Core Strategies to Reduce Systemic Inequities for ALL Survivors in Rural Communities

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Today's Learning Objectives

- Overview of systemic inequities
- Tools and strategies for identifying the communities most impacted
- Collaborative approaches that promote equitable interventions

Defining & Understanding Systemic Inequity
Advocacy on Behalf of Battered Women

Difficult Realities

1. The deep and pervasive harm of violence against women,
2. The deep and pervasive harm of mass incarceration and its impact on marginalized communities, and
3. The ways in which survivors of battering are routinely caught up in the criminal legal system.

Unintended Consequences

Reforms to institutional policy and practice that are meant to increase safety and well-being for survivors of battering, that instead jeopardize safety and well-being and contribute to disparity of impact.
Disparity of Impact

Exists when the proportion of a **specific group** within the control of the criminal legal system is **greater** than its proportion in the general population or when the criminal legal system intervention has a **more negative impact on a specific group**.

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Start with: Survivor’s Lived Experiences

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What communities are impacted the most by systemic inequity where you live?
Preparing for an Equity Assessment

- Develop a strong knowledge base
- Form a team with Community-Based Experts
- Learn from community impacted by inequity

Meaningful Partnership with Community

- 2-Way Street
- Follow-through
- Offer a range of involvement

Learning from Community

- Survivors & Community-Based Experts
- Groups, one-on-one, surveys, etc.
- Dialogue over data collection
Duluth, MN: Response to Native women who report rape

INFO GATHERING ACTIVITIES
- Case process mapping
- Interviews:
  ◦ Community-based advocacy organizations
  ◦ Prosecutors
  ◦ Law enforcement officers
  ◦ Nurse manager at local ER
- Focus group with Native survivors
- Reviewed 35 police reports
- Police ride-alongs

OUTCOMES
- Hiring of Native advocates at rape crisis center
- Formal protocols for follow-up contact by investigators and prosecutors
- Supervisory review tools to strengthen investigation of sexual assault
Analyze Findings & Make Change

How is language access for Deaf individuals built into criminal case processes of domestic violence crimes?

Reflections & Questions

Contacting Praxis

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