



Economic Justice Series – Access to Education

December 10, 2020

2-3:30pm

Panelists:

- Daniele Staple, Executive Director – Rape Crisis Center Las Vegas
 - Evelyn Pacheco, President – Nevada Women in Trades
- Sondra Crosgrove, History Professor – College of Southern Nevada



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



This meeting was supported by the Allstate Foundation, Anthem BlueCross BlueShield, and the Nevada State Division of Public and Behavioral Health through Grant Number NUF2CE002474 from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Allstate Foundation, Anthem BlueCross BlueShield, Division of Public and Behavioral Health nor Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Access to Personal Safety Education in Nevada

History and Challenges

Impact of sexual abuse on learning and academic achievement



In sexually abused youth, cognitive acuity and memory scores, as well as academic achievement, are lower than their peers.

- 48% reported below average grades
- 39% displayed academic difficulties
- 24% repeated a grade
- 15% were enrolled in remedial classes
- Higher percentage failed to graduate
- 37% Displayed cognitive ability below 25th percentile

Sexual Violence

- Sexual Harassment
- Relationship Violence
- Human Trafficking
- Educator Sexual Misconduct
- Sexual Assault
- Child Sexual Abuse



Sexual Harassment

Any **unwelcome** verbal sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical behavior of a sexual nature.

- Anything that makes you feel **ashamed, humiliated, frightened,** or **uncomfortable** is harassment.
- Golden Rule: sexual harassment is not about what the perpetrator intends but how the person on the receiving end feels.

48% of surveyed MS & HS students said they were harassed at least once during 2010-2011 school year.

Relationship Violence

Dating abuse is a pattern of behaviors one person uses to gain and maintain power and control over their partner. Relationship abuse comes in many forms-not just physical:

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional/Verbal Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Financial Abuse
- Digital Abuse
- Stalking



7.3% (female) 8.4% (male) of students experienced Physical Dating Violence (YRBS, 2017)

7.1% (female) 4.2% (male) of students experienced Sexual Dating Violence (YRBS, 2017)

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery impacting our most vulnerable populations. It is a widespread crime in which children are used in commercial sex and adults are targeted through force, fraud or coercion to engage in activity against their will.

- According to the Polaris Project, there is an estimated **1 million** sexually exploited children. **In 2016, Metro recovered 107 children from sex trafficking in Las Vegas.**



Sexual Conduct Between Educator and Pupil

A person who **is or was employed** by a public school or private school or **is or was volunteering** at a public or private school and engages in sexual conduct with a pupil who is 16 years of age or older, who has not received a high school diploma, a general development certificate or an equivalent document and **who is or was enrolled in or attending the public school or private school at which the person is or was employed or volunteering or with whom the person has had contact in the course of performing his or her duties as an employee or volunteer is guilty of educator sexual conduct with a pupil.**

NRS 201.540

Sexual Assault

A person who subjects another person to sexual penetration, or who forces another person to make a sexual penetration on himself or herself or on another...**against the will of the victim** or under conditions in which the perpetrator knows or should know that the victim is mentally or physically incapable of resisting or understanding the nature of his or her conduct, is guilty of sexual assault.

5.1% (female) 2.6% (male) of MS students in CCSD experienced Sexual Assault (YRBS, 2017)

9.3% (female) 5.3% (male) of HS students in CCSD experienced Sexual Assault (YRBS, 2017)

Child Sexual Abuse

Any sexual activity **between an adult and a child or adolescent** is abusive and illegal. It is an exploitation of power and usually trust.

Sexual activity **between two adolescents** of significantly unequal power or development can also be abusive.

- Sexual abuse includes **touching and non-touching acts**.



- It is estimated that **1 in 10 children** are victims of child sexual abuse *today*.
- **1 in 4 girls** and **1 in 20 boys** self-report being sexually abused before the age of 18.

Victim Blaming

- Definition: When a person who experiences violence is held responsible for what happened to them.
- Victim Blaming effects:
 - The Victim
 - The Perpetrator
 - The Justice System

70% of rapes are never reported to police
2% of rapists ever spend a day in jail

Nevada Reporting Facts

- Medical professionals, law enforcement, employees or volunteers in a youth organization, attorneys, licensed school personnel, or others who work in a place that provides care to children or teens are among those who must report suspected abuse.
- Reports must be made as soon as possible but **no later than 24 hours** after abuse or neglect is reasonably suspected.

NRS 432B.220

New Standards

- 2013: Governor Sandoval created Statewide Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force
 - To identify strategies, goals, and recommendations for preventing sexual abuse in Nevada.
- 2015: Senate Bill No. 395 (Child Safety Standards)
- Required creation of content standards by 2017: completed and approved by Nevada State Board of Education
- Required implementation of content by 2020 – this is the first full school year where the standards must be implemented
- There are now standards for K-12 education on personal safety that are included in health education, separate from the Sexual Health Education standards

Why Personal Safety is Separate from Sexual Health Education

- Nevada is one of very few states that have an “opt in” requirement for Sexual Health Education – parents/guardians must agree to allow students to receive Sexual Health Education
- Due to this, we have advocated to keep the portion defined as “Sex Ed” narrowly defined and make education regarding consent and personal safety/abuse prevention a separate “strand”
- Most states have more general statewide policy regarding child safety
- Nevada has few overall policies or statewide standards regarding child safety

Challenges

- Teen pregnancy is higher in states without comprehensive health education
- Myths and misinformation about sexual health puts children at risk of early and unplanned pregnancy
- Lack of understanding of correct names for body parts, shame around sexual health and development, lack of emphasis on healthy personal boundaries, an understanding of consent, and other key concepts put children at greater risk to be abused, and less likely to report if they are
- Laws prohibiting sexual relationships between school and professional personnel with contact with children are very recent in Nevada
- In Sexual Health Education and other educational areas around violence, there has not been sufficient emphasis on power and control dynamics being the root of this violence

Negative Outcomes

- Children who have experienced sexual abuse and assault often end up in the school-prison pipeline, particularly children of color, because their trauma comes out in behavior issues that no one investigates further
- Child victims often end up getting labeled as discipline or emotional “problem children” and they are blamed and forced to take accountability for their assault more than the perpetrators
- School administrators have little training on how to “investigate” allegations and are not trauma informed, leading to victim blaming and poor outcomes for the victim, who often feels that no one is on their side

Strategy at The Rape Crisis Center

- Due to the unique issues around Sexual Health Education in Nevada, create other “strands” of the health curriculum that deal with safety and abuse prevention
- Add a School Based Advocate that specifically goes into schools to deal with the educational issues that come up after abuse and assault to support children and families in a different way
- Increase community education for adults, in particular parents, to understand the nature and impact of child sexual abuse
- Advocate for school district policies around communication and other areas where children are being groomed that fall outside of our laws so that adults grooming children can be held accountable
- Advocate for additional laws, training, and programming that continues to emphasize the onus and responsibility of Adults to protect Children
- Shift from offering just programming in schools to offering training and technical assistance to schools and school systems around best practices, trauma informed classrooms, and high quality prevention programs

Available Technical Assistance

- Violence Prevention: Best Practices
- School staff training
- Violence Prevention Programs for students:
 - available programs from outside agencies
 - available programs for school staff to purchase and training requirements
- Review of Policies and Procedures

Overall Goal

- To get children support and resources as soon as possible to minimize the negative impact of their experience on their schooling and overall mental and physical health
- To prevent child sexual abuse by emphasizing the responsibility and knowledge of adults to protect and understand the impact of abuse on children rather than blaming children for their experiences
- To hold adults accountable for inappropriate behavior even before it becomes illegal
- To create trauma informed schools that value student health and safety as a top priority

We want kids to be healthy and get an education, setting them up for a greater chance of success!



High School Graduation is an important step to a more secure economic future.

Kids who feel safe and supported are more likely to stay in school.

For Additional Resources

The Rape Crisis Center

801 S. Rancho Dr. Suite C-3

Office: (702) 385-2153

24 hour Hotline: (702) 366-1640

www.rcclv.org

The Enough Abuse Campaign

www.enoughabuse.org

Prevent Child Abuse Nevada

www.preventchildabusenevada.org

Rape and Incest National Network
(RAINN)

www.rainn.org