Victim Impact
Common Stages of Victim Response to Sexual Assault

- Acute Trauma
- Outward Adjustment
- Integration
Common Experiences of Victims During a Sexual Assault

• Frozen with Fright

• Dissociation
Strategies for interviewing victims who experience frozen fright or dissociation during their assault
Common Experiences of Victims During the Acute Stage

- Cognitive impairment
- Dissociation
- Amnesia
- Sleep and appetite disturbances
- Difficulty concentrating
- Reliving the assault
- Re-enactment of the experience
- Shock/disbelief
- Loss of control
- Guilt/self-blame
- Loss of self-esteem
- More or less emotion
- Calm/denial
- Irritability/anger
- Depression/suicidality
- Physical symptoms
- Changes in behavior
- Self-destructive behavior
Common Experiences During the Outward Adjustment Stage

- Deny/minimize impact
- Rationalize reasons
- Avoid reminders
- Decrease in symptoms
- Return to crisis
- Increased emotions
- Developing ways of coping with trauma
Common Experiences During the Integration Stage

• Acceptance or understanding
• Reorganization of life
Special Issues Affecting Victim Response

- Male victims
- Brutality of the assault
- Stranger vs. nonstranger assault
- Marital rape
- Revictimization
- Drug facilitated sexual assault