

**Teen Center**

**Teen Dating Violence Technical Assistance Center**



**Break** the Cycle

Empowering Youth to End  
Domestic Violence

# **Welcome to Our Webinar**

*Improving Community Responses  
to Statutory Sexual Assault*

**Presented By: Joyce Lukima & Allison Turkel**

# Teen Center

## Teen Dating Violence Technical Assistance Center



Office on  
Violence Against Women

Break the Cycle

Empowering Youth to End  
Domestic Violence

**Mission:** To engage, educate and empower youth to build lives and communities free from domestic and dating violence.

### Project Goals:

- ◆ Promote a multi-disciplinary dialogue;
- ◆ Identify unique challenges and complexities presented by teen dating violence;
- ◆ Develop strategies for effective youth prevention and intervention



# Teen Center

Teen Dating Violence Technical Assistance Center



Office on  
Violence Against Women

the Cycle

Break

Empowering Youth to End  
Domestic Violence

## Collaborative Partners

**Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American  
Community**

[www.dvinstitute.org](http://www.dvinstitute.org)

**National Center for Victims of Crime**

[www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org)

**National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges**

[www.ncjfcj.org](http://www.ncjfcj.org)

**Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape**

[www.pcar.org](http://www.pcar.org)



# Teen Center

Teen Dating Violence Technical Assistance Center



## Contact Teen Center

(202) 842-0707

For more information on our future webinars

[teencenter@breakthecycle.org](mailto:teencenter@breakthecycle.org)

for technical assistance questions with matters related to teen dating violence

[expert@breakthecycle.org](mailto:expert@breakthecycle.org)

# Teen Center

## Teen Dating Violence Technical Assistance Center

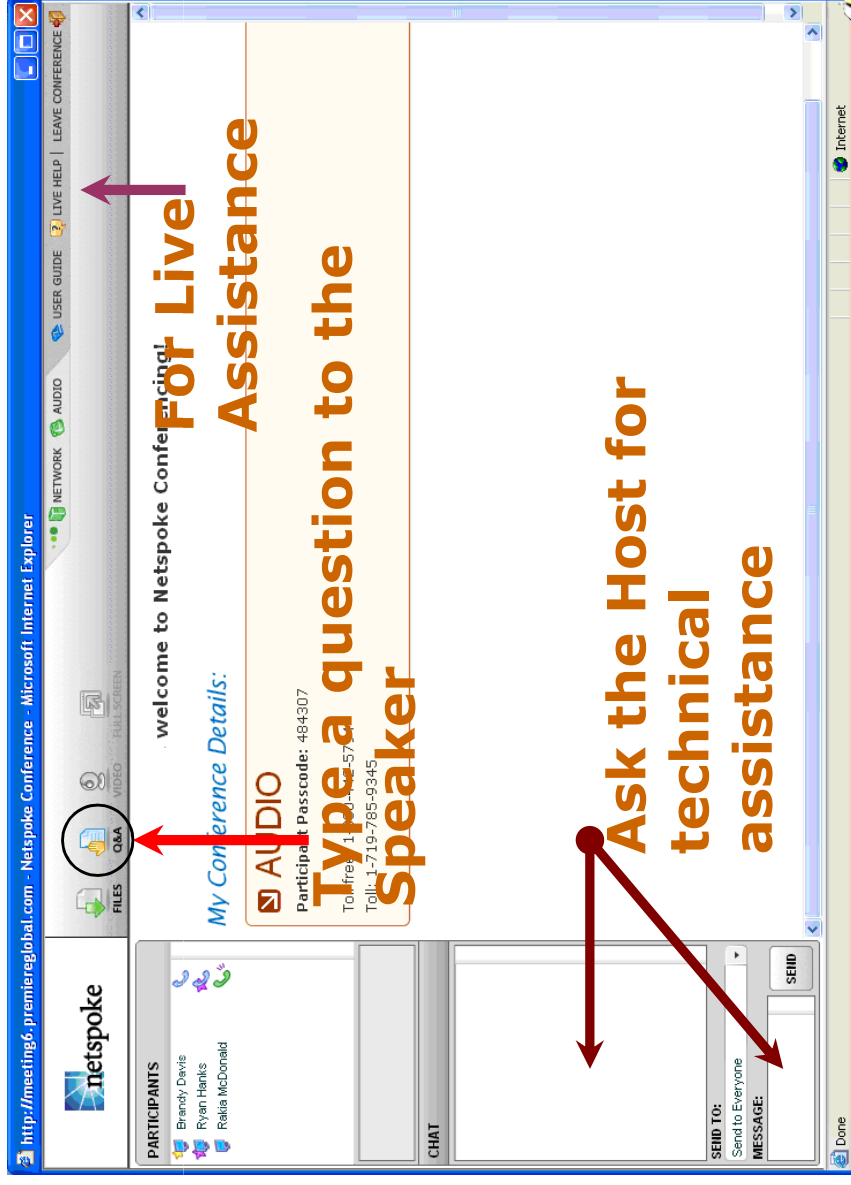


**Break** the Cycle

Empowering Youth to End Domestic Violence

# How to Use NetSpoke

- Q&A
  - Send a question to the Speaker to be answered at the end of the session
- Text Chat
  - For trouble on the web please send text chat
- Presentation Screen
  - Enjoy the content
- Live Help
  - You can contact NetSpoke directly by clicking Live Help



**Teen Center**

**Teen Dating Violence Technical Assistance Center**



Office on  
Violence Against Women

**Break** the Cycle

Empowering Youth to End  
Domestic Violence

## **A Webinar**

# **Improving Community Responses to Statutory Sexual Assault**

***Presented By: Joyce Lukima, Deputy Director of Field Services  
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape***

***Allison Turkel, Senior Attorney***

***National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse***


**Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
1:00pm - 2:30pm EST**



# Responding to Statutory Sexual Assault

---

Joyce Lukima, PCAR  
Allison Turkel, NDAA



---

States originally created statutory rape laws in order to protect young females from being preyed upon by adults because of an assumed developmental power differential that may exist when there is a large age discrepancy between sexual partners



# Definition

---

- Statutory Rape, Statutory Sexual Assault...

# Definition

---

- “Unlawful sexual intercourse with a person under the age of consent...regardless of whether it is against the persons will” (Garner, 1999, p. 1267)
- Some state statutes require child abuse mandatory reporting rules be complied with
- Some states enhance the charges and penalties if the victim is under a certain age

# Age of Consent

---

- Many states have an age level below which sexual intercourse is prohibited and considered rape regardless of consent
- Single Age of Consent: some states have set age: i.e. victim under 18 or under 16
- Age Differential: victim is under a certain age and defendant is over a certain age: i.e. victim is under 16, and defendant is 4 or more years older

# Adam Walsh Act 42 U.S.C. §16911

---

- Tier III sex offenders are required to register for life, renewing their registration every 3 months. A person previously classified as a Tier II sex offender who is subsequently convicted of a felony sex offense (regardless of its tier) will be classified as a Tier III sex offender.[\[i\]](#) Tier III sex offenses are those punishable by more than one year incarceration and similar to the following crimes:
  - sexual acts with another by force or threat
  - sexual acts with a child under the age of 12
  - non-parental kidnapping of a minor[\[ii\]](#)

# Adam Walsh Act

---

- This applies to juveniles convicted as adults and juveniles adjudicated delinquent in juvenile court, so long as the juvenile is 14 years of age or older and is convicted of an offense similar to or more serious than the Federal aggravated sexual assault statute, 18 USC 2241.
- In addition to offenses such as forcible rape, this statute covers any offense involving a victim under the age of twelve

# Adam Walsh Act

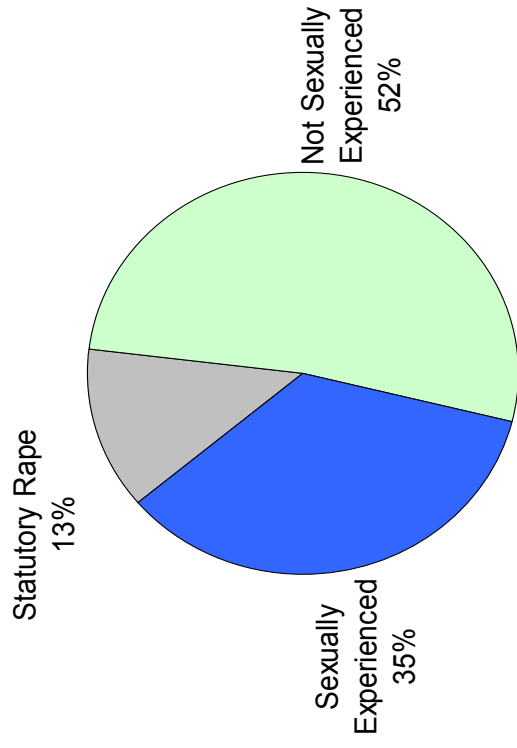
---

- The only 'exception' is the so-called "Romeo and Juliet" clause, whereby the Act makes clear that SORNA will not apply to offenses involving consensual sexual activity between a victim who is at least 13 years old and an offender not more than 4 years older than the victim. [\[i\]](#)
- [\[i\]](#) 18 U.S.C. §16911(5)(c).

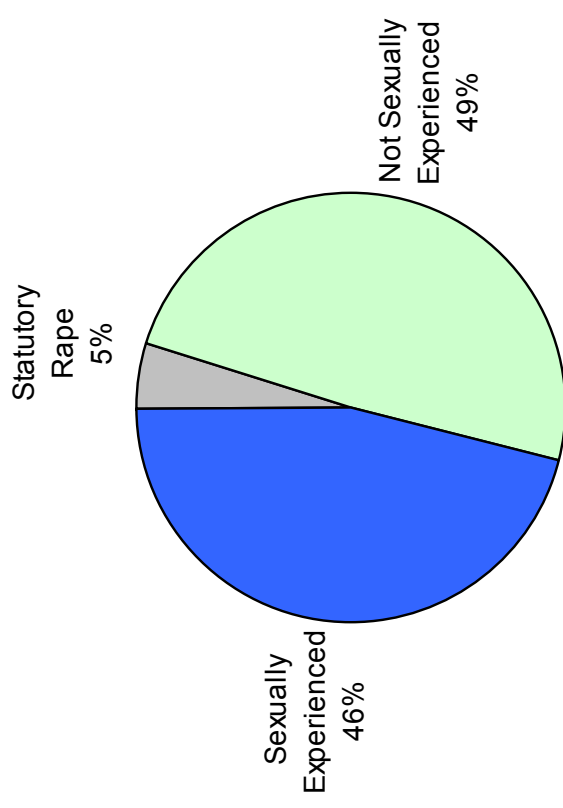
# Demographics, here are the numbers....

Statutory Rape occurs as first sex for both males and females

---

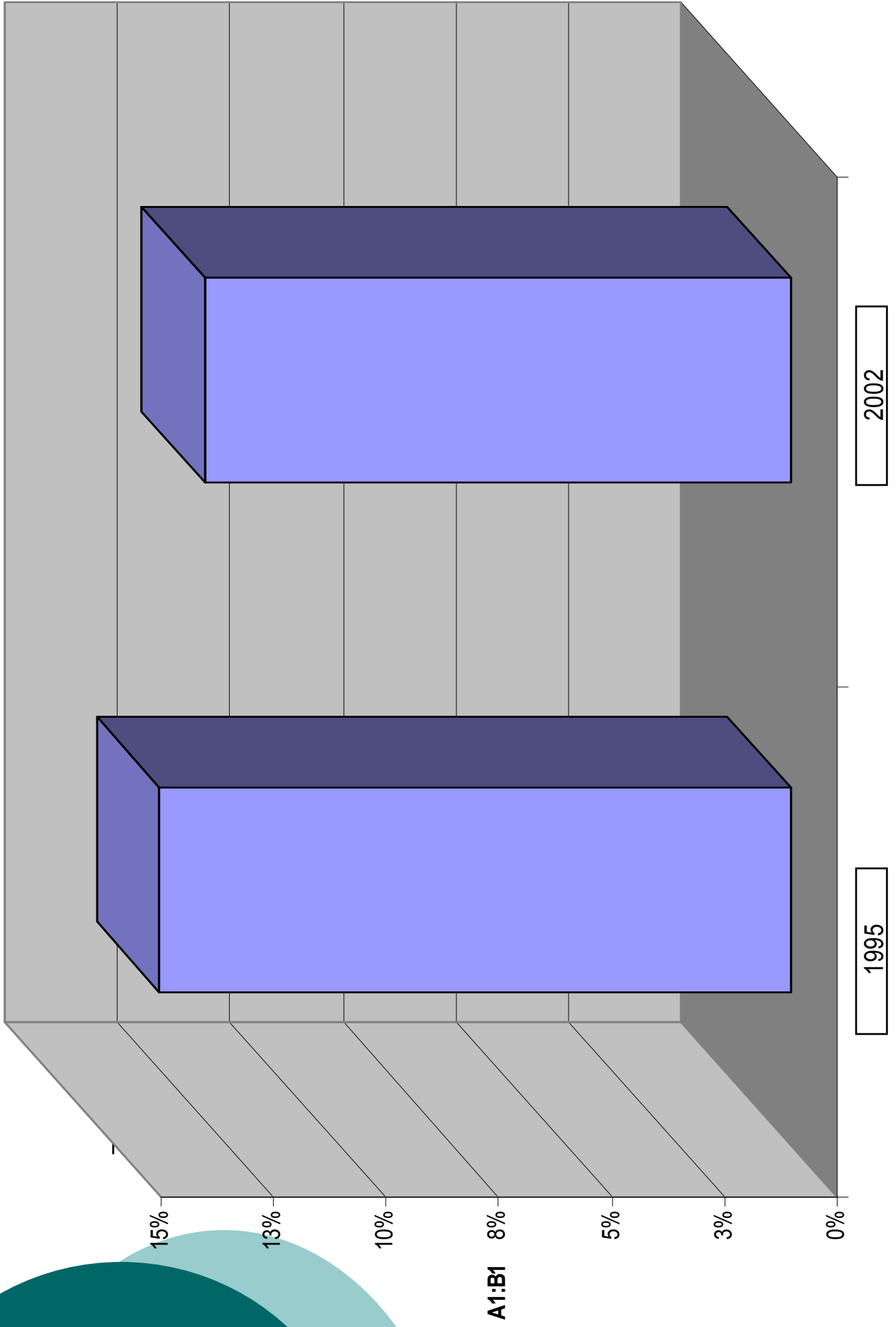


Females



Males

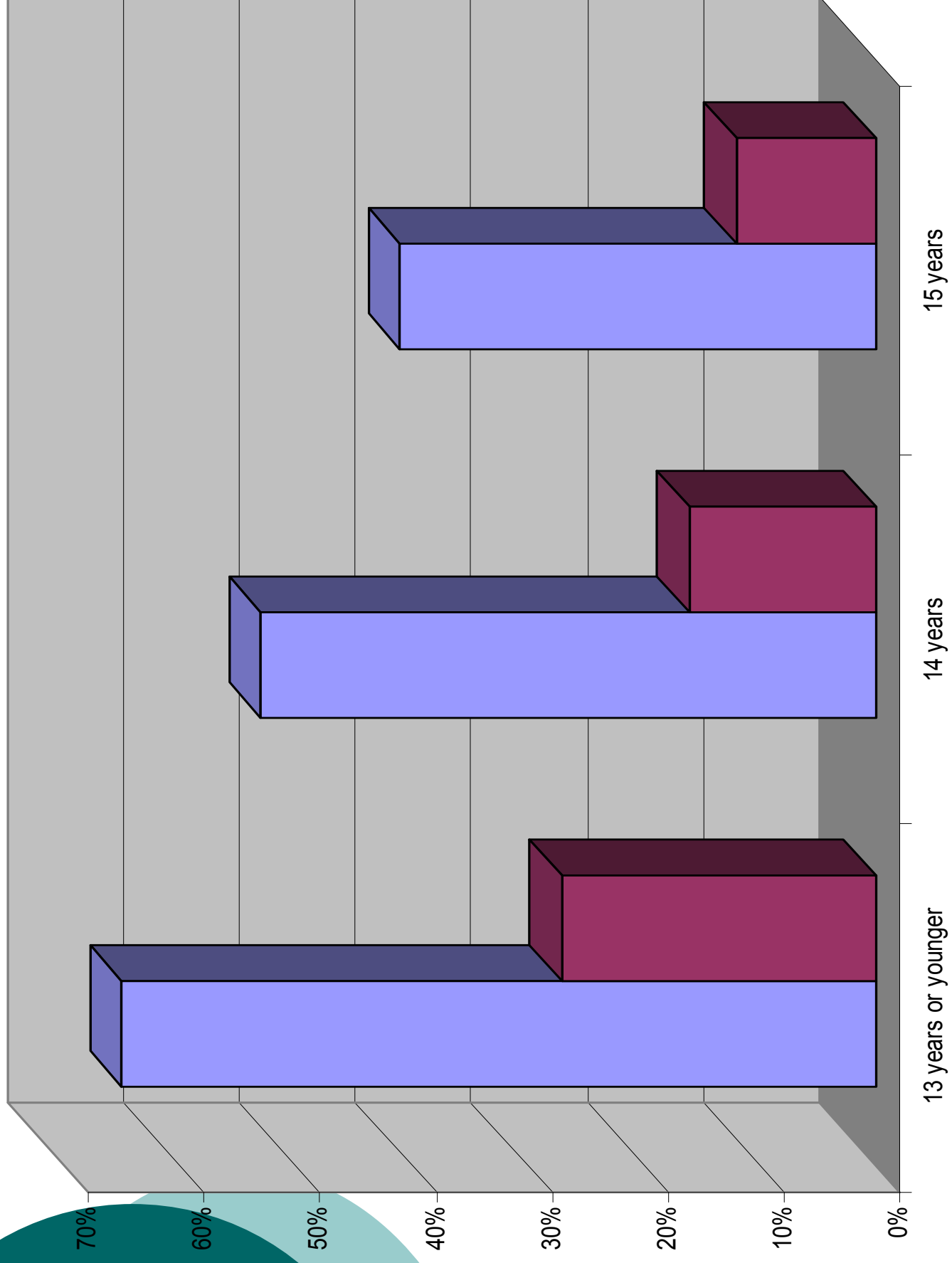
# Incidence of Statutory Rape at First Sex Has Remained Stable among Females





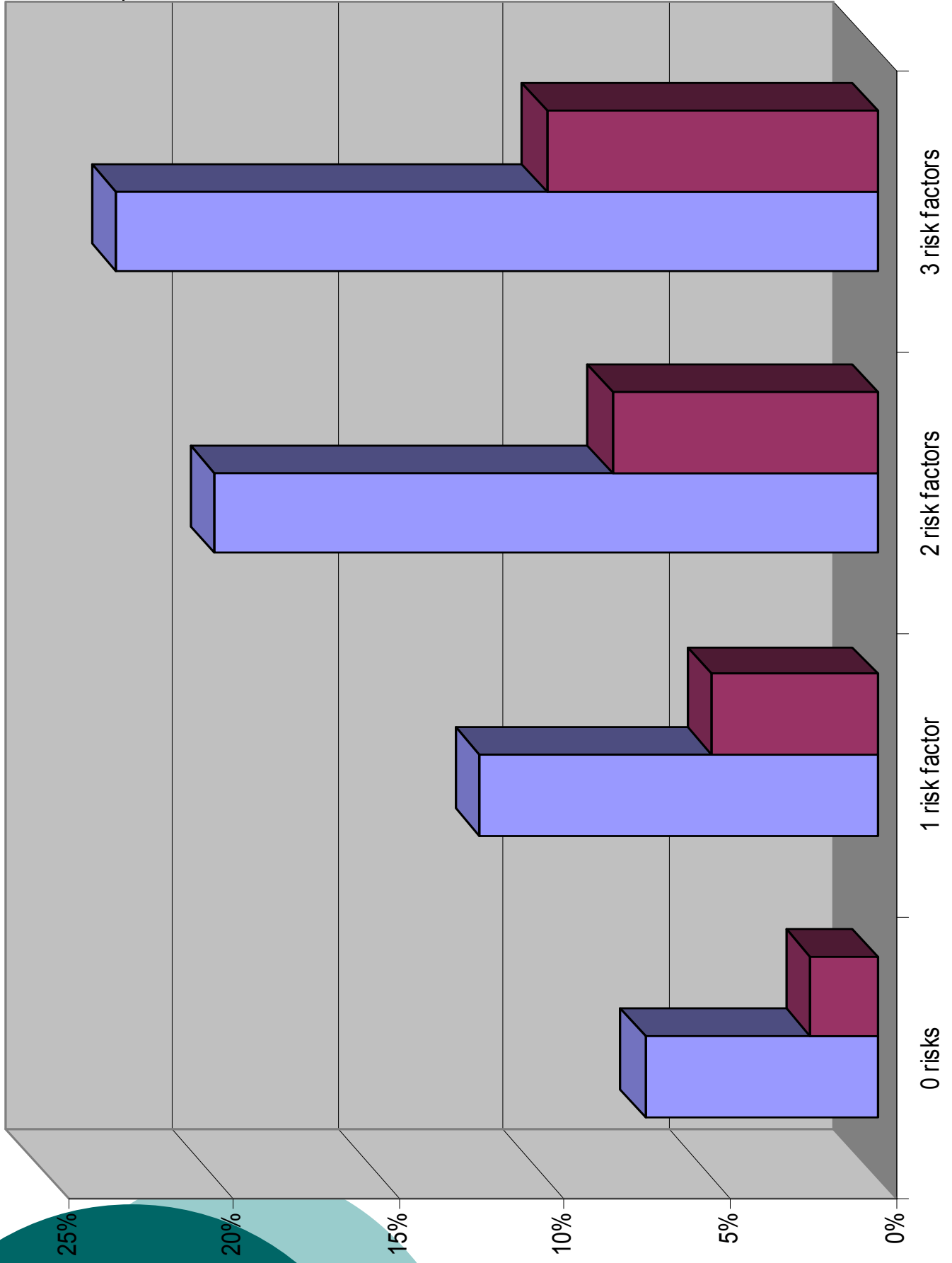
# Statutory Rape is Higher among Younger Sexually Experienced Teens


Females  
Males



# Statutory Rape Increases with the Number of Family Risk Factors

Females  
Males





---

Focus of this presentation will be on  
young female and older male...

# Voluntary vs. Non Voluntary

---

- It is the mutually “consenting” component that distinguishes statutory sexual assault from forcible rape
- If the victim is under the age of consent then consent is a non-issue
- Compliant victim issues




Any  
Questions  
?



---

# What Are The Challenges In Responding To These Cases?



---

- What are your top three challenges in responding to statutory sexual assault?

- How are challenges different for advocates? law enforcement? prosecutors?

# Emotional Impact

---

- Counter intuitive responses/ may not be so counter intuitive
- Disclosure may be different
- Perceptions may change over time
- Isolation
  - Compliant victim issues



# Helping the Victim

---

- Listen to the victim
- Empower the victim
- Use the victim's support system
- Create a new support system



# Investigative Strategies

---

- Use special unit or specialized officers
- Identify opportunities for special training
- Selecting the right person for the job
- Developing expertise
- Search for corroborating evidence
- Computer facilitated issues
  - Search and evidence
  - Interviewing issues

# Investigative Strategies

---

- Use a consolidated law enforcement approach
- Conduct early, separate interviews with teen
  - Is the CAC the proper place to interview teens?
  - Consider pre-text phone calls
    - Assess emotional well-being, maturity
    - Prepare-and have an out
- Interview adult perpetrator
  - Establish knowledge of the teen's age
  - Explore grooming techniques

# Prosecution Strategies


---

- Get involved early in the case
- Use vertical prosecution
  - Build rapport and trust with the victim
  - Teens need to be relevant and heard
- Interview the victim using a team approach
- Use expedited prosecution
- Prepare victim for trial-direct –cross-evidence
- Voir-Dire
- Discuss and consider support people
  - Should parents be present for testimony?

# To Prosecute or Not?

---





---

Questions?

# Resources

---

- National Sexual Violence Resource Center, compiled list of resources on statutory sexual assault, <http://www.nsvrc.org/selectedresources/searchresults.aspx?TopicId=35>; 877.739.3895
- *I can't believe that's what my teen thinks!* Guide for parents, [www.pcar.org](http://www.pcar.org)
- Sexual Coercion and exploitation of Minor Teens, Virginia Department of Health, <http://www.menendingviolence.com>; <http://www.vahealth.org/civp/sexualviolence>; <http://www.vahealth.org/civp/sexualviolence/varapelaws/crossing.html>
- Statutory Rape, fact sheet, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, <http://www.mcasa.org/pdfs/Statutory%20Rape.pdf>
- Statutory Rape: strategies for empowering middle school students, PCAR 717.728.9740
- Statutory Rape: What you should know, brochure, New York Coalition Against Sexual Assault, <http://nyscasa.org/resources/SR%20Brochure.pdf>
- Teen Sexual Assault And Abuse, fact sheet, Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, <http://www.wcasa.org/info/factsheets/teen.html>
- Victim-Oriented Multidisciplinary Response to Statutory Rape Training, OVC, <http://www.mincava.umn.edu/documents/victimovictimimo.html>

**Teen Center**

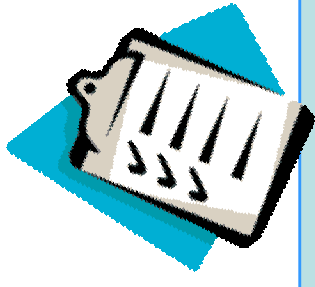
**Teen Dating Violence Technical Assistance Center**



**the Cycle**

**Break**

Empowering Youth to End  
Domestic Violence



# Evaluation

# Teen Center

## Teen Dating Violence Technical Assistance Center



Office on  
Violence Against Women

Break the Cycle



Empowering Youth to End  
Domestic Violence

## Programs

### **Webinar**

Using the latest technology, quarterly webinars will feature national experts who will provide critical training and encourage dialogue about a wide range of topics related to teen dating violence.

### **Master Classes**

In-person advanced trainings will be held annually to bring together grantees for in-depth training designed to improve the skills of professionals who work with youth.

### **Issue Briefs**

Single-topic issue briefs will provide a written analysis of issues related to teen dating violence for reference and training in the grantees' local communities.

### **Legislative Alert**

Quarterly legislative alerts will update grantees on relevant changes to the law that affect the provision of services to teens at both the federal and state level.

### **List-Serv**

An active listserv will be maintained to support continuing dialogue among grantees and provide a place for dissemination of critical information relevant to teen dating violence.

### **Workbook Series**

An interactive workbook series will provide tangible and targeted tools to grantees to effectively respond to youth in their respective fields, including law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and victim support services.



# Teen Center

Teen Dating Violence Technical Assistance Center



Office on  
Violence Against Women

**Break** the Cycle

Empowering Youth to End  
Domestic Violence

**For technical assistance questions, email us at [expert@breakthecycle.org](mailto:expert@breakthecycle.org).**

**For more information on our future products & events,  
email Teen Center at [teencenter@breakthecycle.org](mailto:teencenter@breakthecycle.org).**

**Webcasts and materials available at [www.breakthecycle.org](http://www.breakthecycle.org).**

This project was supported by Grant No. 2007-TA-AX-K024 awarded by the office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.