UNRAPABLE

Racism, Hypersexualization, and Sexual Assault in Black Communities
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
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.
NOW EXHIBITING
AT
No. 225, Piccadilly,
THE TOP OF THE BAY-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"
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.
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)
“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 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
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.
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

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

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

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

The truth is that in 1994 the only thing I could do to avoid being called a bitches or a hoes 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 ass as I walked past I was all kinds of stank, siditty, stuck-up, you think you better than me bitches 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

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

Having to remind your uncle that it's his niece so he needs to stop staring.
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 is a holistic approach to addressing public health and social issues.
| 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

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<tr>
<th>Social-Ecological Level</th>
<th>Recommended Activity</th>
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| Individual              | - 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           | - Mentoring for Black youth  
                           - Encouraging parents to model healthy behaviors  
                           - Reframing the idea of protecting family  
                           - Training and peer mentoring for adult relationships |
| Community               | - 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                 | - 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**
- **BRO-moting Healthy Masculinity**
- **Understanding the LGBT+ Community**
- **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.
Stay Connected with RSVP!

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The Katie Brown Educational Program

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