Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault
The Old News

• Most sexual assaults involve alcohol

• The physical effects caused by alcohol may be similar to many of the new drugs used to facilitate sexual assault

• The effects of alcohol when used in combination with a second drug are extremely dangerous
What’s New?

- GHB
- Rohypnol
- Ketamine
- Valium
- Ethanol

- Opiates
- Benzodiazepines
- Amphetamines
- Muscle relaxants
- Antihistamines
The challenges to investigating drug-facilitated sexual assault

- The victim’s lack of resistance
- Inconsistent or untrue statements
- Delayed reporting
Overcoming the Challenges Associated with the Victim’s Lack of Resistance

- Conduct a comprehensive victim interview

- Victim cooperation is key
Overcoming the Challenges Associated with Inconsistent or Untrue Statements

• Clarify the victim’s statements

• Provide a safe and open environment for the victim to disclose all information

• Keep the number of interviews to a minimum
Overcoming the Challenges Associated with Delay Reporting

• Provide victim with open ended questions

• Document everything

• Learn the symptoms of various drugs used to facilitate sexual assault
Recognize The Indicators of A Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault

• She tells you she took the drug

• The victim reports symptoms of amnesia

• She recalls feeling “strange” or “very drunk”
The Advantages and Disadvantages of a full-drug screen

- The perspective of law enforcement
- The perspective of the sexual assault advocate
Evidence Collection

- The victim
- The suspect
- The witness
- The crime scene