**Why Words Matter**

Words can have a great influence on how people think of an issue. Using words that blame the victim creates a community where survivors are not valued or believed. It also creates an environment where perpetrators aren't held accountable.

www.kcsarc.org

---

**1 in 5**

students report they have been sexually assaulted sometime in their life

2019 Wisconsin YRBS

---

**75%**

of sexual assault cases go unreported

rainn.org

---

**Supporting a Survivor**

- Be clear that the perpetrator is the one responsible for the assault.
- Give the survivor time and space. It may be traumatizing to talk about what happened.
- Recognize the courage survivors have to talk about their assault.
- Thank them for trusting us with their experience.
- Believe them.

---

**Media's Role in Shaping Survivors**

- **Wrong**: "Teen testifies they don't know if they consented to having sex."
- **Correct**: "Teen testifies they were intoxicated and unable to consent to having sex."

- **Wrong**: "Lady Gaga describes the effect her alleged rape has on her today."
- **Correct**: "Lady Gaga describes the effect surviving rape has on her today."

- **Wrong**: "Man jailed for getting 11 year old pregnant."
- **Correct**: "Man jailed for raping an 11 year old."

---

**#WhyIDidn'tReport**

"I believe I would have been mocked and ridiculed for being gay."

"Because it was gutting to admit—even to myself—that I was assaulted."

"I'm a man and it would make me seem weak."

"It would ruin my career before it even begun."

"I did [report], it didn't matter. I was dismissed, disparaged, and I still get blamed."

"I was embarrassed that I let it happen."

---

"Because I'm still afraid."

"Because I knew it was his word against mine."

"The person who raped me would be the person I report to."

---

**Wisconsin Department of Health Services**

P-02861B (12/2020)