The Social Ecological Model is used to understand the factors that contribute to the occurrence of sexual violence and other social problems. According to this model, individuals, relationships, communities, and society all work together in complex ways to influence the occurrence of sexual violence.

**Societal**
Macro system influences include inequalities for races, genders, religious/cultural beliefs, and social policies.

**Community**
Influences—General tolerance of Sexual Violence, lack of support from law and judicial system, poverty and/or lack of employment, weak laws against perpetrators or weak laws protecting victims.

**Relationship**
Interpersonal Influences—Association with sexually aggressive peers or a family environment that is unsupportive, violent or male dominated.

**Individual**
Intrapersonal Influences—attitudes & beliefs, history of or witnessing violence, drug & alcohol abuse