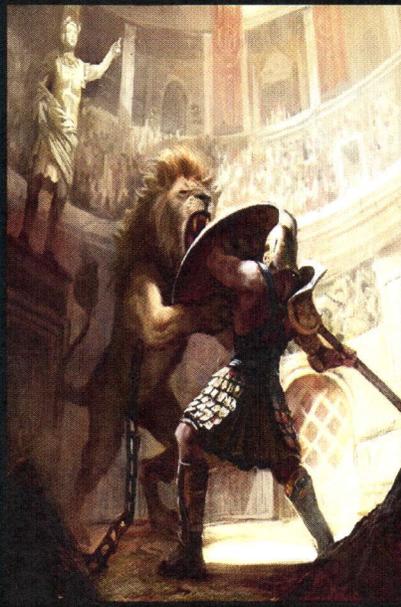




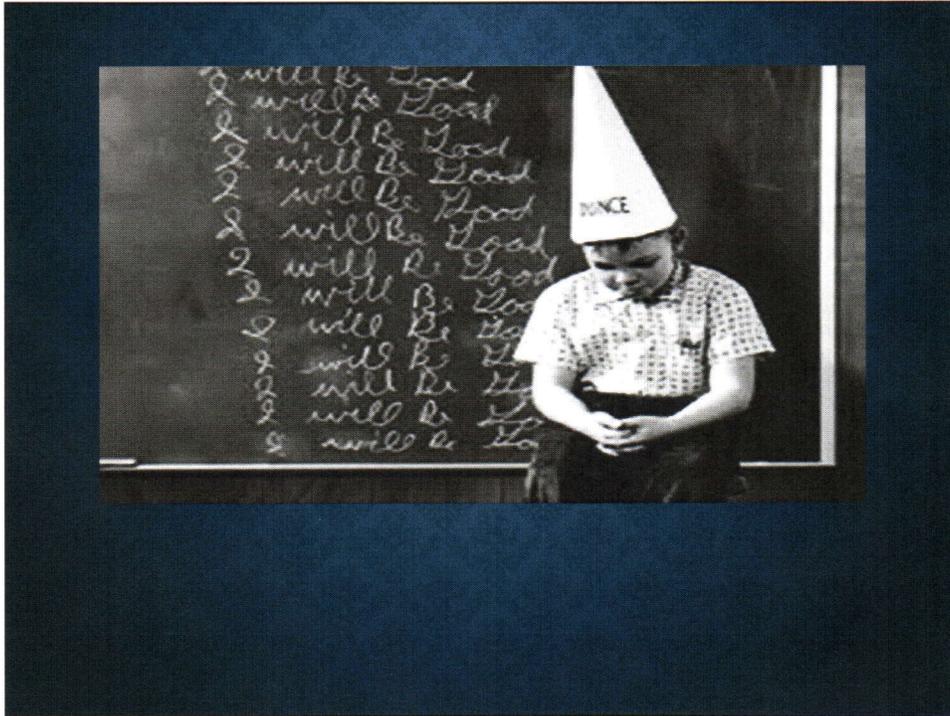
Trauma Informed Victim Interviews

Getting Beyond
“Just the Facts, Ma’am”



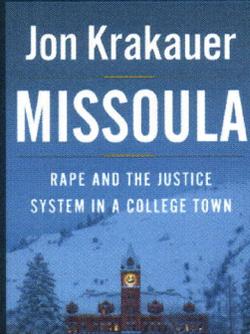
*"It is not the critic who counts:
not the man who points out
how the strong man stumbled or
where the doer of deeds could
have done better. The credit
belongs to the man who is
actually in the arena, whose face
is marred by dust and sweat and
blood, who strives valiantly, who
errs and comes up short again
and again, because there is no
effort without error or
shortcoming, but who knows the
great enthusiasms, the great
devotions, who spends himself
for a worthy cause; who, at the
best, knows, in the end, the
triumph of high achievement,
and who, at the worst, if he fails,
at least he fails while daring
greatly, so that his place shall
never be with those cold and
timid souls who knew neither
victory nor defeat."*

- Theodore Roosevelt



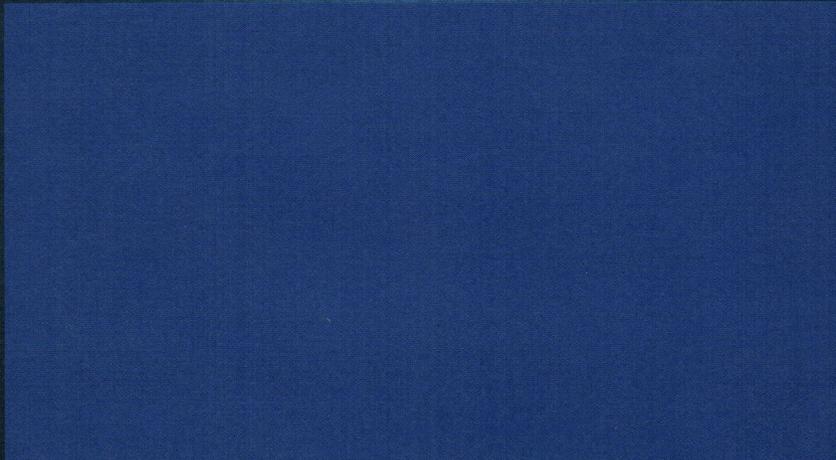
SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES: UTAH NIJ STUDY

- National Institute of Justice Study – published January 2014
 - Salt Lake County chosen as one urban site
- SANE nurse and BYU Nursing Professor, Julie Valentine studied Code R cases from 2003 – 2011 in Salt Lake County
- For every 100 exams:
 - Investigators referred to DA's office:
 - 34 cases
 - Prosecution filed:
 - 6 cases

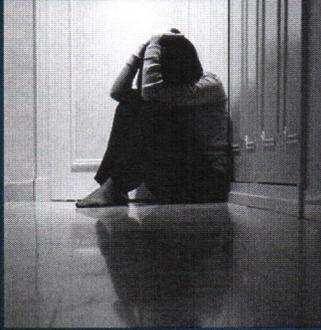


"Rape is a crime that is not taken seriously in this country."

- 350 sexual assault cases from Missoula Police Department
- January 2008 to May 2012
- Investigated and referred for prosecution:
 - XX
- Filed criminal cases:
 - XX
- Percentage of cases filed:



90 SECOND SUMMARY OF TRAUMA PRINCIPLES



- Trauma has a powerful effect upon behavior and memory.
- Memories are often like “snapshots” and not like a video of the event. There are usually gaps.
- Chronology of events is often difficult.
- Hormones flood the body when a traumatic event happens and when traumatic memories are recalled.
- The primitive brain stores different details than does the rational brain.
- Recall of traumatic memories is slow and difficult.

OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING INVESTIGATIONS RESEARCH

- Critical Incident Amnesia
- “This temporary amnesia will affect both the officer’s memory and the officer’s ability to write a detailed report.”
- After first sleep cycle, officer’s memory increases by 50 per cent
- After second sleep cycle, officer’s memory increases up to 90 per cent

• *Force Science Institute*

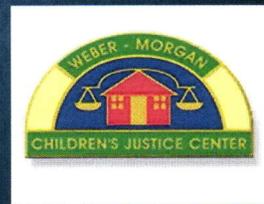
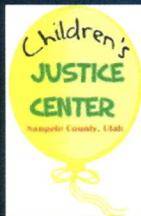
the **BOTTOM** LINE

We need to change the way we interview victims of trauma.

Just like in child abuse cases, we need to interview all victims according to THEIR ABILITY.

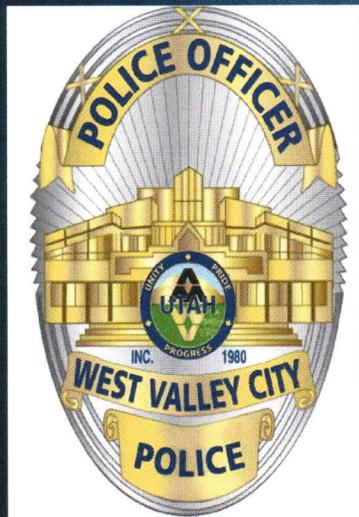
Victims who have experienced a traumatic event should be interviewed by a person who is aware of the effects of trauma.

BUT WAIT . . . AREN'T COPS/PROSECUTORS SUPPOSED TO BE OBJECTIVE AND INDEPENDENT, NOT "VICTIM CENTERED?"



WHAT DOESN'T WORK FOR TRAUMA INTERVIEWS

- Interview techniques that DON'T work:
 - Who, What, When, Where, Why focus
 - Reid technique
 - Any interview involving confrontation
 - Rapid fire questions
 - Polygraph, voice stress analysis



- West Valley City Police Department Project
- Trauma Informed Protocols
- Trauma Informed Victim Interviews
- Study May 2014 to May 2015 – results available soon!

FORENSIC EXPERIENTIAL TRAUMA INTERVIEW (FETI)

- Term “[Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview](#)” coined by Russell Strand
- Three principles of FETI:
 - 1) Genuine Empathy
 - “Never treat a victim as a witness to their own crime.”
 - 2) Facilitate detailed statement by victim
 - “Help me understand what you are able to tell me about your experience.”
 - 3) Shut your mouth, open your ears and listen

FORENSIC EXPERIENTIAL TRAUMA INTERVIEW (FETI)

IMPLICATIONS OF TRAUMA RESEARCH ON THE VICTIM INTERVIEW PROCESS

- Sleep and time are important factors, so full forensic interview should be delayed
- Do NOT ask victim to do a complete or detailed written statement while still traumatized
- A calm and caring response by the interviewer will dissipate the trauma response hormones and allow victim to access more detail from memory
- Slow down the interview process – recall and consolidation are slow with traumatic events

DETAILS ARE WORTH WAITING FOR!



CHANGES TO WVC PD PROTOCOL

- Administration policy “Top Down” changes
- Training ALL detectives (and hopefully all officers)
- Outline first responders “Just the Basics” duties: ensure safety and determine probable cause
- Call out detectives early in the case
- Written statement by victim containing “Just the Basics”
 - 1) what happened
 - 2) where it happened
 - 3) who did it

CHANGES TO WVC PD PROTOCOL

- Victim Advocate involved early in the case
- ** Trauma Informed Victim Interview (TIVI) **
- Screen all known suspect cases with prosecutors
- Keep victim involved in the process – notify of screening decision ASAP

THINGS TO EXPECT DURING INTERVIEWS

- Due to the hormonal flood of the body when recalling traumatic events, behaviors of victim may be unusual, including:
 - Flat affect
 - “Strong” emotions
 - Emotional mood swings
 - Irritable/argumentative
 - Difficulty concentrating
 - Difficulty retrieving memories

These behaviors may be present when the traumatic memories are re-activated.

PLEASE REMEMBER: “It ain’t about you.”

A BETTER APPROACH TO TRAUMA INTERVIEWS



Trauma Informed Interviews should look more like child forensic interviews than like suspect interviews.

IDENTICAL GOALS:

Get victims talking in narrative form and let victims choose what details are given

TRAUMA INFORMED VICTIM INTERVIEW (TIVI)

- These aren't as SPOOKY as it sounds – even skeptical officers report success with TIVIs.
- When TIVI is used, it helps keep the victim involved to the end of the case.
- TIVI maximizes the amount of detail given by the victim, and improves the case.



TWO STEP VICTIM INTERVIEW PROCESS

First Responder “Just the Basics” Interviews

- *CAVEAT: Use caution in delaying the TIVI in cases between intimate partners, because the relationship is likely to interfere with the interviewing process. The same trauma principles apply in interviewing, but delaying the interview may not be best for DV cases.*
- Focus on Probable Cause only
- “What happened?”
- “Who did this?”
- “Where did it happen?”

Schedule TIVI with victim a few days later
(2 to 4 sleep cycles is ideal)

THE KEY DIFFERENCES IN TIVIS

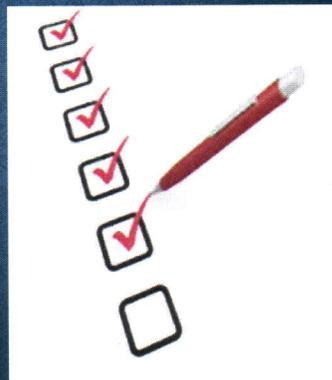


Victim controls the narrative
Victim does most of the talking
Keep your mouth shut and
LISTEN



TRAUMA INFORMED VICTIM INTERVIEW

- The interview is separated into three phases
- This is meant to serve as a **GUIDELINE** and is fluid in nature.
- Every victim and case is different.
- Use the Officer Guide Sheet however it helps you



OFFICER PREPARATION FOR TIVI

- Read all reports previously done in case
- If reports are not yet done, talk to officers previously involved in case
- Check criminal histories of known suspect
- Leave bias on the other side of interview room door

PHASE**ONE**

TIVI SUPPORT PERSON RULES

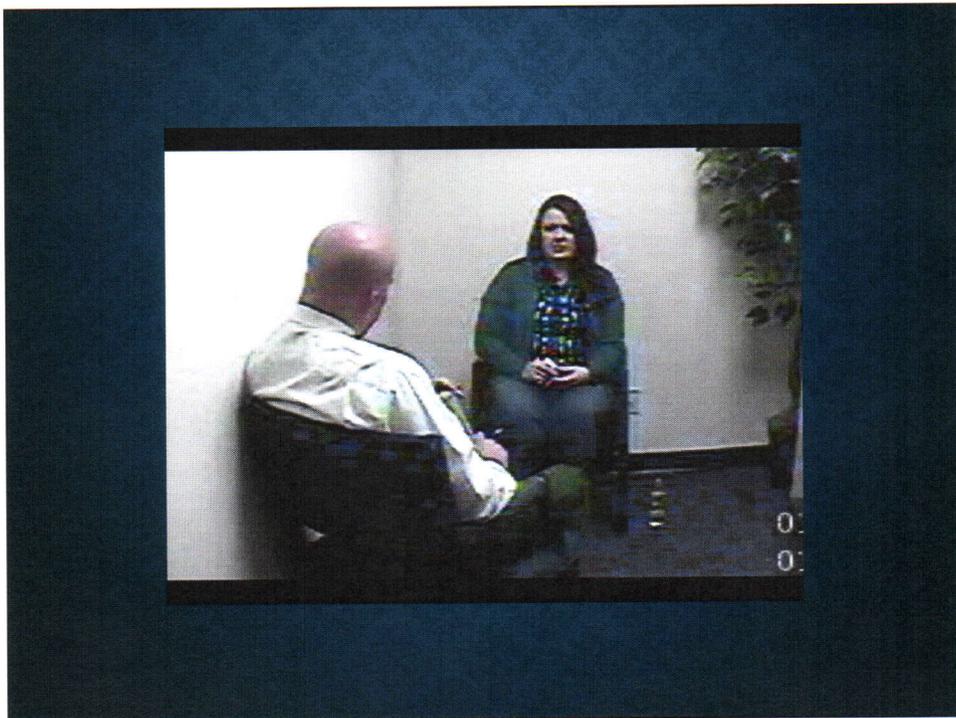


- If support person is requested, discuss SP rules:
 - Do not ask or answer questions or give input
 - Remain silent

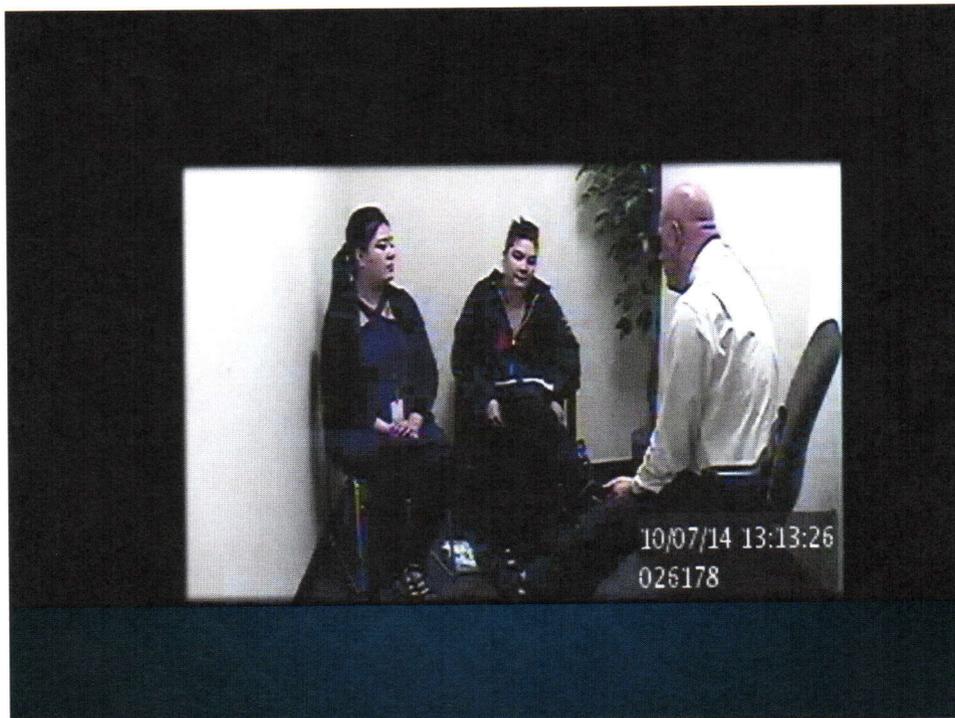
PHASE III

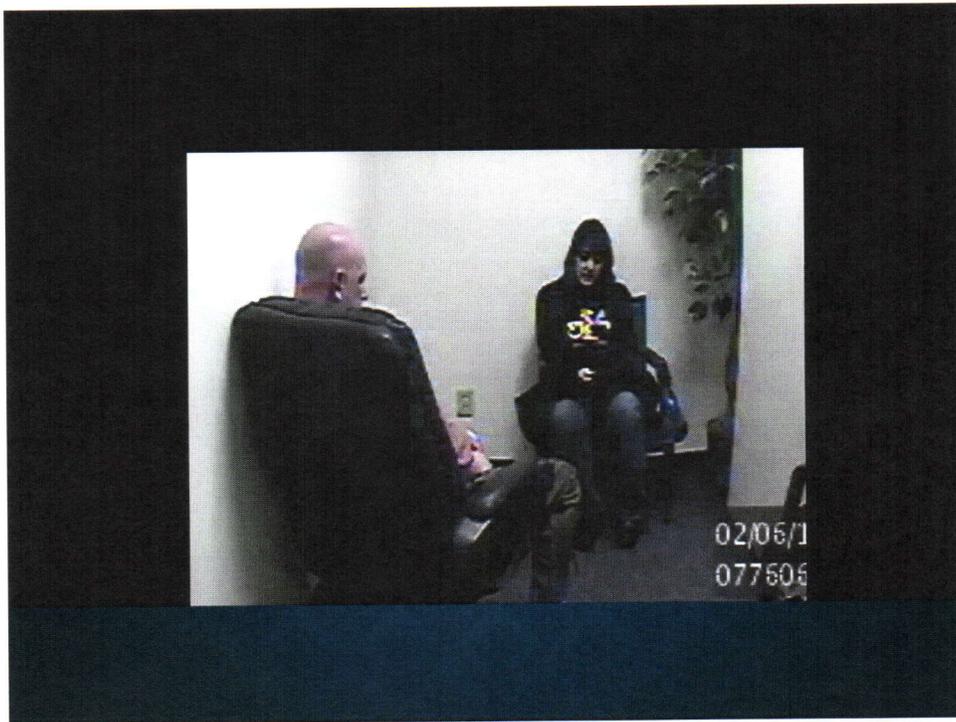
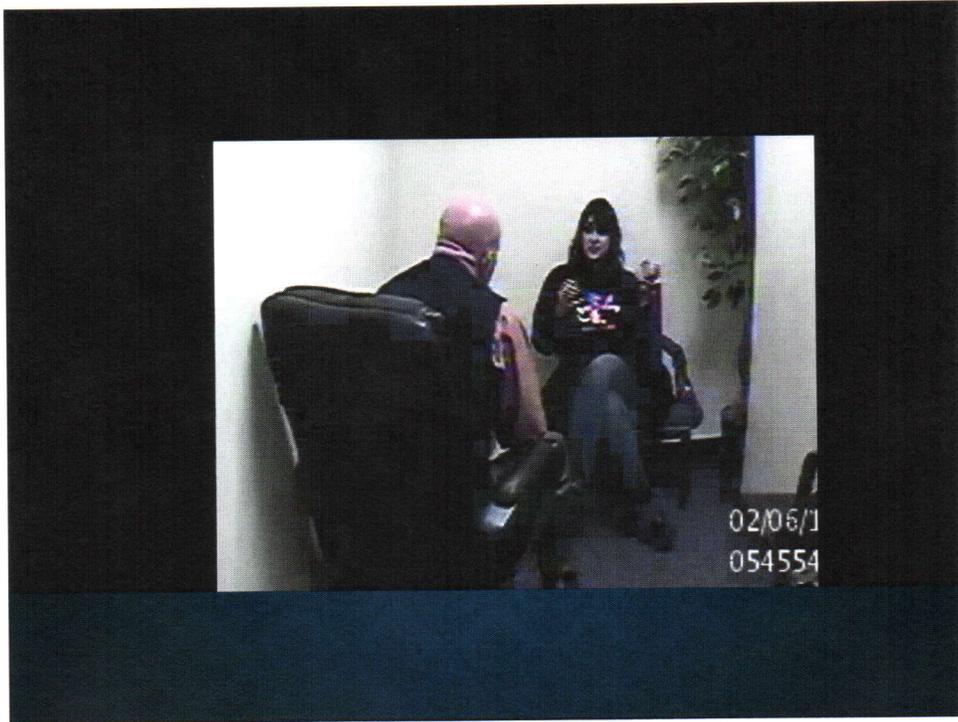


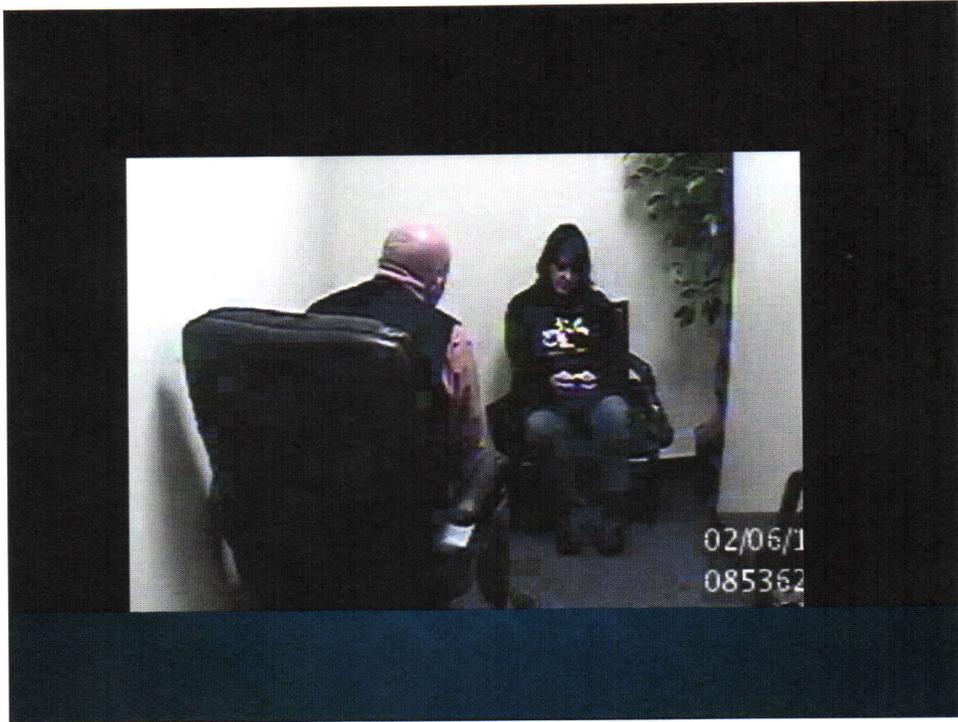
**MOCK INTERVIEW
BY AN OFFICER WITHOUT
TRAUMA TRAINING**



**CLIPS FROM REAL TIVI
INTERVIEWS**







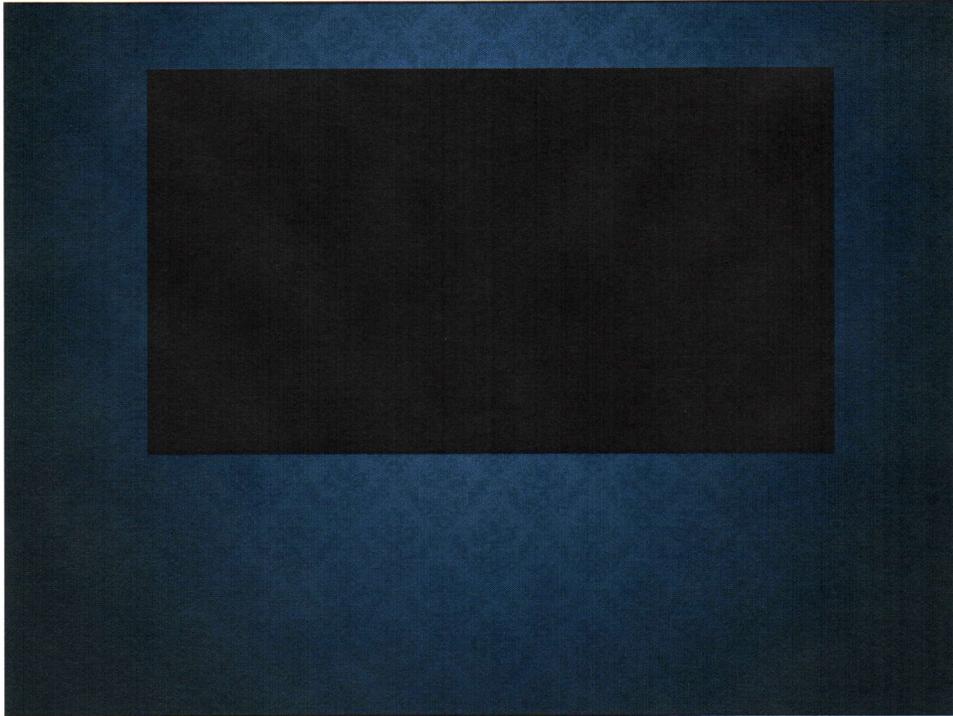




“YOU CAN DO IT.”



- Results of TIVI Study May 2014 to May 2015 by Professor Valentine:
- Screening rate went from 33 per cent to 80 per cent.
- Victim survey reports are very positive.
- Prosecution filing rates have increased (exact numbers not yet known).



- Contact Info:
- Donna Kelly
- dkelly@Utah.gov
- (801) 201-4759 cell

- Justin Boardman
- justin.boardman@wvc-ut.gov
- (801) 509-1505 cell