

Acting Against Sexual Violence in the University Residences

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CENTENARY



Structure of the presentation

- Introduction
- Goals of acting against university
- Understanding the influences that support sexual violence in the residences
- The 4-steps approach to address sexual violence
- Conclusions



Introduction: Why we need to act against sexual violence in the residences

- Sexual violence –a social and public health problem
- South Africa - a rape capital
- University residences not immune
- The age of men at initiation of perpetration
- The age of women during the first sexual victimisation
- Consequences of sexual violence



Goals of action against sexual violence in the university residences

- Primary prevention
- The ultimate goal – stop sexual violence before it begins
- To reduce the incidence of sexual violence in the residences
- To reduce the impact of sexual violence on the victim
- *Is that possible?*



Acting against sexual violence in the university residences

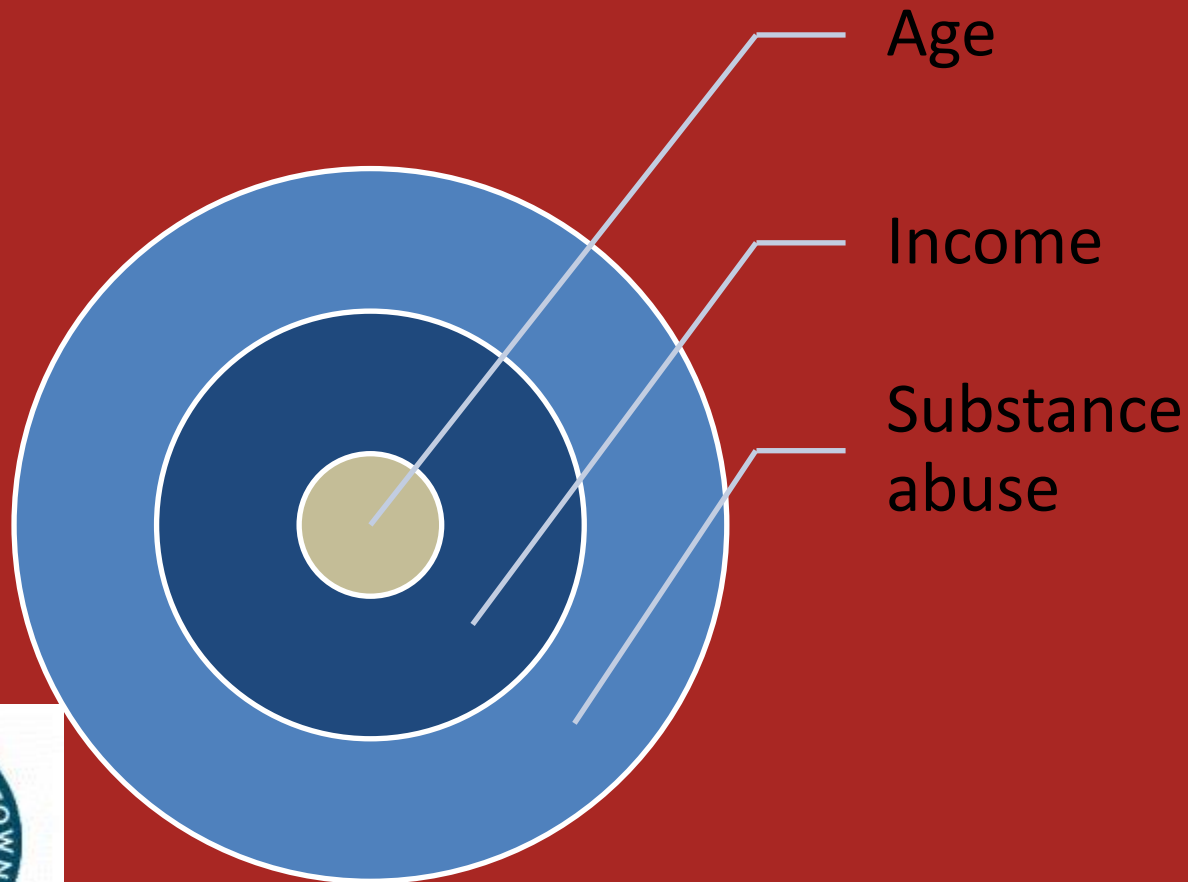
- Understanding the factors that influence sexual violence
- Using the specific interventions at all levels
- Addressing sexual violence as a public health problem
- Determining community readiness for action
- Empowering bystanders to intervene



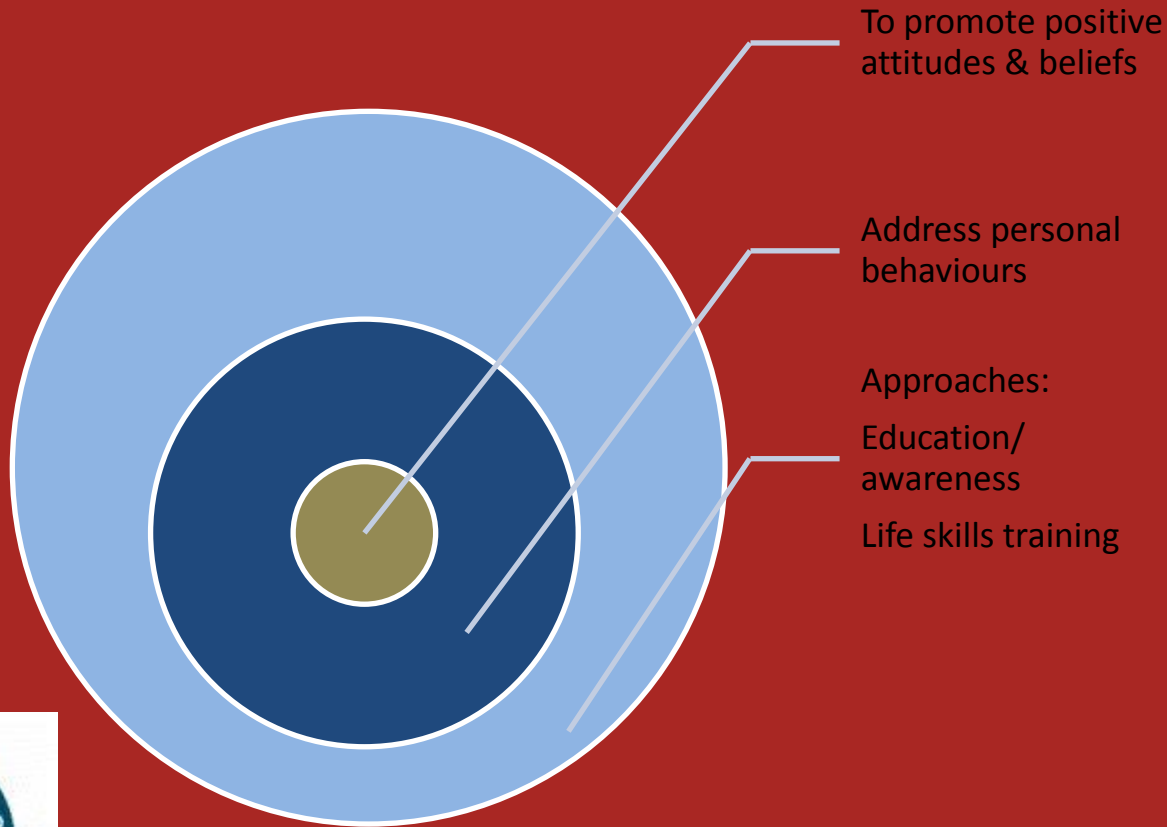
The Socio-ecological Model: A framework for understanding sexual violence in the university residences



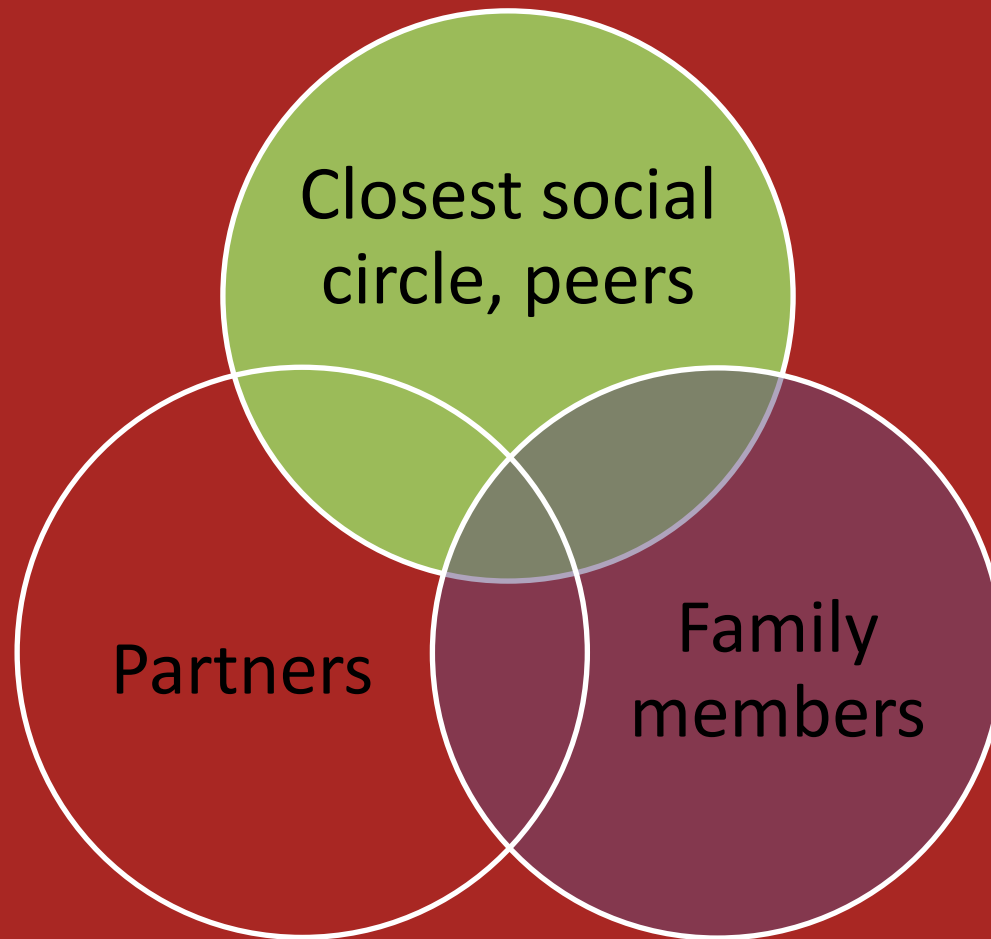
Individual Level Factors



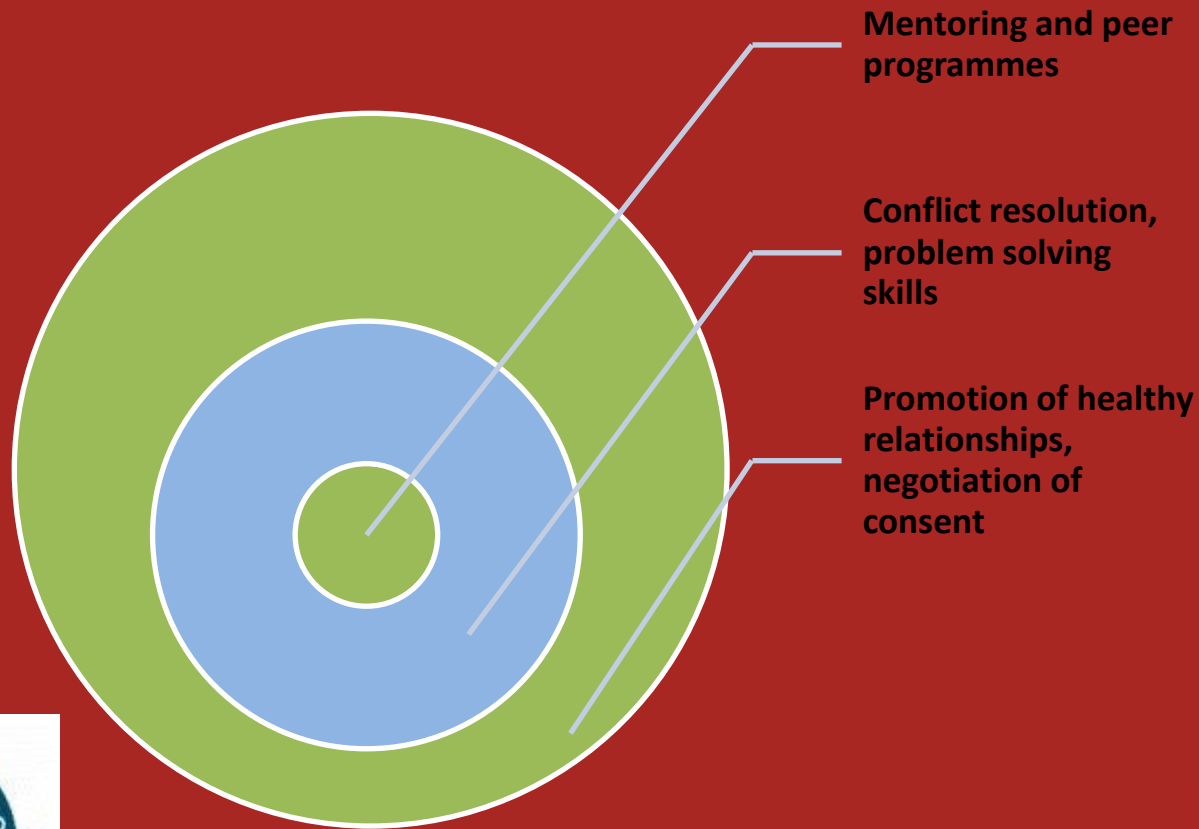
Specific Prevention Strategies at Individual Level




Interpersonal/ Relationship Level Factors



Specific Prevention Strategies at Interpersonal/ Relationship Level



Community Level Factors



Characteristics of social spaces

- Shared dining halls
- Lecture halls
- Shuttle

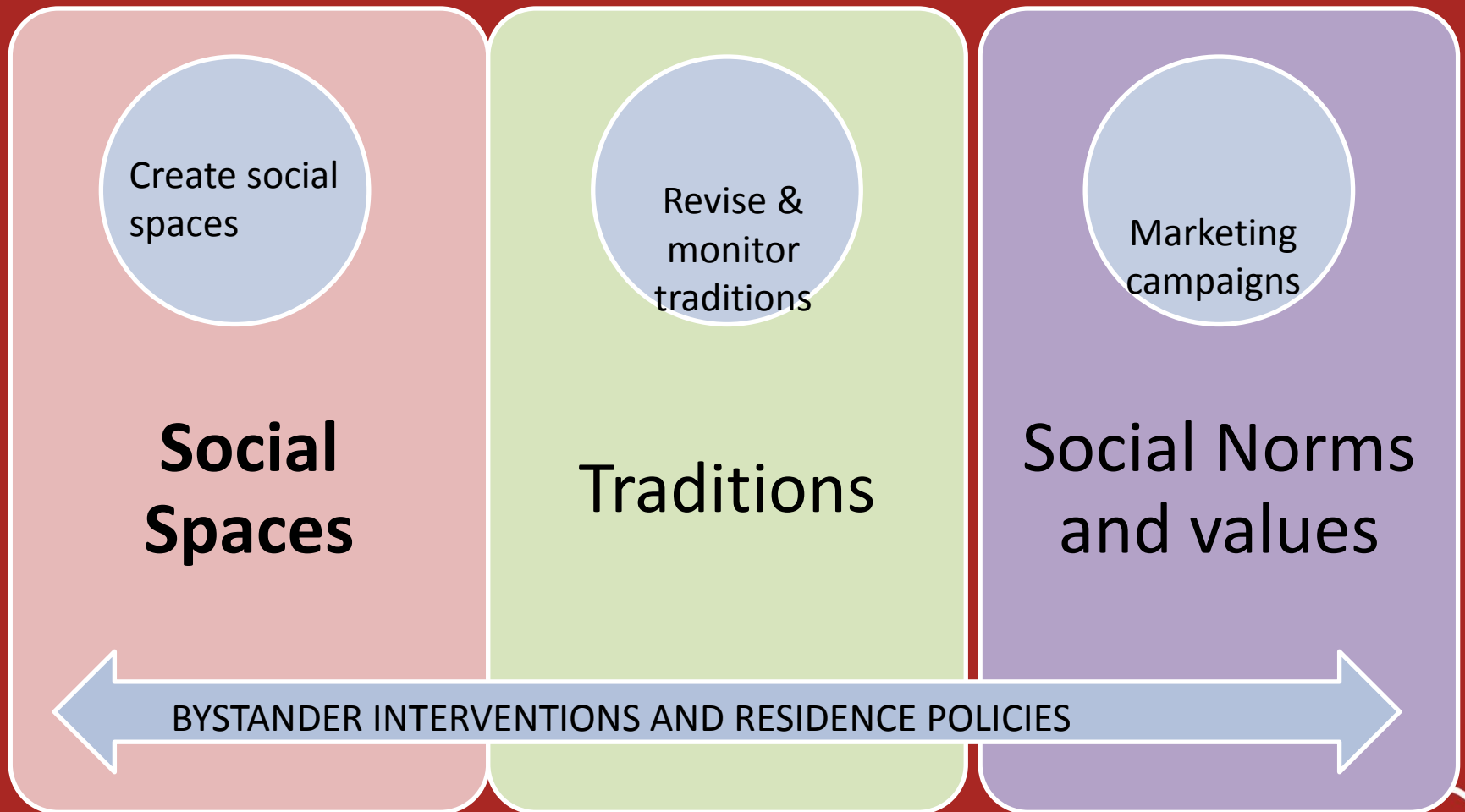
Traditions in the residences

- Orientation week
- Old traditions
- “Phuza” nights

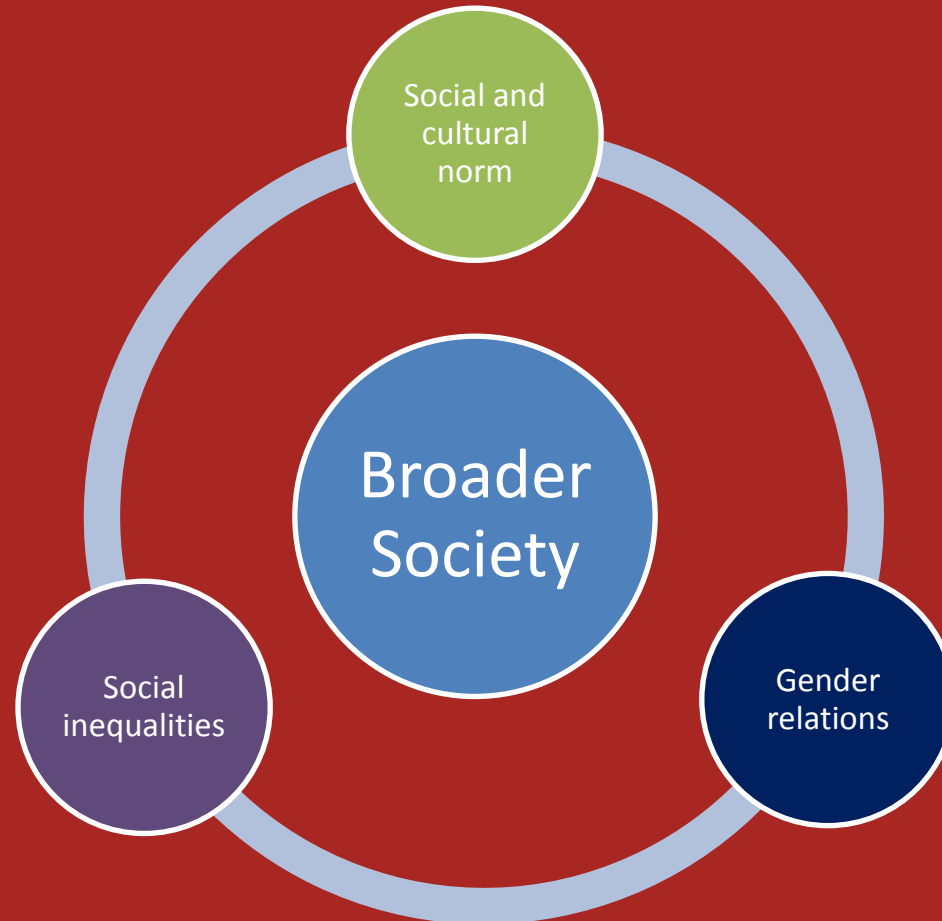
Social norms & values & ethos

- Sisterhood
- Brotherhood
- Caring/ respect

Specific Prevention Strategies at Interpersonal/ Relationship Level



Societal Level Factors Encouraging or Inhibiting Sexual Violence

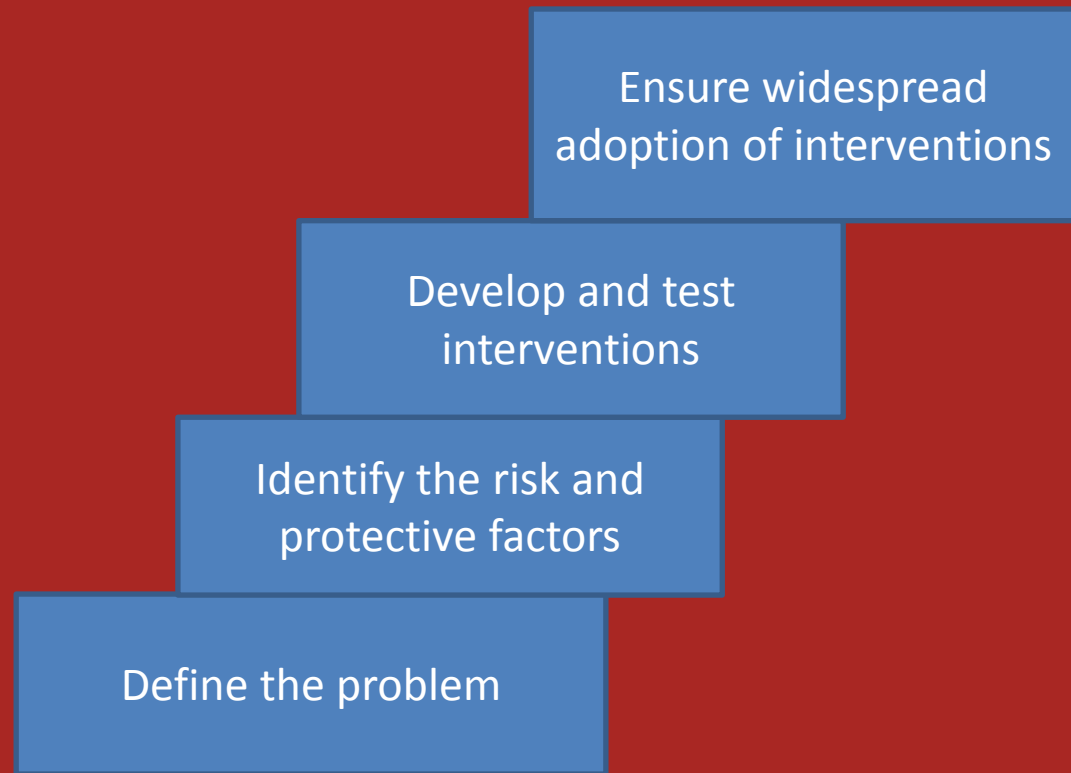


Specific interventions at societal level

- Development, implementation and monitoring of University policies
- Working with national authorities that deal with violence as crime
- Working with health and social services that deal with violence



Four Steps to Address Sexual Violence as a Public Health Problem



Addressing sexual violence as a public health problem 



Defining sexual violence as a public problem

No reliable university statistics

- University reputation
- Stigma associated with reporting
- Fear of being rebuked
- Self-blaming and silence around sexual violence

So what be done?

- Survey –random sampling
- Qualitative data on sexual violence observed

Identification of risk and protective factors

- Qualitative research
- Data collection techniques that promote freedom of speaking
- Use of transformative research methods
- Partnership with the population at risk
- Collaboration with all key stakeholders within the university



Develop and test interventions

- These should be specific to forms of sexual violence
- The “one-size fits all” methods do not work
- Cultural appropriate interventions for young and educated students of the 21st century
- Adopt and adapt other effective evidence-based approaches
- Test the interventions



Ensure widespread adoption of interventions

- Determine university community readiness for action against sexual violence
- Disseminate findings
- Spread interventions to the whole university
- Seek opportunities for collaboration with other institutions to spread the interventions to other communities



Conclusion

- University residences are the perfect environment for primary prevention of sexual violence in the residences
- The life skills to deal with sexual violence are life-long
- University community readiness should be determined before any intervention can be initiated to prevent resistance



