



King County
Sexual Assault
Resource Center

END THE SILENCE



King County
Sexual Assault
Resource Center

The Team Approach:

**A new tool for an old idea in the
management of sex Offenders and the
prevention of sexual victimization**

**The Importance of Victim-Centeredness and a Comprehensive
Approach to Sex Offender Management for Community Safety**

Lindsay Palmer

Director of Prevention and Education

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center

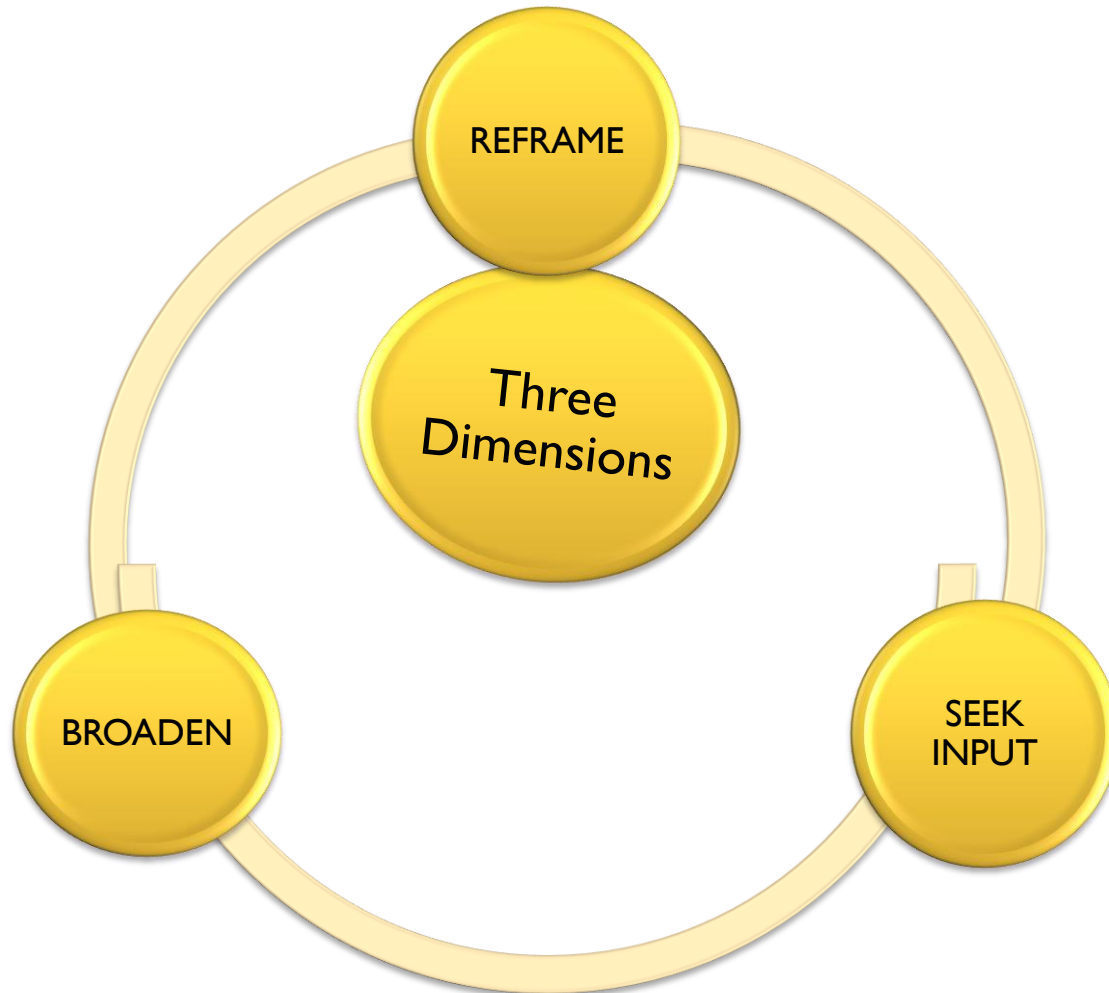
Agenda:

- Victim-centered work and the need for a tool
- Multidisciplinary teams
- SMART Grant and our tasks
- Our approach to community outreach
- Some of the findings on our collaborative effort
- Q and A
- Final thoughts

Victim – Centered: As a Philosophy



Victim – Centered: As a Method



Sex Offender Management: Premises

“The most comprehensive and responsible approaches to community management of sex offenders are those which place paramount importance on addressing the needs and safety of past and potential victims of sexual assault.”

Center for Sex Offender Management: The Comprehensive Assessment Protocol

- Requires multi-disciplinary collaboration.
- Victim and community safety are paramount and should be placed at the forefront of sex offender management strategies.

Multi-Disciplinary Team

“A group of community members from various specialties and backgrounds, working together toward a common goal.”

CSOM identifies nine disciplines:

Law enforcement * community corrections *
institutional corrections * parole *
defense * prosecution * courts *
sex offender treatment providers *
and victim advocacy

A Comprehensive Approach to Using an MDT Model

“Collaboration requires agencies and individuals to recognize the importance of diverse perspectives, share resources, and make a commitment to work together to enhance capacity toward attainment of a common goal.”

Center for Sex Offender Management: The Comprehensive Assessment Protocol

You are a key partner in this effort.



Messaging to Victim Advocates

We value:

- *Empowerment* of community and/or individuals
- *Collaboration* that fosters mutual understanding and support
- Offender *accountability* without minimizing the impact
- *Hope*



Victim – Centered: Summary



A philosophy that places the safety of victim and potential victims at the forefront of how we manage sex offenders; and



A method that requires us to incorporate a new dimension into the multi-disciplinary approach by examining each policy or case management decision through a lens that includes and seeks input from victim advocates so we all can accomplish the goals of no more victims.

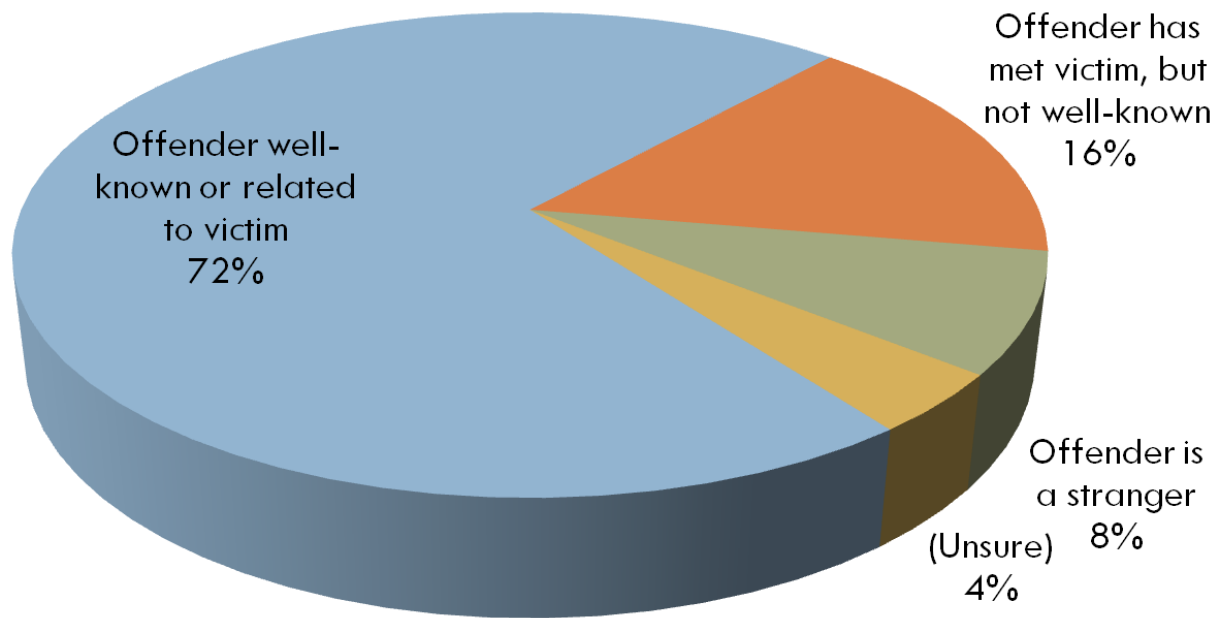
We believed that our work together came down to just two things:

1. Emotions: out in the community
2. Connection: between us and the community

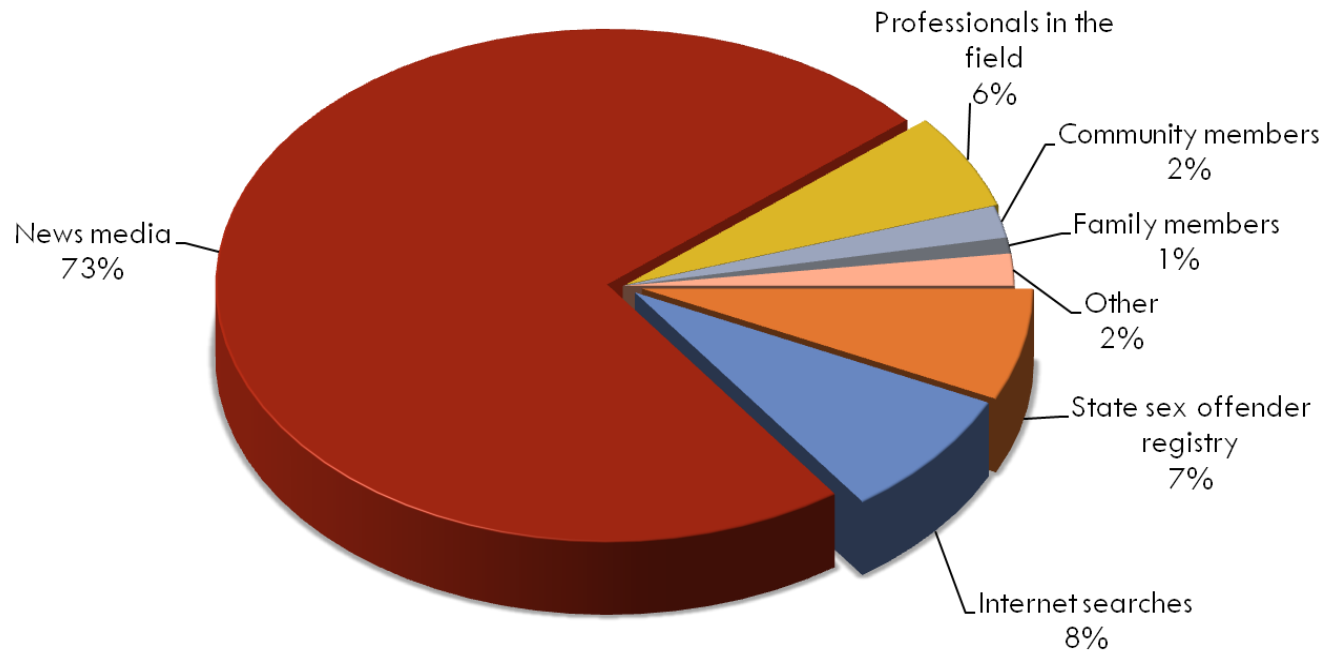
The Emotions in the Room

- It is the “Elephant in the room” that isn’t talked about but it is present.
- Knowledge does not change emotions.
- Some of the reasons why fear and anger are in the room.

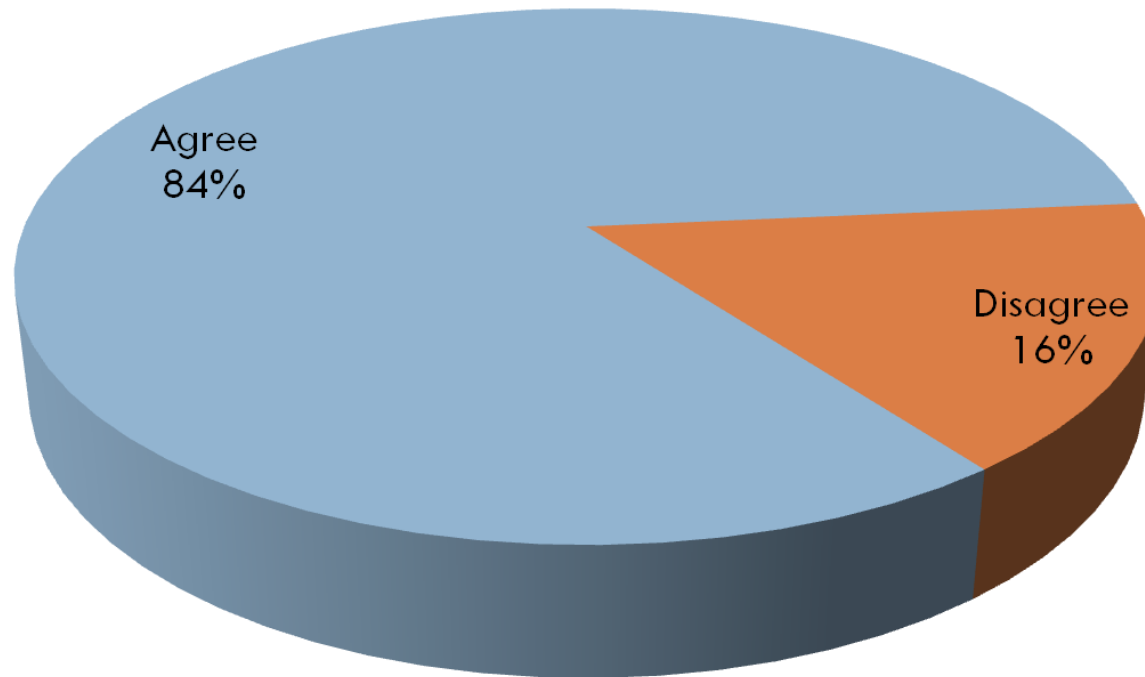
Which of the following statements about sex offenders who victimize children do you think is most true?



From what source have you received most of your knowledge about sex offenders?



I want more information than I have now about the ways that sex offending can be prevented in my own community



EDUCATION OUTREACH AS PART OF OUR WORK

Some Simple Ideas:

Things to not say....

- “I hate sex offenders too.”
- “If it were up to me _____.”
- “I know how you feel.”
- “Yes, even sex offenders have rights.”

Things to say....

- “If you see something suspicious, call.”
- “This does not have to be the end of the conversation.
Here is my card.”
- “I hear your frustration.”

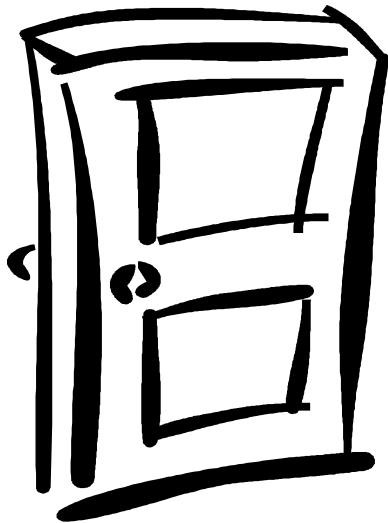
Sex Offenders are a Diverse Population

- What they “look like” varies
- What they “do” varies
- Who they target varies
- Why they do it varies
- Their risk to recidivate varies

The Role of a Community Corrections Officer (CCO) supervises:

“A CCO has a unique job and does the work that no one else can do!”

*Quote from a Police Detective
who monitors sex offenders*



- Registration
- Treatment
- Alcohol and Drugs
- Relationships
- Entertainment
- Employment
- Residence
- Contact with potential victims

PARTNERSHIPS WORK!

Partnerships Work!

Partnerships



- **Treatment Providers**
- **Landlords**
- **Community Parole**
- **Block Watch Captains**
- **Law Enforcement**
- **Prosecuting Attorneys**
- **Job Supervisors**
- **Defense Attorneys**
- **Victim Advocates**
- **Guardians**
- **Family and Friends**

What we know about victimization

- 44% of victims are under the age 18.
- Sixty percent of rapes go unreported.
- More than 50% of all rape/sexual assault incidents were reported by victims to have occurred within a one mile radius of their home or in their home.
- Approximately 2/3 of assaults are committed by someone known to the victim.

Making our work count

We stick to three important messages/tips no matter who our audience is:

1. **Call if you seem something suspicious. If you see something say something.**
2. **Connect to and utilize community resources. We are there for you and want to help.**
3. **Share what you have learned.**

MY CONTACT INFORMATION

My Contact Information

Lindsay Palmer

Director of Education and Prevention

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center

425.518.9230

Lindsay.palmer@bellevuecollege.edu

“People want a silver bullet that will protect their children, [but] there is no silver bullet. There is no simple cure to the very complex problem of sexual violence.”

Patty Wetterling, quoted in the 2007 Human Rights Watch Report, *No Easy Answers: Sex Offender Laws in the US*