



Reducing the Risk of Becoming a Victim of Crime in South Africa: You Can Tell and Be Heard!

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***Crime* against people with developmental disabilities.....**

- Similar in scope ... women, children, & elderly persons
- Remains largely invisible and unaddressed.





***Research from the US* tells us that people with developmental disabilities**

- 4 to 10 times higher risk of becoming crime victims
- Differences in victimization rates most pronounced for sexual assault (10.7 times as high) and robbery (12.7 times as high)
- High probability of repeat victimization
- 50% of women with developmental disabilities who had been sexually assaulted had been assaulted 10 or more times.





Research from the U.S. tells us that

- Children with disabilities more than twice as likely as children without disabilities to be physically and sexually abused
- Roughly 5 million serious crimes are committed against persons with developmental disabilities in the U. S. each year
- No data collection programs for crimes against persons with developmental disabilities as there are for other specialized populations





Research from South Africa

- Virtually no statistics
- Other data from SA
 - Listed as the country with the highest incidence of rape per capita, 2nd highest incidence of murder, 10th in total crime
 - Crimes in SA under reported or not reported
 - Official crime statistics under represent the problem with respect to children





Why high incidence of crime?

- Victims with developmental disabilities are frequently invisible ***because***
 - Considered vulnerable
 - Perpetrators - known to the victim
 - Believe victim unable to seek help or report crime
 - Victims fear backlash from known perpetrators



Why high incidence of crime?

- Misconceptions about sexuality of people with developmental disabilities
 - Belief sexually innocent -- children forever
 - Little or no understanding of their bodies
 - Myth of being oversexed and uncontrolled
 - In SA - notion of Virgin Cleansing - cure for HIV/AIDS
 - Belief by some in SA -- if have sex with a person with ID, perpetrator become powerful and wealthy





Why?

- Victims with developmental disabilities are frequently invisible **because**
 - Handled administratively not through courts
 - Cannot report their offenders
 - Crimes often go unreported
 - Reports are often discredited
 - Alleged offenders less likely to be tried and found guilty
 - When found guilty, offenders often receive a “lighter sentence”
 - Limited spoken communication
 - Limited access to vocabulary to report crime



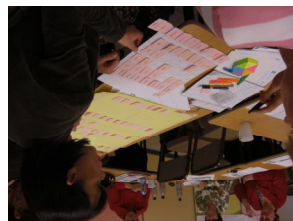
Purpose of our research

- Improve communication access by
 - Developing communication boards
 - Needed vocabulary to report and ask for help
 - Pictographic symbols (illiteracy)
 - 4 of 11 official SA languages
 - Research based



How we did it








- Focus groups
 - Professionals and people with disabilities
 - Generate needed vocabulary
 - Prioritize vocabulary - goal approx. 50 words
 - Select overlap between languages (English, Afrikaans, Sepedi, isiZulu)



- Identify most commonly used symbol system in SA

How we did it

- Conduct discrepancy analysis

Shout / scream	A Z	4					
Steal	E A	2					
Swear	S Z	0					
Threaten	E Z	0					
Under	A S	1					

- Develop actual communication boards



Results

- Focus groups generated between 53 and 59 words
 - Only 5 words in all 4 language
 - 28 words common to 2 of 4 languages
 - 24 words common to 3 or 4 languages
- Used words that appeared in at least 2 languages for a total of 56 words
- PCS chosen because most commonly used in SA
- 219 symbols could represent all but 2 words (*swear & threaten*)
- Designed the communication board

Communication for ALL: You can tell and be heard / Poledisano ya BOHLE: O ka bolela o ka ba wa theeletswa

<p>how bjang</p>	<p>burn fisha/tshuma</p>	<p>get humna/hwetsa</p>	<p>sad hurt feelings kwisa bohloko</p>	<p>in ka gare</p>	<p>family bageso</p>	<p>night boshego</p>	<p>I can't speak, but can hear and understand you. Ha ke kgone ho bua more ke a utlwa</p>
<p>what keng</p>	<p>don't o seke</p>	<p>know tseba</p>	<p>angry befelwa</p>	<p>out ka ntle</p>	<p>home ntlo</p>	<p>food dijo</p>	<p>Please contact my family. Ke kopa o nkopanye le batswadi ba hao</p>
<p>when heng</p>	<p>help thuša</p>	<p>look lebelela</p>	<p>forced nkgapeletša</p>	<p>under ka tlase</p>	<p>lime/mine hna</p>	<p>gun sethuya</p>	<p>Ask me questions if you need to, but please wait patiently for my answers Oka botsa gelo ga o nyaka e fela, o ja fela pelo k tlo go araba</p>
<p>where kae</p>	<p>please/beg thuša</p>	<p>sex thobano robalana</p>	<p>scared boifa</p>	<p>man/him/he monna</p>	<p>police maphadisa</p>	<p>money/sweets tshetele malekere</p>	<p>I will point where... Ngizokumbisa ukuthi kuphi la kubuhlungu khona</p>
<p>who mang</p>	<p>stop emiša</p>	<p>shout/scream kqalema</p>	<p>alone ketee</p>	<p>sore bohloko</p>	<p>toilet bathroom ntloana</p>	<p>mother mama</p>	
<p>they bona</p>	<p>tell botša</p>	<p>steal utswa</p>	<p>ashamed/shy kejewa</p>	<p>woman she/her mosadi</p>	<p>alcohol bjala</p>	<p>secret sephiri</p>	
<p>not on board ga le gona mo botong ye</p>	<p>touch ikgoatha</p>	<p>swear roga</p>	<p>bad bošula</p>	<p>clothes diparab</p>	<p>car kolor sefatanaga</p>	<p>school work mošomo wa sekolo</p>	
<p>hit/punch itla</p>	<p>bleed madi</p>	<p>threaten rumula</p>	<p>friendly botho</p>	<p>doctor ngaka</p>	<p>day letsatsi</p>	<p>father tate</p>	

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Communication for ALL: You can tell and be heard / Poledisano ya BOHLE: O ka bolela o ka ba wa theeletšwa

0	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9
a	b	c	d	e
f	g	h	i	j
k	l	m	n	o
p	q	r	s	š
t	u	v	w	x
y	z	!!	.	SPACE

I can't speak, but can hear and understand you.

Ha ke kgone ho bua more ke a utlwa



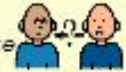
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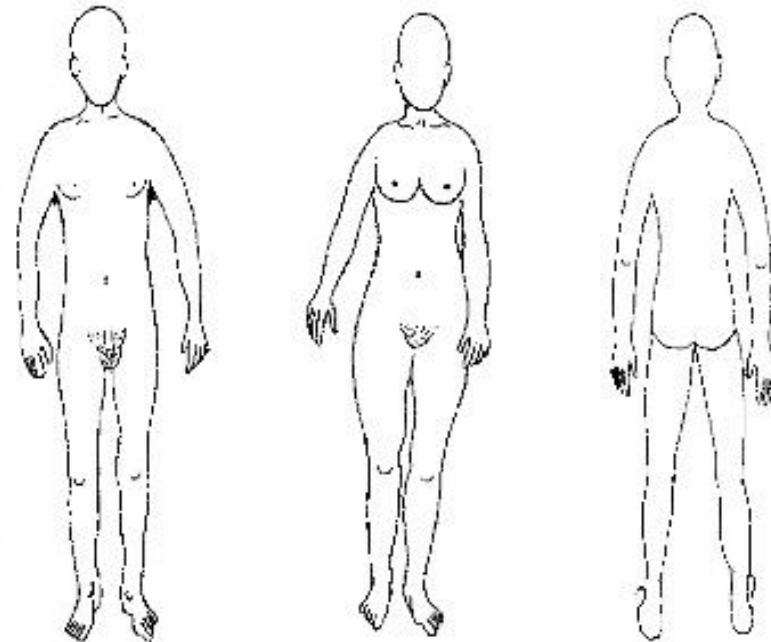
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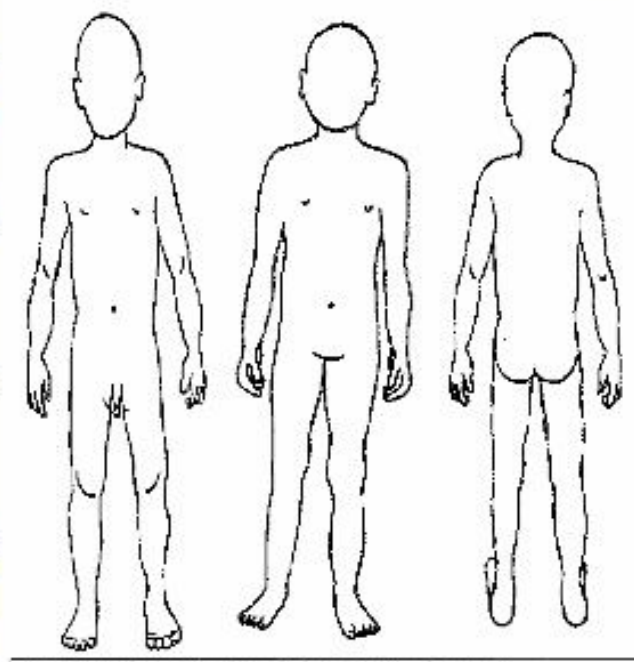
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Discussion

- Yes, there are limitations to this research
- Yes, Evidence-based vocabulary that is
 - Culturally relevant to SA context
 - Multilingual
 - Does not depend on strong literacy skills
 - Requires some training
 - Free and downloadable
- ***Communication 4ALL: You Can Tell and Be Heard*** boards based on SA research available at:



<http://www.caac.up.ac.za>



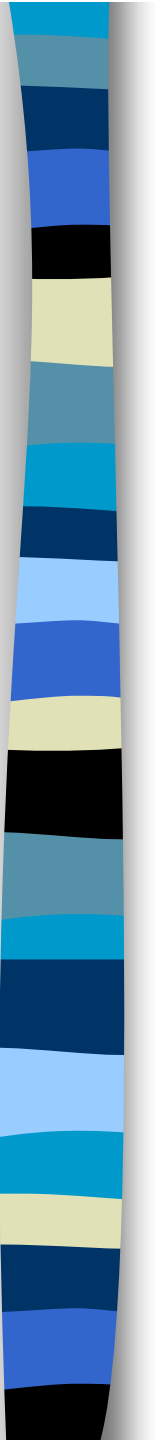
<http://disabilities.temple.edu/aacvocabulary/e4all.shtml#index>



Next Steps: A Look to the Future

- **Social Validation of the Vocabulary**
- **Social Validation of the Process**
- **Dissemination of Process for Other Cultures**
- **Communication Boards for Testifying in Court**

Questions

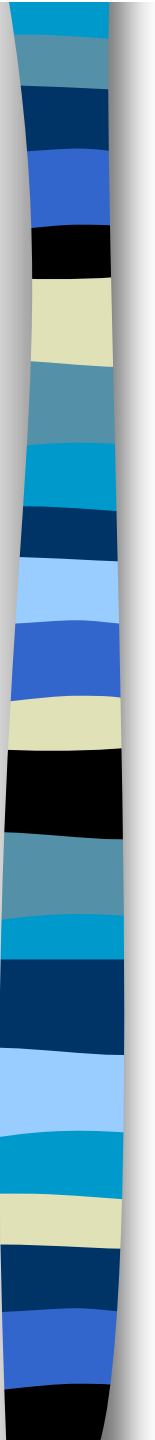
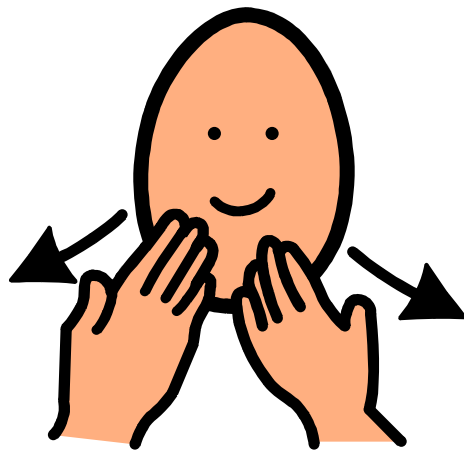


Thank you!

Ke ya leboga!

Dankie!

Ngiyabonga!



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