

LUNCH -AND- LEARN

Sexual Assault
Prevention & Awareness

hosted by Cassidy Wheeler & Alex Miniard
Kentucky Refugee Ministries



APRIL:

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH (SAAM)

- KRM
- Overview & History
- Awareness & Advocacy
- Resources
- How to Support
- Q & A



Who we are



KRM

is an agency and outreach community that provides resettlement services to and advocates for incoming refugees in order to encourage hope and an increased sense of belonging.

KRM Staff Introductions



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KRM Services

Victim Advocacy & Mental Health



Victims of Crime Act

- Federal legislation to benefits victims of crime
- Funded by repossessions from criminal acts
- No stipulations for who qualifies for services.
Not limited to refugees, no police report required

Sexual Assault & Violence

Countries of Origin & Refugee Camps

Countries of Origin

- Violence, war and persecution destabilize the country and safety of citizens; government can no longer offer protection
- Vulnerability increases; communities are terrorized by violent militant groups with means of defense
- Many lose their lives or become victims of rape, assault and/or human trafficking prior to resettlement in the U.S.

Refugee Camps

- Women & girls are more at risk of experiencing sexual assault and violence while living in refugee camps
- Limited security or oversight available to offer protection

Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention

What refugees often
experience before
resettlement in
another country

Vulnerable groups are always more likely to experience violence

- Victims of violence are more likely to experience violence again (called “revictimization”)

BIPOC are more likely to experience violence. Percentage of sexual assault victims by race:

- 18.8% are black
- 11.9% are Latino
- 6.8% are Asian
- 24.4% are mixed race

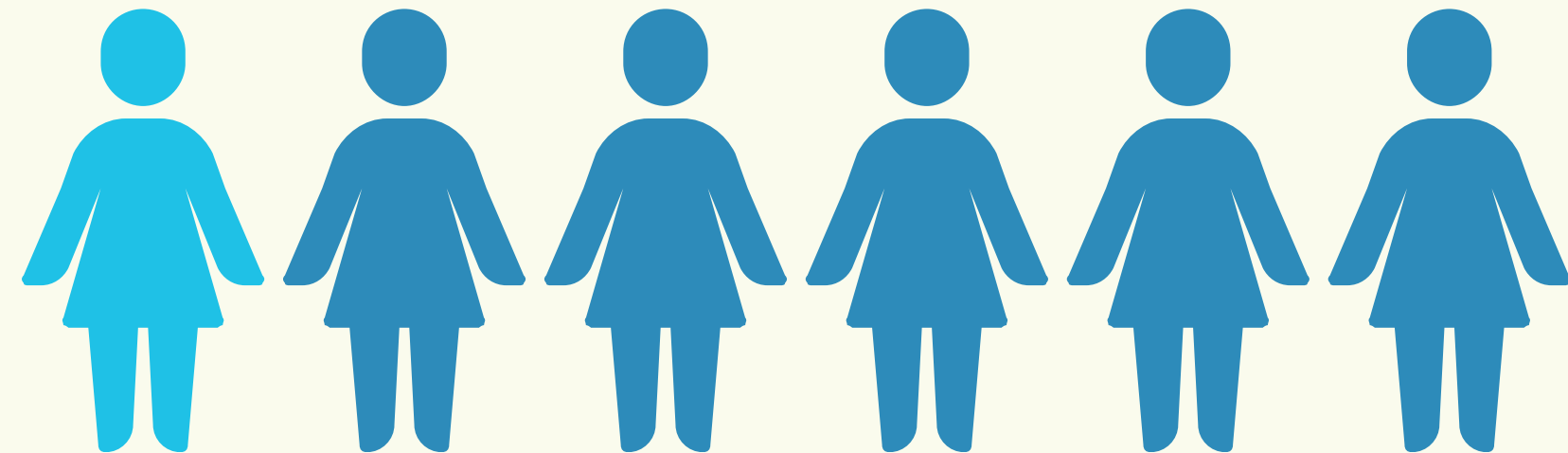
Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention

**Why are refugees
and immigrants
more at risk for
sexual assault?**

Sexual Violence & Assault Statistics*

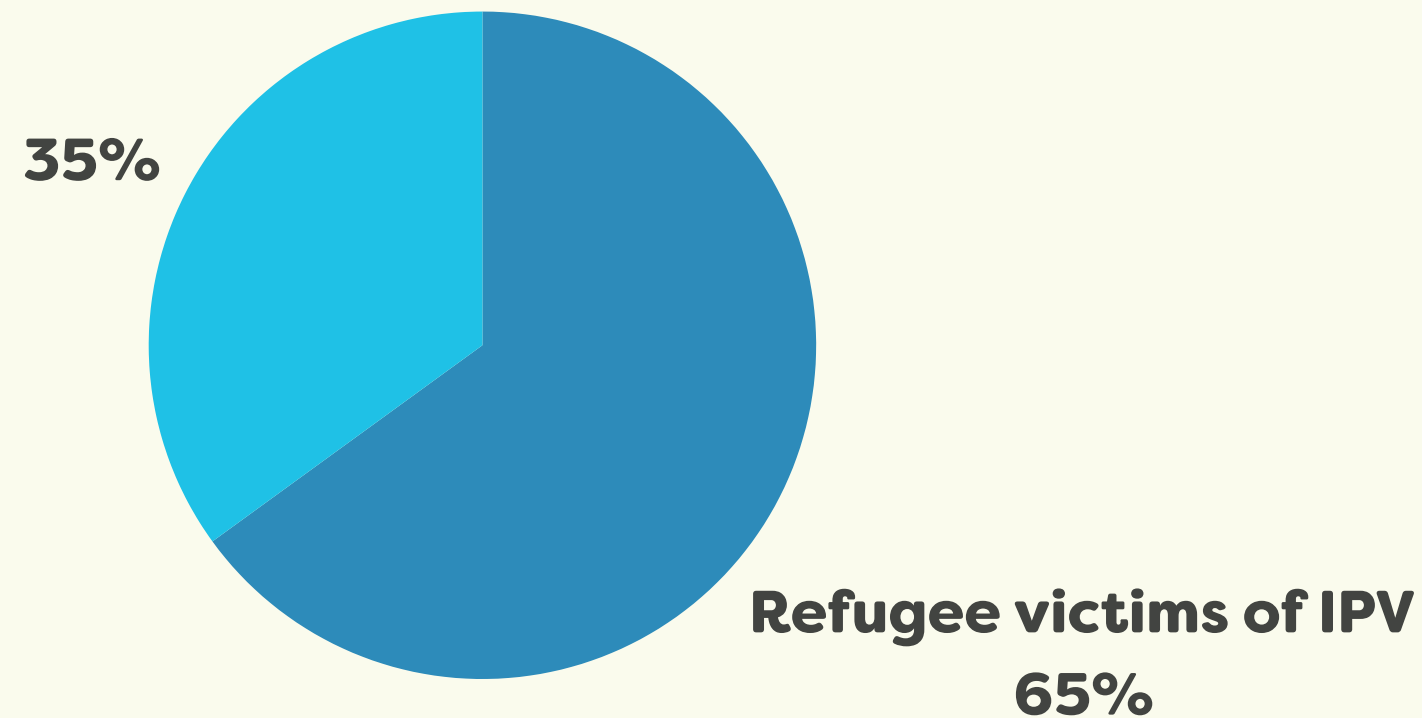
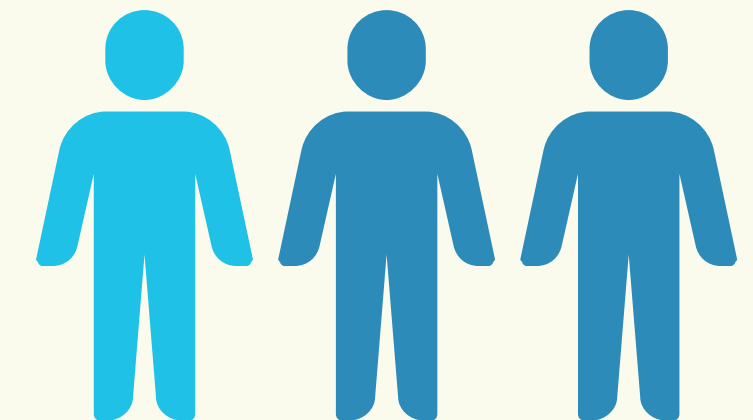
MORE THAN **1/2**
of all US women have
experienced sexual violence

1 in every 6 has experienced rape



1 in every 3 men in the
US have experienced
sexual violence

1 in 33 men have
experienced rape



Globally, 65% of refugee
women experience
interpersonal violence

*Sexual assault is underreported, and
real numbers are likely much higher

Source: CDC, WHO

Barriers to prevention & getting help for **Refugees & Immigrants**

- Language
- Culture
- Education
- Housing
- Isolation
- Low Income



Options for survivors of sexual violence

Legal Advocacy

- Civil and criminal options

Police report

- LMPD will dispatch an officer to make a report
- There's no statute of limitation on rape in Kentucky
- LMPD has a Domestic Violence Unit and a Special Victims Unit
- The County Attorneys Office hears misdemeanors and the Commonwealth Attorneys office hears felonies

Protective Orders

- Protective orders are civil. There are different kinds: EPO, DVO, TIPO, and IPO
- Granted for physical abuse, sexual assault, and stalking
- Must prove that harm occurred and is likely to occur again
- Burden of proof is a “preponderance of evidence”
- Protective orders can be filed 24/7/365
 - In Jefferson County, the Domestic Violence Intake Center is open 24/7
 - In all other counties, contact police for after hours protective orders

Options for survivors of sexual violence

Medical Advocacy

Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE)

- **Must be completed within 96 hours of the assault**
- **Not limited to rape**
- **SAFEs are free**
- **SAFEs are used to gather evidence and are not medical treatment**
- **Hospitals can dispatch STI and HIV prophylactics and emergency contraceptive**
- **The exam is 12 steps but any step can be declined**
- **SAFEs are stored for a year if a police report is not filed**

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)

- **A SANE is a nurse who is specifically trained to do a SAFE**
- **Any nurse or medical professional can do a SAFE, but SANEs are qualified to testify in court**
- **UofL has a SANE program**

The hospital is required by law to contact police if a patient discloses sexual assault. Police often must bring the SAFE kit.

Options for survivors of sexual violence

Personal Advocacy

- Referrals to other professionals like therapy, emergency housing, etc.
- Landlord intervention
- Employer intervention
- Connect clients to legal aid for custody, divorce, and protective orders
- Crime Victims Compensation (CVC)
- Documentation for work and school
- Advocacy is NOT casework

How can you support victims & help prevent sexual assault?

- Volunteer at your local rape crisis center
- Raise awareness on social media
- Donate to violence intervention programs
- Attend trainings (like this one!)
- Ask elected officials to support survivor-center programming:
 - VOCA (Victims of Crime Act)
 - VAWA (Violence Against Women Act)

Awareness helps reduce the risk of sexual assault and builds a community of support.

Advocacy helps increase the support, funding and resources available for victims.

STOP SV



Promote Social Norms that Protect Against Violence

- Bystander approaches
- Mobilizing men and boys as allies



Teach Skills to Prevent Sexual Violence

- Social-emotional learning
- Teaching healthy, safe dating and intimate relationship skills to teens
- Promoting healthy sexuality
- Empowerment-based training



Provide Opportunities to Empower and Support Girls and Women

- Strengthening economic supports for women and families
- Strengthening leadership and opportunities for girls



Create Protective Environments

- Improving safety and monitoring in schools
- Establishing and consistently applying workplace policies
- Addressing community-level risks through environmental approaches



Support Victims/Survivors to Lessen Harms

- Victim-centered services
- Treatment for victims of SV
- Treatment for at-risk children and families to prevent problem behavior including sex offending

Resources for Victims of Sexual Assault

- [Office for Victims of Crime](#)
- [RAINN](#)
- [Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs \(KASAP\)](#)
- Contact your local rape crisis center at 800-656-HOPE

Information Sources

- Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center
- Center for Women and Families

THANK YOU!

Sign up for the KRM e-newsletter at kyrm.org

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