

# Improving Forensic Examinations in Persons with Disabilities

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Pediatric/Adult

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# Identifying a Need

- Increased risk of sexual abuse and assault in persons with disabilities
- Relatively little training received around disabilities in general
- Even less around providing exams to those with disabilities

# What is a SANE?

- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
- Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress
- History taking, provide head to toe examination, documentation of injuries, collection of evidence, photography, prophylactic medications and follow up.
- Testify in court

# Challenges to Examiner

- Physical challenges with positioning
- Communication challenges
- Negotiating consent
- Working with families, care facilities

# Rounding up the team

- Discussion with law enforcement
- Discussion with hospital social work
- Discussion with clinical educator in Harborview ED
- Discussion with CPS
- Input from SANE team

# Disseminating Information

- Formal training provided to SANE team at Harborview (LEND project)
- Forging new relationships with law enforcement, CPS, ED staff
- Plans to continue to share information with appropriate audiences (SANE teams, Child Advocacy Centers)

# The work continues...

- Questions?

