

SAFVIC ON THE SCENE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SAVE THE DATE	2
TCP INSTRUCTOR COURSE	3
FEATURED DVD	3
FEATURED AGENCY	4

IN THE NEWS

- ◆ Houston passes a city ordinance that will require strip clubs to pay a \$5 fee for each customer. The fee will help pay for processing a backlog of more than 4,000 untested rape kits.
- ◆ National Conference on Prosecuting Stalking
August 28 - 29, 2012
St. Louis, MO
- ◆ National Center for Victims of Crime
Sept. 19 - 21, 2012
New Orleans, LA

Cultural Awareness: The Missing Link to Success

By: Rose Luna
Outreach Specialist
Texas Association Against Sexual Assault

Culture and diversity are at the forefront of media, political and workplace discussions. As the 2010 census bureau report suggests, the demographics in Texas have changed dramatically. Although over the past 10 years a major shift has occurred, the majority population in Texas is White at 45% followed closely by the Hispanic/Latino at 37%. The indicator of change however, is through a report comparing growth trends between the 2000 and 2010 census.



The report reveals that the state's Hispanic and Black population growth tremendously outpaced the White population. Both surpassed the white population in terms of percentage growth and raw numbers.¹ The Hispanic and Black population experienced a 42 and 22 percent increase respectively, while the white population experienced an increase of only 4.2 percent. The influx of culture and diversity these numbers represent are astounding. How do we keep up

with the pace of change? What does this mean for victim service agencies in the state of Texas? If protocol is protocol regardless of color, why is this important? Currently, the disparity of sexual assault and domestic violence services for communities of color are well documented. The answer lies in ensuring results for all survivors. Results for law enforcement involve safety of the community and all the protocols and procedures involved in that process,

whereas results for victim advocates are the successful process of recovery and healing for victims. The key to getting results for both disciplines is simply culture.

Cultural awareness, culturally competent services, culturally appropriate services are terms used interchangeably. What does this mean and how does it affect my job? We must first begin with understanding the

Continued on page 2

¹<http://www.texastribune.org/texas-counties-and-demographics/census/minorities-drove-texas-growth-census-figures-show/>

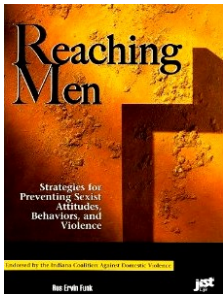
SAFVIC 24-HOUR COURSE

The **FREE** 24-Hour training course designed to educate peace officers has recently been updated! Some of the recent updates include:

- Up-to-date Statistics
- Dating Violence
- Texas 82nd Legislative updates
- Additional information on Courtroom Performance
- Expanded information on Stalking and Cybercrimes
- New Chapter on Community Response
- Violence in Tribal Communities
- And much more!

Training is now taking place so sign up for a SAFVIC near you or request free training at your local agency. To register, please visit www.safvic.org and click on Calendar.

FEATURED BOOK



Reaching Men: Strategies for Preventing Sexist Attitudes, Behaviors, and Violence

This is the first manual of its kind that examines ways to effectively educate men about rape/sexual assault, domestic violence, dating abuse, stalking, pornography and prostitution, and harassment. It is being published in 2006 (JistLife Publishers) and is endorsed by the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

This video is available in the [SAFVIC Library](#) for SAFVIC Instructors only.

Continued from page 1

intricacies of culture and how it manifests in individuals. Culture is a complex interplay of various environmental, interpersonal and social factors that dictate how a person operates. Understanding the dynamics extends beyond a person's race (Hispanic, White, Black & etc.) A fact sheet on "you fill in the blank" race is extremely helpful but does not account for the multifarious elements within culture. Elements such as socioeconomics, age, religion/spirituality, gender, profession, race, sexual orientation, experiences and history (to name a few) engender decision making, behavior and responses as individuals interface with our agencies. Diversity trainings most often begin and end with a discussion on race. This discussion is important however there are many other dynamics in the realm of culture that we must acknowledge and respect.

The question most often asked in this regard is "How exactly does an agency provide culturally appropriate services?" There is no silver bullet in accomplishing this task. The complex interchange of factors mentioned above do not allow for a cookie cutter approach. Instead a method must be adaptable to the needs of both the client and the agency. In order for an agency to provide culturally appropriate services it must include the following points:

1. Ensuring the message/intent is accurately received AND understood
2. Knowing that cultural barriers will inhibit this process

Agencies can accomplish this in many ways. Patience is a requirement as repeating and paraphrasing messages 20 different times in 20 different ways to ensure understanding may be necessary. Below are suggestions in setting your approach to providing culturally appropriate services.

1. Diversity within and among agency staff
 - Having a staff and board reflective of the community is key. Remember to account for the various dynamics within

culture in addition to race and ethnicity.

2. Understanding the barriers to access – Often times agencies focus on the individuals who walk through the door without detecting those in the community not representative through its clients. We must take a moment to analyze internal systems and protocols through the lens of the underserved. This process allows for the discovery of solutions through a deeper understanding of unique client needs.
3. Historical context - Experience and history are components of culture grossly overlooked and ignored in diversity trainings. Taking into account the collective experiences of a group coupled with personal experiences provides a comprehensive framework to understanding the plight, fears, hesitations, strengths and pride each community possesses. This process of discovery will open doors and holds the key to understanding of the obstacles faced by segments of your community.
4. Commitment to Understanding- The process of cultural awareness is a journey NOT a destination. A commitment to understanding requires an honest assessment of self and the biases we hold. The process is not that of self-deprecation but instead of self-discovery. Accountability is significant to progress from the acknowledgement of to the challenging of our biases. Years of work, experiences and beliefs have formed jaded opinions in each of us that must be kept in check.

Acknowledging the various elements of culture along with race/ethnicity provides insight to the powerful influence culture has on an individual. Agencies must begin to examine the intersection of culture, individuals and the work to realize the missing link to success is simply respecting the role of culture in an individual.

Providing culturally appropriate services will not only improve the success rate of our work but also will have a positive impact on the victim and the community as a whole.

WELCOME NEW SAFVIC FOR TCPS INSTRUCTORS!



We would like to congratulate and welcome our 8 new SAFVIC for TCPS Instructors! They recently completed the 24 hour SAFVIC for TCPS Instructor Course in Austin, Texas on June 18th - 20th, 2012.

Front Row - Left to Right:
James McDonald, Tarrant County Sheriff's Office
Ashley Farris, Hays County Sheriff's Office
Jennet Sullivan, Cedar Park Police Department

Middle Row - Left to Right:
Estella Soto, San Saba County Sheriff's Department
Norma Schoellman, College Station Police Department

Back Row - Left to Right:
Donita Whitecotton, Burnet County Sheriff's Office
Devin Huntley, CACOG
Angie Conley, Beaumont 911 Operations Center

The SAFVIC team would like to thank the following individuals for assisting with another successful 24-Hour SAFVIC for TCPS Instructor Training. We couldn't have done it without you!

Patt Hollingsworth
TCLEOSE
 Commissioner &
 SAFVIC Advanced
 Instructor

Sara Wright
 SAFVIC for TCPS
 Instructor, Cedar
 Park Police
 Department

Jana McCown
 Williamson County
 District Attorney's
 Office

Vangie Barefoot
 Sexual Assault
 Nurse Examiner,
 Johns Community
 Hospital

SAVE THE DATE



Texas Council on Family Violence Statewide Conference

September 5–6, 2012
 AT&T Center
 Austin, Texas

Rates:

Early Registration - Members \$190.00
 Early Registration - Non-members
 (includes 1-year Membership) \$225.00

Early Registration ends July 6th!

Rates after July 6th:

Member Individual \$225.00
 Non-Member Individual \$275.00
 Single Day \$150.00

Hotel:

AT&T Executive Education & Conference
 Center

Reservations Toll Free: 877-744-8822
 Reservations Local Phone: 512-404-3600

[Online Reservations](#)

Hotel Rates:

Standard King or Standard Double
 Queens Single Rate – \$108.00
 Standard King or Standard Double
 Queens Double Rate – \$128.00
 Room block is available
 until August 3, 2012

For more information about the TCFV Statewide Conference visit www.tcfv.org.



"Piecing together the tools needed to effectively investigate and prevent sexual assault, family violence, & stalking."

Contact Us:

Jennifer Greene

Program Manager
jennifer.greene@safvic.org

Brooke Hinojosa

Program Coordinator
brooke.hinojosa@safvic.org

Sarah Romero

Program Analyst
sarah.romero@safvic.org

Kelsey Downey

Program Assistant
kelsey.downey@safvic.org

www.safvic.org

6200 La Calma, Ste. 200
Austin, Texas 78752
Phone: 1-800-848-2088
Fax: 1-866-210-6173



Featured Agency



in 2011. Clients may receive services while residing in the shelter facility or while residing in the community.

Services provided at no cost to victims include:

- Shelter/Safe House (65 bed) in Nueces County for women and accompanying children, including clothing, food, and personal items; the agency also arranges safe shelter for male victims of abuse
- 24-hour toll-free Crisis Hotline and Crisis Intervention to reduce the immediate effects of trauma due to family or sexual violence
- Individual and Group Counseling including personal safety planning provided through five offices and additional sites across the service area by masters level and licensed counseling staff
- Case Management: referrals to resources including employment, housing, education, medical care, and childcare
- Youth Services: mentoring for school success, counseling, play therapy, recreational activities, and summer activities
- Legal Advocacy: assistance regarding the justice system, obtaining protective orders, crime victims' compensation, court accompaniment, and legal aid referrals
- Rape Crisis Services: crisis intervention, 24-hour hospital accompaniment, and counseling
- Rural Outreach Services: provided in 11 rural counties and rural Nueces County including safety planning, counseling, referrals, community education, shelter transportation, and legal advocacy through offices in Bee, San Patricio, Kleberg, and Jim Wells counties

Stopping violence before it begins is the goal of the Prevention and Education Program. This program works to identify community-specific risk factors that contribute to violence and address these through education with youth and youth mentors. Factors that can protect youth from violence are also identified and strengthened. The program is reaching over 700 youth in 2011-2012 and addresses topics including respect, healthy relationships, and anti-bullying/positive bystander behaviors.

The agency conducts a Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program that provides group education to family violence offenders and works to break the cycle of violence by having each batterer accept accountability for his actions and commit to non-violent methods for conflict resolution. Collaboration with the judicial system, probation and parole staff, and law enforcement is key in providing referrals for the program. The agency works with community coalitions across the region with representatives from over 70 organizations including law enforcement, social services, faith community members, and persons who have been affected by violence in their lives. Coalitions participate in education events, violence prevention trainings, and collaborate to promote the social change necessary to support non-violence in our communities.

For additional information call 361-881-8888; toll-free 1-800-580-HURT; or
www.thewomensshelter.org.

*Article provided by Adrienne Sportsman, M.A., LPC,
Prevention & Education Director*