

# Sexual Violence: Risk Factors for Perpetration (page 1/2)

Risk factors are associated with a greater likelihood of sexual violence (SV) perpetration. They are contributing factors and may or may not be direct causes. Not everyone who is identified as "at risk" becomes a perpetrator of violence.

A combination of individual, relational, community and societal factors contribute to the risk of becoming a perpetrator of SV. Understanding these multilevel factors can help identify various opportunities for prevention.

### **Individual Risk Factors**

- ➤ Alcohol and drug use
- >> Coercive sexual fantasies
- >> Impulsive and antisocial tendencies
- ▶ Preference for impersonal sex
- ➤ Hostility towards women
- **▶** Hypermasculinity
- >> Childhood history of sexual and physical abuse
- **▶** Witnessed family violence as a child

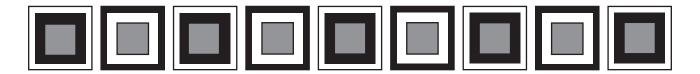
## **Relationship Factors**

- ➤ Association with sexually aggressive and delinquent peers
- Family environment characterized by physical violence and few resources
- >> Strong patriarchal relationship or familial environment
- **▶** Emotionally unsupportive familial environment

# **Community Factors**

- **▶** Lack of employment opportunities
- ▶ Lack of institutional support from police and judicial system
- **▶** General tolerance of sexual violence within the community
- Weak community sanctions against sexual violence perpetrators





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## **Societal Factors**

- **▶** Poverty
- ➤ Societal norms that support sexual violence
- >> Societal norms that support male superiority and sexual entitlement
- >> Societal norms that maintain women's inferiority and sexual submissiveness
- Weak laws and policies related to gender equity
- ▶ High tolerance levels of crime and other forms of violence

# **Protective Factors for Perpetration**

Protective factors may lessen the likelihood of sexual violence victimization or perpetration by buffering against risk. These factors can exist at individual, relational, community and societal levels.

Source: www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/riskprotectivefactors.html

