

**“Communicating Effectively about Support Service Information:
What Works with Teens Seeking Help for Violence in their Lives?”**

**FOCUS GROUP TOPIC GUIDE
FOR YOUTH**

Name of Group Interviewed:

Date:

Site:

Time discussion started:

Time ended:

Participant summary:

Name(s) of facilitator(s):

Introductions

INTRODUCE TOPIC OF RESEARCH

I'm interested in learning about what kinds of materials you would be interested in receiving about sexual assault support services. For example, if you were looking for information on support services for yourself or a friend, I'd like to know what information would be most useful, and in what format you would prefer to receive this information (i.e. postcards, bookmarks, text messages, etc.). We'll be discussing the types of communication materials (pamphlets, posters, bookmarks, etc.) that you find attractive and useful, and your ideas on creating effective materials and ways to distribute these resources among youth. Your participation in this discussion will help improve resource materials for young people in New York City. Our discussion should last about one and a half to two hours.

AGREE ON GROUP NORMS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

No one except the group leaders and the other group members will know that you took part in this discussion. The groups will be tape recorded with voices only and the tapes will be used to write down and document the information that was shared during the discussion. Your names will not be revealed on the tape. Note-takers will be writing down opinions. We will not record your name or any other personal things about you during the group. We ask that everyone in this room not reveal any information they may have heard here to anyone outside the group. We will protect information about you and the fact that you are taking part in this research, and if the results of this research are published, your name will not be shown.

Walk through consent form and have everyone sign it.

ICE-BREAKER QUESTIONS

(A) “I've Done Something You Haven't Done!!”- Have each person introduce themselves and then state something they have done that they think no one else in the room has done. If someone else has also done it, the student must state something else until he/she finds something that no one else has done.

(B) Let's begin. Let's go around the room and introduce ourselves. Please give us your first name and age, explain who lives with you in your home, and just for fun, tell us what your favorite TV show is. I'll start...

QUESTIONS ON HELP-SEEKING

First, I'd like to ask about experiences you or people you know have had when looking for information or help about violence (either dating violence or sexual violence). Dating violence means any type of physical or emotional harm that happens between two people who are dating. Sexual violence is a large topic, and includes a wide range of violence, including physical, sexual, or psychological harm, or even threats of such violence. It also includes sexual abuse, rape, coercion or someone forcing another into some sexual activity (touching, oral sex, etc.), trafficking in women, or forced prostitution.

Have you or anyone you know ever gone for help in the past?

Has a friend ever approached you about experiencing dating violence or sexual violence?

Has a friend ever approached you because that person's partner was abusive?

Has a friend ever approached you because she/he experienced childhood sexual abuse?

What problem was this person seeking help for?

Where did they go?

Did they go to a counselor? Hospital? Police? Teacher or principal? A parent or another friend's parent?

Who did you talk to or ask for help? What information would have helped you to help your friend?

If you had a friend that got pregnant, where would you tell them to go? What would you tell them to do?

If you had a friend that was raped, what would you suggest she do? Where would you tell her to go for help?

If you had a friend who was sexually harassed, or experienced name calling...

If you had a friend whose boyfriend or girlfriend was beating them up...

If you had a friend who experienced sexual abuse in the past by a family member or acquaintance...

...What would you suggest they do? Where would you tell them to go for help?

What else do you know about existing services? What do you know about hospital services? Counseling services? Police? Legal services?

Have you ever known anyone who asked for help because they were abusing another person? What would you suggest that person do if they asked you for help about becoming less abusive? Where would suggest they go for help?

Do you know your rights of how to access health care?

(Ask this question first, then tell them this...)

For example, did you know that if you were seeking help regarding contraception or abortion services, you are not legally obligated to inform your parents?

QUESTIONS ON RESOURCE MATERIALS

Now I'd like to get your input on some bookmarks we created some time ago (pass out NY Reads Together bookmarks):

What do you think about these bookmarks?

Are they useful?

Do they list important information to you?

What other information would you suggest including?

If you were looking for this kind of information, what other formats would you suggest?

Would you be interested in receiving a pamphlet/postcard/link to a website/text message?

If we did text messaging, what information would you include in the text message?

If the Department of Health said we needed to distribute information on sexual assault services somewhere, where would you suggest we put it?

How would you distribute it?

Where would you go for information on sexual violence and dating violence?

Would you prefer to go to a place in your own neighborhood, or someplace that was farther away but specialized in youth services?

Why?

Is money a factor when accessing services?

Do you go to websites when seeking information on sexual violence support services?

Do you go to websites when seeking information on dating violence support services?

Have you seen the ads for “Know HIV/AIDS” (e.g. “We all have AIDS, if one of us does” poster)? (Print out and show this ad. Also brainstorm other current health ads to discuss.)

What do you think about these ads?

Have you ever used Teen Wire (the Planned Parenthood hotline)?

Was it helpful?

What kinds of information/materials are least helpful, or turn you off to seeking help? Why do they turn you off?

What is one thing you would never say in information materials because it would turn you off?

If you knew someone who wanted to get help for being an abusive person, what kind of information/materials would you suggest for them? What kinds of materials would be useful for someone looking for help with becoming less violent and abusive? What information would be important to include?

CLOSE THE INTERVIEW

Thank you for all your time and ideas. This has been extremely helpful. As I said in the beginning, the purpose of this discussion was to help us learn about what youth want in terms of resource materials on sexual violence and dating violence support services. As we develop support service materials, we want to be sure they help youth address the problems they are facing.

Please remember that you agreed to keep this discussion confidential. Please do not share with others the details of what was said here. Please do not give details of what was said here, so that we can try to preserve confidentiality and the safety of people who are exposed to violence.

How does that sound to you? Do you have any questions for me? If anyone would like to speak with me in private, I will stay here after we end.

Thank you for all your help.