

SAFVIC ON THE SCENE

SEXUAL ASSAULT ON CAMPUS

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“SAFVIC was well planned, I thoroughly understood the material presented and will be better suited in this field because of this course.”

Quote from a SAFVIC Student, December 5, 2005

One of the most common violent crimes on American college campuses today is sexual assault. Researchers have found that college women are more at risk for being a victim of some form of sexual assault than women the same age but not in college. College administrators were disturbed to learn that of every 1,000 women attending their institutions, there were 35 incidents of rape in a given academic year (based on a victimization rate of 35.3 per 1,000 college women). Over the course of a college career (an average of 5 years) 1 in 5 young women experiences rape while attending college. Among the women who are victims of rape or attempted rape, 90 percent knew their assailant. Acquaintance rape is the most prevalent type of sexual assault on college campus, contradicting the widespread “stranger-rape” myth. Acquaintance rape is defined as a sex crime committed by someone who knows the victim; a friend, classmate, relative, co-worker, etc. As a sex crime, acquaintance rape includes forced, manipulated, or coerced sexual contact. There are various forms of acquaintance rape: party rape, date rape, rape in a non-party and non-date situation, rape by a former or current intimate partner.

Sexual assault is also known to be one of the most underreported violent crimes in America. Fewer than 5 percent of college women who are victims of rape or attempted rape report it to law enforcement. Victims gave several reasons for not reporting their victimizations to law enforcement, but the most widespread reason was fear; fear of reprisal by the assailant, fear of not being believed by law enforcement, and fear of embarrassment or shame by family and/or friends. Several victims blame themselves for drinking or using drugs before the rape or for being alone with the assailant.

On the Federal level, Congress has responded to sexual assault on college campus by enacting several laws requiring institutions of higher education to notify students about crime on campus, publicize their preven-

tion and response policies, maintain open crime logs, and ensure sexual assault victims their basic rights. One of the major Federal laws that promotes these requirements was the **Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act of 1990 (also known as the “Clery Act”)**, which requires that schools disclose information about crime annually, including specific sexual crime categories, in and around campus. Another federal law is the **Campus Sexual Assault Victims’ Bill of Rights of 1992**, which is an amendment to the 1990 act requiring schools to develop prevention policies and provide certain assurance to victims. This law was amended again in 1998 to expand requirements, including that the crime categories be reported. Universities have a legal duty to warn students and parents of known risks and to provide reasonable protection, but they each deal with sexual assault in different ways. Some administrators try to prevent such victimization by putting cameras in parking garages, running late-night student escort/shuttle service, and placing emergency telephones throughout campus. The cost of these stranger-rape preventions initiatives far exceed the dollars spent on acquaintance rape prevention. As noted, 90 percent of college women who are victims of sexual assault know their assailant. Universities need to concentrate on acquaintance rape on campus rather than stranger rape.

Statistics used in this article were taken from:
Sexual Assault of Campus: What Colleges and Universities Are Doing About It
National Institute of Justice
By: Fancis T. Cullen, Bonnie S. Fisher, & Heather M. Kerjane
www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles/nij/205521.pdf

The Sexual Victimization of College Women
National Institute of Justice and Bureau of Justice Statistics
By: Fancis T. Cullen, Bonnie S. Fisher, & Michael G. Turner
www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/182369.pdf

By the Numbers: Acquaintance Rape Statistics and Acquaintance Rape Fact Sheets
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (ICASA)
www.icasa.org/uploads/AquaintanceRape.pdf

Acquaintance Rape of College Students
U.S. Department of Justice
www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/e03021472.pdf



A TRUE SURVIVOR STORY BY KATIE FEIFER

When I was raped in my home in 1988, the first responder was Det. Carl Brader, my knight in shining armor, and now a lifelong friend. He was the first person I talked to about what happened to me. And he treated me with compassion and empathy. He asked me questions in all the right ways, so that I never felt that he blamed me for my rape (not “why did you let him in?” but “how did he get in?”). Because I felt he believed me and cared for me as a person, he set the tone for my healing from this horrible trauma. I wasn’t afraid to tell other people about what had happened to me, because when I told Det. Brader I felt validated and supported and believed. We know that the best way rape survivors heal is by talking to people who care and who are supportive of them. Had Det. Brader made me feel that he doubted my story, or that it wasn’t a big deal, or that

he didn’t care, I wouldn’t have felt as comfortable telling other people. I would have kept my trauma more to myself. And without other people to help me through my pain, I might have turned to drugs or alcohol, or to suicide to try to cope with the horrible pain of the trauma that lasts for months and years. Det. Brader not only made me feel safe and caught the bad guy, he set me on a good course of healing. And I am forever grateful to him.

To read more of Katie Feifer’s story, and those of other survivors, please visit www.voicesandfaces.org, home of The Voices and Faces Project, a non-profit national survivor network created to give voice and face to rape survivors, providing a sense of solidarity and possibility to those who have lived through sexual violence.



Photo by Patricia Evans.
Reprinted with permission
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Project**

SUMMARY OF 2005 VICTIM SERVICES SURVEY

SAFVIC distributed a survey to 200 victim services agencies across Texas that serve sexual assault and family violence victims. The response rate was 21.5% with 43 returned surveys. The majority of the respondents were from jurisdictions that were mostly rural (88.4%).

Victim services agencies were asked questions about jurisdictions and populations they serve, as well as their relationships and interactions with law enforcement agencies.

Most of the respondents (65.1%) indicated that they have an ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’ relationship with local law enforcement agencies. Some of the respondents reported having an ‘average’ (16.3%) relationship with law enforcement. Unfortunately, there were a few respondents that reported having a ‘poor’ (9.3%) or ‘fair’ (4.7%) relationship with local law enforcement agencies. Notably, only one respondent reported having no relationship with law enforcement in their area.

Respondents were asked the following three questions about their relationship with law enforcement officers:

1. What could law enforcement do to enhance its relationship with victim services in your community?
2. What are the challenges you face when working with law enforcement?
3. What types of victim services-related training would you like to see offered to law enforcement agencies in your area?

The responses to these questions were overwhelmingly similar. Respondents mentioned the lack of sensitivity toward victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault, the need for more training on how to deal with incidences where “the batterer wears a badge,” and the need to educate law enforcement about the available victim services within their communities.

Regrettably, most respondents (60.5%) had not heard of the SAFVIC program until they received this survey. This might partly be explained by the fact that the majority (88.4%) of the respondents were from rural jurisdictions. Although many SAFVIC instructors work with local coalitions and victim service agencies, more work still needs to be done to improve relationships between victim service organizations and law enforcement agencies in these rural communities. SAFVIC hopes that working together will ultimately eradicate these issues.

ATTENTION:

New
*Pro Se Sexual Assault
Protective
Order Packets*
can be found online
at:

www.TexasLawHelp.org

or

www.women-law.org

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) is observed in April and is dedicated to making a concerted effort to prevent and raise awareness of sexual violence and its prevention through special events. Recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month each year highlights sexual violence as a major public health problem and reinforces the need for prevention efforts. The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) describes Sexual Assault Awareness Month as follows:

The purpose of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to increase the public's understanding about sexual violence in our society. This effort can help communities support rape and sexual assault survivors, victims, and their families, as well as the individuals

and agencies that provide rape crisis intervention and prevention services throughout the year. It is also a time to encourage the public to take steps to address sexual violence. The hope is that a month of intensified awareness efforts combined with the broad spectrum of sexual violence prevention work throughout the year will bring us closer to ending sexual assault.

Additionally, April 6th has been chosen as the "Day to End Sexual Violence." On this day, individuals across the country are encouraged to participate in an awareness-raising activity in their community. This was taken from NSVRC website www.nsvrc.org/saam/.

FEATURED AGENCY:

By Bill Bernstein, Mosaic Family Services

Mosaic Family Services, Inc. is a nonprofit community-based organization that provides services to underserved groups in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. We help immigrants and refugees, at-risk youth, and those at risk for HIV/AIDS.

Mosaic works closely with law enforcement in the North Texas area in serving our clients who are survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence.

The recently formed North Texas Anti-Trafficking Team, which we helped form and in which we are an active participant, consists of representatives from federal and local law enforcement agencies.

Mosaic operates the only housing facility in this area for battered women from refugee and immigrant communities, and for victims of human trafficking. Case managers at Mosaic speak 15 different languages.



Our services are best defined as "comprehensive case management"; our case managers work to help clients with housing, food and other basic needs, to learn English, to get job training, and ultimately to find employment and become economically self-sufficient. Case managers often serve as a "buffer" between clients and other service providers until clients are able to function independently.

Working with clients whose native language is not English, who are faced with the challenge of navigating the American system, and who are victims of the crime of trafficking in persons or domestic violence adds layers of complexity to cases, both for law enforcement and for social services agencies. Mosaic works to resolve many of the problems faced.

Mark Your Calendar



SAFVIC will be posting a list of SAAM events in Texas on our website at www.safvic.org. To list an activity in your Community, please contact Brooke Balmos-Hinojosa at brooke@tmpa.org.

"Enjoyed SAFVIC and learned more than I expected!"

Quote from a SAFVIC Student, December 14, 2005.

To nominate a Victim Service Agency for the next issue of SAFVIC

on the Scene, contact

Nicole Martinez

at

nicole.martinez@tmpa.org

**Sexual Assault Family
Violence Investigators
Course**

TOM GAYLOR
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JEFF OLBRICH
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**SAVE THE
DATE...**

2006 SAFVIC
Instructors
SUMMIT

May 30-31, 2006

We're on the Web at
www.safvic.org

Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization

On January 5, 2006 President Bush signed into law the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (H.R. 3402). Public Law Number 109-162. VAWA initially passed in 1994, which was the first to acknowledge domestic violence and sexual assaults as identifiable crimes. It expanded the definition of these crimes to include dating violence and stalking. VAWA has provided federal resources to encourage community responses, paid for police training, shelters, and other services for victims across the United States.

VAWA 2005 focuses on issues faced by domestic violence victims, such as housing opportunities and the safety for battered women and children. It enhances judicial and law enforcement tools to combat violence against women. VAWA 2005 provides improved services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Among other improvements, this reauthorization will provide the first federal funding to support rape crisis centers, specific services for communities, and broader service provisions for children and teens. Additionally increased protection is provided to battered and trafficked immigrant women.

2006 SAFVIC INSTRUCTOR SUMMIT

The 2006 SAFVIC Instructor Summit is scheduled from May 30th –31, 2006 at the Hilton Palacio Del Rio on the RiverWalk in beautiful downtown San Antonio! Instructors will receive a minimum of 16 hours TCLEOSE credit and are strongly encouraged to attend. The guest speakers include the following:

Joanne Archambault:

Joanne Archambault is founder and Executive Director of End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI) and the President and Training Director of Sexual Assault Training & Investigations, Inc. Sergeant Archambault retired in 2002 from the San Diego Police Department after working there for almost 23 years.

Sarah Buel:

Sarah Buel is a Clinical Professor at the University Of Texas School Of Law, founder and co-director of UT's Domestic Violence Clinic. She also teaches "Domestic Violence and the Law" and torts courses. Ms. Buel is co-founder of the University of Texas Voices Against Violence program and the University of Texas Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault that focuses on research, pedagogy, and direct services.

Cindy Southworth:

Cindy Southworth, MSW, is Director of Technology and Director of Safety Net: The National Safe & Strategic Technology Project at the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV).

Paul Aleman:

Sgt. Paul Aleman is an investigator with the Texas Attorney General's Office Criminal Investigations Division Cyber Crimes Unit. Sgt. Aleman has been in law enforcement for 9yrs. Sgt. Aleman has worked as an Awareness Advocate for Hope of South Texas Sexual Assault Crisis Center and as a Probation Officer for the 24th Judicial District Community Supervision and Corrections Department.



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