1 in 5: New Study Confirms What We Know About Campus Sexual Assault

PCAR ~ Submitted by mcrawford on February 16, 2016 - 11:01am
Guest blog comes from Karen Galbraith, training project specialist for the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.

In recent years, the issue of sexual violence on college and university campuses has received unprecedented attention from politicians, the media and the public, at large. While no one seems to question whether sexual assault happens on college and university campuses, there has been great debate about how often it happens. Prevalence statistics have been questioned by all sides. A large part of the problem has been the use of inconsistent tools to measure how often sexual violence is happening on various campuses across the country.

In the last few weeks, the results of the Campus Climate Survey Validation Study (CCSVS) were released. Researchers developed a survey and tested it across multiple campuses to be sure it was gathering valid and reliable data on incidences of sexual harassment and sexual assault on campuses. The tool was also designed to collect information about campus climate – students’ perceptions of their school’s level of acceptance of sexually harassing and violent behaviors. Not only was it determined that the survey was valid and reliable, the responses from the 23,000 student-respondents across nine diverse campuses underscored the statistical findings of the White House Task Force and the American Association of Universities that one in five women has experienced sexual violence during her undergraduate years.

**Additional important findings from the CCSVS include:**

* Campuses where students perceived greater tolerance for sexually harassing and sexually violent behaviors demonstrated higher levels of actual incidences sexual harassment and sexual assault. Conversely, on campuses where these types of behaviors were perceived to be unacceptable, lower rates of actual harassment and assault were found.

* Findings at individual campuses varied widely, highlighting the need to tailor prevention and response efforts to meeting the unique needs of each campus community.

* Rates of sexual harassment and sexual assault are even higher for students who identify as LGBTQ, with a rate of 28% reported by students who identify as transgender.

* The number of students who had experienced sexual assault in their lifetime was significantly higher than the number of students who experienced sexual assault since

**Wear Jeans with a Purpose:** Support survivors, and educate yourself and others about sexual assault. Join the Rock the Denim Campaign by wearing jeans on April 27, 2016.

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2015 STATISTICS
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition:
Assisted 4,473 adults and 2,253 children traumatized by domestic violence and sheltered 304 adults and children

- Assisted 219 direct and 147 indirect victims of sexual assault
- Provided 4,002 individual and 1,386 family therapy sessions for 623 people
- Provided 180 therapy/support groups which were attended by 205 individuals
- Accompanied 116 victims of sexual assault to the hospital
- Assisted 408 victims with filing order of protection petitions and attended 2,883 hearings with domestic violence and sexual assault victims
- We provided 463 education/prevention programs reaching 171,557 individuals
- 681 volunteers contributed 24,021.75 hours this year

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The Shop, a local non-profit group of motorcycle enthusiasts, has held their annual Toy Run raising funds and toys for SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition for over 20 years. Thanks to the great folks in the community they had an incredible turnout and a great run. The Shop donated a truckload of toys, bikes, and gifts and raised $9,110. Special thanks to Una Fire Department, Boiling Springs Furniture, and Spartanburg Police Department for the escort during the parade and to the 300 motorcyclists that continue to support the work we do.

View photos @ www.theshopshots.com

You can help us save Money and Trees!
Would you like to receive Frontlines via email? Please let us know
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition
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AUCTION FOR A CAUSE
With help from The Uptown Sertoma Club of Spartanburg and the many folks who contributed their time, talent, support, and donations; Auction for A Cause netted SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition $15,828.
entering college, indicating that many students arrive on campus with a history of sexual abuse or assault.

**So... now what?**

The reactions of my colleagues to the CCSVS have been seemingly paradoxical. There is outrage: How have campuses allowed this to happen? How have we, as a society, allowed this to happen? But there is also relief: The numbers are (again) proving what we – as advocates, counselors and former college students, have known all along. Sexual violence on our college and university campuses is an issue of epidemic proportions.

As with any epidemic, we need to recognize there is no silver bullet, no cookie-cutter approach that will work for all students at all campuses. The CCSVS has shown that every campus community has different needs, just as every survivor has different needs. To truly address the issue of campus sexual violence, the response must be multi-faceted, multi-pronged and unfailingly persistent. Campuses cannot address this issue alone, nor should they be expected to.

In many communities, local and campus leaders have acknowledged campus sexual assault is a shared issue and have joined forces to create partnerships and Campus-Community Response Teams. An essential member of the team is the local rape crisis center.

Local rape crisis programs can provide services that bolster a campus’s ability to address sexual violence. Staff members at rape crisis programs are experts on sexual violence prevention and response, trauma, perpetration, counseling, advocacy, and community resources. Counselor-advocates can provide support to victims in a way most campus professionals cannot – with confidentiality and privilege. Rape crisis programs can support campuses by providing training, programming, policy review and local expertise to support campus efforts to comply with relevant legislation. Most importantly, rape crisis programs can help campuses create cultures where sexual violence in all forms is not tolerated, where all campus members take responsibility for prevention and where survivors are given the support they need to be safe and healthy students.

**Additional research**

Finding answers often leads to additional questions. While certainly the CCSVS solidifies much of what we have known or suspected about sexual violence on campuses, the research also points to areas in need of further study. We need to continue to solicit additional information about those affected by sexual violence – people of all genders, races, sexual orientations, cultures; those who were victimized or affected while at college; and those who brought those experiences with them. We need to learn more about perpetration and how we need to be influencing the behaviors of those who are committing sexual violence against others.

**The good news**

The CCSVS underscores that campuses whose leadership have created climates where sexual violence is not tolerated have, in fact, created campuses with fewer incidences of sexual violence. Creating a cultural shift requires teamwork. Local rape crisis programs and community partners are valuable allies who can enhance and support campus change efforts.
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition Honors Outstanding Volunteers

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition’s staff and clients have all been touched in a unique way by the spirit of our volunteers. It was therefore appropriate to recognize those whose service in 2015 were deemed to be exceptional at our Annual Volunteer Banquet held on March 7, 2016.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - Betty Thompson
This award recognizes the superior achievement, commitment and support of a volunteer to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR - Roxanne Reynolds
This award recognizes outstanding leadership and service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault by a member of SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition’s Board of Directors.

CORPORATE SERVICE AWARD - Operation Drain
This award is presented to a local company in recognition of outstanding corporate support and service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD OF THE YEAR - CATO
This award is presented to individuals and organizations that have exemplified outstanding community service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

STUDENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - Anja Golden, Victoria Hiatt
This award is presented to outstanding student volunteers in recognition of superior achievement, commitment and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

ANN KEARSE AWARD - Claudia Anderson
Ann Kearse was the kind of volunteer every group wishes they had. Her death in 1998 was a huge loss for us. In honor of her volunteer service, an award was created and is given to the volunteer that epitomizes that ongoing volunteer spirit and commitment in large and small ways.

DEDICATION AWARDS - Bruster’s Ice Cream, Little Caesars, Mattress Connection
These volunteers have been truly dedicated in their long-term and consistent commitment to SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition and the victims we serve.

HELPING HANDS AWARDS - Natisha Adams, Dollar General, Betty Koester
This award is presented to organizations in recognition of exemplary service and dedication to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

SHINING STAR AWARDS - Christina Calitri, Bobby Jackson, SPARTA Transportation
This award is presented to individuals and organizations in recognition of stellar support, and commitment to promoting awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault.

ANGELS OF LIGHT AWARD - First Presbyterian Church
This award is presented to faith-based groups in recognition of their dedication and ongoing commitment to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

KELLEY AWARD - The Shop
Donna Kelley was a much loved friend and staff member. Her death in November of 2002 was an incredible loss for us and the victims she served. In honor of her unparalleled commitment to underserved victim populations, an award was created and given to the volunteer that exemplifies that enthusiasm and dedication to empowering those who would otherwise have no support or guidance.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS - Sherry Bostic, Becky Frady, Shakila Lattimore, Vickie Marksbury, Elise Reed, Jackie Revels, Deborah Smith
This award is presented to individuals and organizations in recognition of their outstanding service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in this community.
Thank You to our 2015 Contributors

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Intersection of Stalking and Sexual Assault

NSVRC ~ Posted by ssullivan on 01/19/2016 filed under SAAM, Campaign Tools, Healthy Sexuality

Sexual violence is a widespread social issue that takes many forms. Because of the breadth of the issue, it’s easy to overlook how other crimes intersect with it. In the past, we’ve highlighted the intersection of sexual assault with domestic violence, but in recognition of National Stalking Awareness Month, we’re going to take a look at some of the connections between sexual violence and stalking.

Too often popular culture portrays people who have stalked or committed sexual violence as shadowy figures who operate on the edges of society. The reality is the stark opposite for both crimes. Stalking and sexual assault are overwhelmingly perpetrated by someone the victim knows. 31% of women who are being stalked by an intimate partner have also been sexually assaulted by that partner.

Stalking can be difficult to initially recognize because many indications of it are legal – such as leaving unwanted messages. But it’s critical to remember that stalking is “a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.”

The impact of stalking and sexual violence can lead to mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, intrusive thoughts, and insomnia, among many others. Additionally, victims of both crimes often lose time from work because of their victimization. Even though stalking is a crime in all 50 states, it is highly underreported. Just like sexual assault, a victim may not report the crime for a number of reasons.

It’s clear there are many connections between sexual assault and stalking. One of the most important connections to recognize is how misinformation about both of these topics makes them harder to address. Learning the facts about stalking and sexual violence is an opportunity for us to challenge what’s misunderstood and work toward better solutions.

Find out how you can help to promote National Stalking Awareness Month
http://stalkingawarenessmonth.org/promote

Learn more on the facts about stalking https://www.victimsofcrime.org/docs/default-source/src/stalking-fact-sheet-2015

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THE HUNTING GROUND: Screening and Panel Discussion

Wednesday, April 7, 2016 5:30pm - 8:00pm

- **Contact:** Eboni Littlejohn
- **Phone:** 864.583.9803
- **Location:** Spartanburg Headquarters Library
- **Admission:** Free & Open to the Public

Join us & the Spartanburg County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) for the viewing of The Hunting Ground. This film exposes sexual assault on U.S. college campuses, institutional cover-ups, and the brutal social toll on victims and their families. This feature film comes from the Academy Award nominated filmmaking team behind THE INVISIBLE WAR and premiered at Sundance 2014. The film screening will be followed by a panel discussion with members of SART.

**Denim Day History:** In 1997, an 18-year-old in Italy was picked up by her driving instructor for a lesson. Soon after, she was raped on the side of the road by the instructor. She pressed charges and won her case. The instructor appealed, and in 1999 the Italian High Court overturned the conviction. One member of the High Court declared the victim must have willingly participated since her jeans were too tight and so she must have helped him remove them. As news of the decision spread, so did the protest, and Women of the Italian legislature protested the decision by wearing jeans. Peace Over Violence developed the Denim Day campaign in response to this case and the activism surrounding it. Since then, wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault.

To learn more: www.denimdayinfo.org

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We are looking for YOU!! That’s right...YOU!

Look at the ways you can make a difference in your community:

- **24-Hour Crisis Line:** Listen, Help, Refer
- **Thrift Store:** Sorting, Organizing, Pickups
- **Edcucations:** Health Fairs
- **Emergency Shelter:** Groups, Babysitting
- **Clerical Duties:** Answer Phones, Make Copies
- **Legal Advocacy:** File, Organize, Assist
- **Advocates**
- **Special Projects:** Silent Witness Vigil, Newsletter, Rock the Denim Campaign

For more information, call 864.583.9803
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition (SHRCC) provides services to victims of domestic violence in Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union Counties and victims of sexual assault in Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties.

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition Mission

The mission of SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition is to use our collective voice to address the impact of domestic and sexual violence by providing quality services to those affected and to create social change through education, training, and activism.

VISION:

We envision a community liberated from all forms of domestic violence and sexual assault.