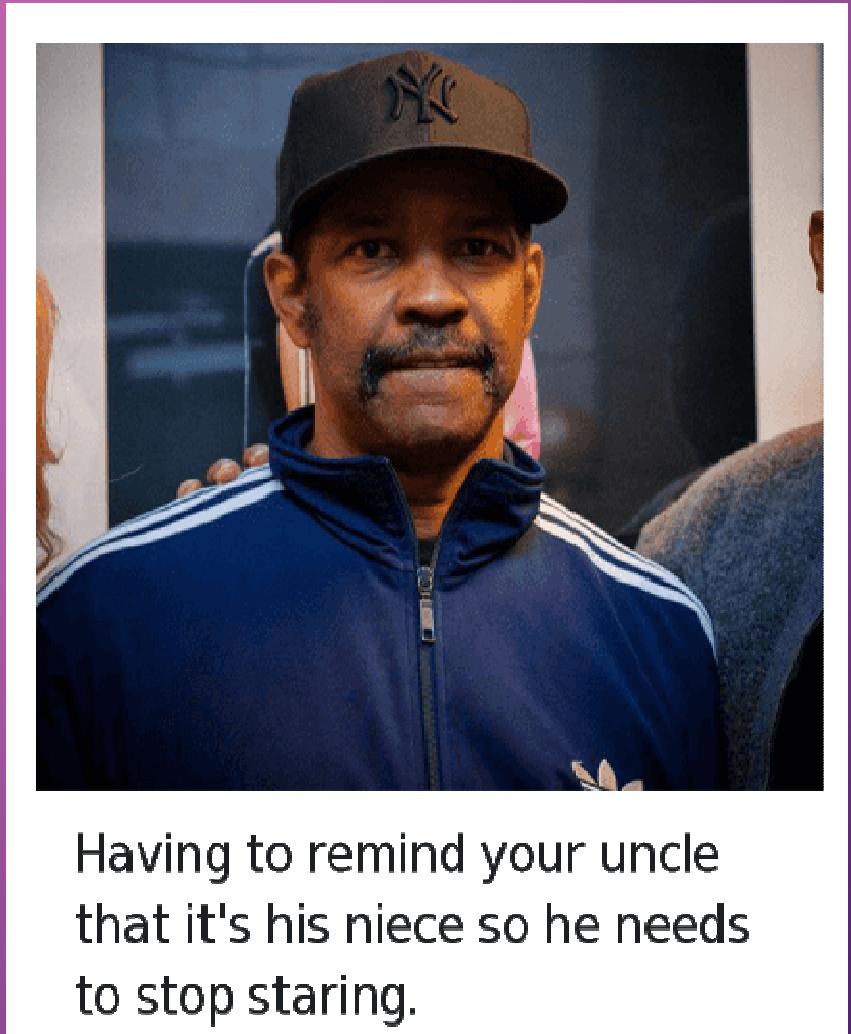


"now you know I came up with yo momma,
you look JUST like yo momma... you
single?"



RETWEETS FAVORITES
123 31

11:12 PM - 2 May 2015





Preventing Sexual Violence in Black Communities

Levels of Prevention



Primary Prevention

Secondary Prevention

Tertiary Prevention

Levels of Prevention



- Tertiary Prevention
 - softening the impact of an ongoing illness or injury that has lasting effects by helping people manage long-term, often-complex health problems and injuries in order to improve their ability to function and their quality of life

Levels of Prevention



- Secondary Prevention
 - reducing the impact of a disease or injury that has already occurred by detecting and treating disease or injury as soon as possible to halt or slow its progress

Levels of Prevention



- Primary Prevention
 - preventing disease or injury before it ever occurs by preventing exposures to hazards and altering unhealthy or unsafe behaviors that can lead to disease or injury

The Social-Ecological Model



The Social-Ecological Model is a holistic approach to addressing public health and social issues

The Social-Ecological Model



Individual

-Individual characteristics that may influence health outcomes
-May include genetic predispositions, personal behavior choice and habits, knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs

The Social-Ecological Model



Interpersonal

- Relationships with others that influence health outcomes
- May include family members, friends, schoolmates, and coworkers

The Social-Ecological Model



Community

- Larger networks that influence an individual's health outcomes
- May include neighborhood, school, workplace, and local organizations

The Social-Ecological Model



Society

- Large-scale structures and institutions that can influence health outcomes
- May include laws and policies, the economy, social and cultural norms, and the media

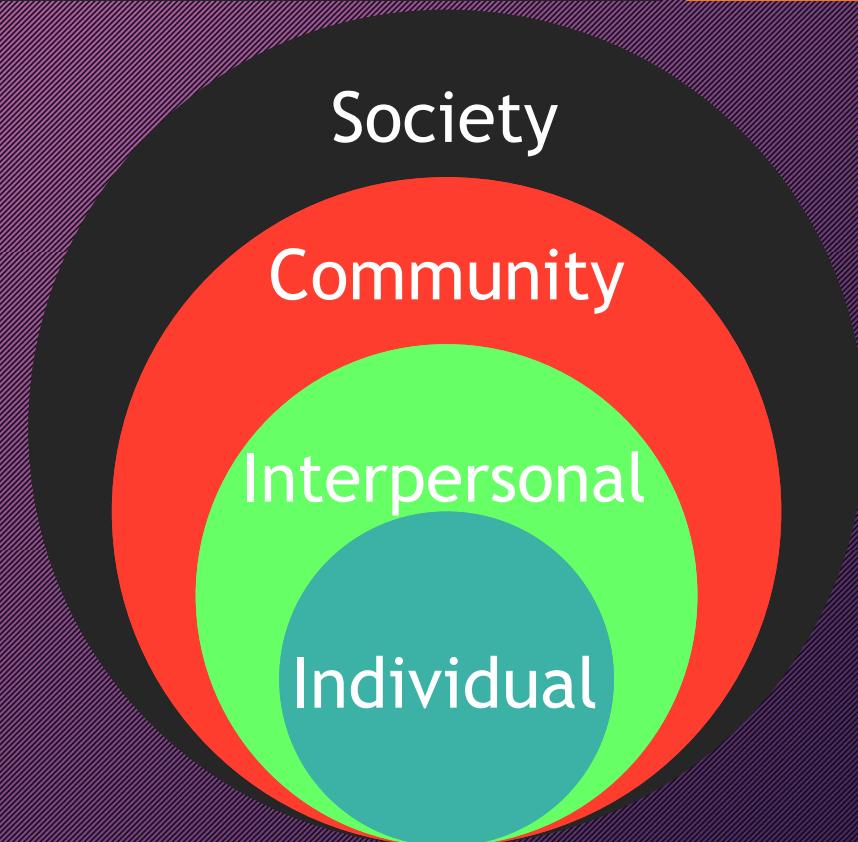
Sexual Violence Prevention



Primary Prevention

Secondary Prevention

Tertiary Prevention



Recommendations for Best Practices

Social-Ecological Level	Recommended Activity
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Service providers who are aware of their own biases-Educational workshops that teach healthy relationship skills-Programs that build self-esteem for young Black girls and women
Interpersonal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Mentoring for Black youth-Encouraging parents to model healthy behaviors-Reframing the idea of protecting family-Training and peer mentoring for adult relationships
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Accessible information and services (street teams, near transportation lines)-Language accessibility of health and support services (translation, pictoral information)-School health classes teaching self esteem, healthy masculinity, dating/sexual violence-More job opportunities in Black communities-Clear workplace sexual harassment policies-Coalition building across disciplines-Awareness campaigns-Community events-Neighborhood and tenant associations-Billboards, posters, and signs to make healthy community values clear
Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Criminal and judicial reform-Reform of laws governing Black women's bodies and families-Sexual assault legislation-Diverse and nuanced media representation



What does RSVP offer?

*RSVP offers a variety of workshops aimed at meeting the needs of a diverse campus.
Some of our workshops include:*

Dating
Violence
101

"No YOU
Shut Up!"
Healthy Skill-
Building in
Relationships

Sexual
Violence
101

Understanding
the LGBT+
Community

BRO-moting
Healthy
Masculinity

RSVP
Train-the-Trainer

AND MORE!

Perfect For...

Student Orientation
Resident Assistants
Student Leaders
Student-Athletes
Peer Health Educators
All Students

Customizable

Each workshop is 1 hour.
Workshops can be combined
and customized to best
accommodate the needs of
your participants.

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