

NSVRC Campus Sexual Violence Survey
Summary of Findings
May 15, 2009

Overview

This survey was conducted in March and April of 2009 as part of the information-gathering process for the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's planning of the 2010 Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign. The survey was not formally administered and the data is not statistically significant. Respondents were recruited via online email listservs and email distribution. No identifying information is included in this summary. Respondents were not de-duplicated based on organization they represent, so individuals from the same institution are counted individually in all values below.

For more information about the survey design or results, please contact Lauren Sogor, NSVRC Prevention Campaign Specialist, at lsogor@nsvrc.org or 1-877-739-3895, ext. 118.

Survey Findings

Respondents who started Survey: 313

Respondents who completed Survey: 246 (78.6% completion rate)

Demographic Information

The following states/territories are represented (# of respondents from each in parentheses):

AL (1)	MT (3)
AZ (4)	NC (14)
CA (11)	NE (1)
CO (2)	NH (7)
DC (3)	NJ (1)
DE (2)	NV (1)
FL (1)	NY (20)
GA (3)	OH (11)
HI (1)	OK (2)
ID (2)	OR (13)
IA (3)	PA (28)
IL (26)	RI (1)
IN (2)	TN (4)
KY (3)	TX (14)
LA (2)	UT (12)
MA (3)	VA (12)
MD (4)	Virgin Islands (1)
ME (5)	WA (4)
MI (3)	WI (9)
MN (4)	WV (1)
MO (5)	WY (1)

Respondents included both individuals doing anti-sexual violence work within a specific institution (either as employees or volunteers) as well as representatives from local, state, and national anti-sexual violence organizations that work with college campuses.

Of the 298 who answered the question, 65.4% of respondents work with 4-year universities (may include graduate schools), 30.2% with 4-year colleges (may include graduate schools) and 15.4% with 2-year junior or community colleges.

47 respondents work with religiously-affiliated schools, 10 with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, 12 with Hispanic-Serving Institutions, 3 with Tribal colleges, and 4 with single-sex institutions.

126 respondents work with large institutions (more than 15,000 students), 105 with medium schools (5,000-15,000) and 94 with small schools (<5,000).

219 respondents work with public schools and 105 with private schools.

136 respondents work with schools located in suburban areas, 112 with those in urban areas, and 81 with those in rural areas.

Sexual Violence Work on Campus

Question Text: Please choose the following activities that describe what you do within a campus setting, specifically related to sexual violence. Choose all that apply. Please note: If you work with campuses through an external organization, please choose even if it is not your sole responsibility.

Answers:

Provide education and outreach to students (including Resident Advisors; Greek system; First-year students): **89.6% (232)**

- Provide direct services to campus victims (including counseling and advocacy): **72.2% (187)**
- Provide training (or conduct policy advocacy) to/with administration/judiciary board: **51.4% (133)**
- Provide training to campus law enforcement: 35.1% (91)
- Provide training to campus healthcare providers: 27.4% (71)
- Serve as member of campus administration: 24.7% (64)
- Member of faculty: 18.1% (47)
- Provide legal assistance to campus victims/schools: 13.1% (34)
- Provide healthcare services to students: 10.4% (27)

- Serve as member of campus judiciary board: 6.9% (18)
- Serve as member of campus law enforcement: 1.9% (5)

Of 240 respondents, 60.8% report receiving funding from their college/university administration. 15.8% (38) report that they do not receive any funding. Other funding sources include: OVW Campus Grants (50), CDC RPE grants (36), private/corporate/foundation funding (27), fundraisers, student fees, VOCA funds, Department of Health funds, and state coalition funds.

Of 222 respondents, 90.5% (201) reported that they work with their local rape crisis center on campus-related activities. 78.8% work with their local domestic violence shelter, 48.6% with their state/territory sexual violence coalition, and 30.2% with their local or state health department. Other partners named include: law enforcement, local non-profit organizations, state Division of Victim Services, District Attorney's office, Planned Parenthood, RAINN, regional coalitions, and dual coalitions.

When asked how many staff members on campus work with sexual violence issues, responses ranged from 0 to 50. Most common answers included 1 person (40), 2 (29), and 3 (22). Many respondents specified that some staff (1 or 2 people) work only part-time and many others cover sexual violence as part of their other work, or as volunteers.

When asked roughly what percentage of work includes primary prevention messages or is based on primary prevention theory, responses ranged from 0 to 100%. 50% was the most common response.

Question text: Do you include any of the following in your prevention programs/work? Choose all that apply.

Answers:

- Healthy relationships education – **89.8% (221)**
- Consent education – 83.3% (205)
- Bystander intervention – 74.8% (184)
- Social norms – 71.5% (176)
- Healthy sexuality education - 62.6% (154)

Sexual Assault Awareness Month on Campus

Of 253 respondents answering the question, 85.4% (216) reported that their campus plans some type of event or activity to honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, specifically. 18 respondents did not know.

Of 253 respondents answering the question, 71.9% (182) were familiar with the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's SAAM campaign/resources.

When asked what SAAM activities were usually conducted on their campus, respondents listed mostly awareness-raising events including: Take Back the Night, Clothesline Project, tabling on campus, community dialogues, poster campaigns, speaking events, flyer campaigns, class presentations, self-defense programs, Denim Day, rallies, art exhibits, film series, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, ribbon display, Vagina Monologues, t-shirt campaigns, media outreach (newspaper articles or interviews), proclamations, Speak Out, White Ribbon Campaign, bulletin board campaigns, email campaign, Yellow Dress Project, vigil, and a kickball tournament. A small number of respondents specifically mentioned prevention-related workshops or activities.

If they did not hold SAAM events, respondents were asked why not. Common barriers included: April is bad timing on campus, they have not been aware of resources to help them plan, they did not know about SAAM itself, they lack funding or staff to do events, they are new to this work or setting up a new position on campus to do this work and have not started it yet, they don't have time, they have been unable to get students to attend events in the past.

Needs and Challenges

Question Text: Below are some resources and tools that the NSVRC may create as part of the 2010 SAAM campaign focusing on colleges/universities. Please take a moment to think about the needs of your campus and choose the FIVE resources that would be most helpful to you. We encourage you to fill in the "other" option with any additional ideas or suggestions.

Answers:

- Information on engaging college men: 77.8% (193)
- Information on planning and implementing a sexual violence prevention social marketing campaign for students: 53.6% (133)
- Resources for reaching out to faculty/staff members about this issue: 49.2% (122)
- "Menu" of existing campus prevention programs/campaigns and information on adapting these to your campus: 46.4% (115)
- Guide on campus sexual violence for campus administrators: 41.5% (103)
- Resources/tools for conducting needs assessment or examining incidence and prevalence of sexual assault on your campus: 40.3% (100)
- List of resources related to campus sexual violence (including websites, articles, publications, online tools, etc.): 39.9% (99)
- Information/resources on alcohol and sexual assault: 37.9% (94)
- Information on sustaining student interest in volunteer work: 37.5% (93)

- Resources for incorporating primary prevention into your work: 39.9% (99)
- Guide on campus sexual violence for campus judicial system/board: 35.1% (87)
- Resources for educating campus community about how to support survivors: 34.3% (85)
- Information on forming and sustaining a campus Sexual Assault Response Team (SART): 23.4% (58)
- Information on creating partnerships for evaluation or needs assessment research: 20.2% (50)
- Additional open-ended responses included a desire for help identifying funding sources for campus work

When asked about resources for outreach to underserved populations, 88.3% (212) of respondents were interested in information for outreach to **LGBT students**. 83.8% (201) were interested in materials for **multicultural students/ students of color**. Other responses included: **international students** (164), students with disabilities (119), commuter students (117), low-income students (116), students who are deaf (71), very conservative students, non-traditional students, study-abroad students, students with mental health problems, and Native American students.

When asked to identify the biggest challenges faced in doing this work on campus, answers included:

- Students don't believe it's a problem
- Low reporting
- Pervasive rape myths
- Lack of interactive/interesting activities/ resources that hold student attention, especially men
- Lack of funding
- Difficulty identifying and accessing best practices
- Inability to evaluate efficacy of programs
- Lack of staff time
- Lack of institutional support
- Campus culture does not support frank discussion
- Lack of staff training
- Lack of awareness about the issue
- Transient population means constant work
- Addressing the alcohol issue
- Lack of interest in prevention
- Sustaining student involvement
- Getting students to attend events
- Apathy (among both students and faculty/staff)
- Campus media propagates myths

- Competition with other student activities and other issues
- Lack of support for assessment and evaluation methods
- Victim-blaming
- Lack of centralized services (services/resources are scattered across campus)

Advice for Others

We asked respondents to provide advice to others doing this work. Responses included:

“Be creative. Step out of the box. Prevention education does not have to always be large and formal. Small and simple things work too.”

“Keep on working. There is a lot of red tape and resistance but you have to push through. The rewards are great.”

“Primary Prevention work is fun, positive and the most effective, including cost, solution. It takes everyone. Say yes to working together. Make it about the work. Be honest and authentic. Share what you learn with others. Keep it positive and more people are going to want to work with you.”

“Hang in there, be positive, be creative, get men involved, get students involved (Volunteers are great!)”

“I have always enjoyed coordinating across the community. I think the SAAM events work best when the groups with the energy focus on their own communities - rather than trying to tell other "communities" how to behave. Art and performances often spark some deep reflection, too.”

“Focus on research and model programs - stop doing what does not work.”

“Be persistent, advertise long and hard, and know that you're making a difference, even if it's only for one person at a time!”

“Maintain a healthy network to decompress to avoid burnout and stress.”

“Collaborate!!! Be open to support from any and every corner!!! Be public about your work, trainings, etc. and let others know about what you're doing!”

“We have been offering a for-credit course on sexual violence and this has made an impact on the level of dialogue on our campus. Because students are accountable, they can spend more time discussing the root issues and become more knowledgeable about how to change the culture.”

“If you want to interact with students about these issues, you also need to be comfortable hearing the students who agree with the myths and gently challenging those thoughts. The "hook-up" culture today makes it very difficult for students to see that drunk sex is sexual assault.”

“Collaborate! I find it so helpful to go to a monthly meeting of others doing this work. Do whatever you can to foster a positive relationship with your local crisis center.”

“Always play up the positive.”

“You can do good work on a limited budget!”

“Have a clear plan, create a few trainings that are easily adaptable but really speak to where students are, and then begin meeting with everyone in a position to put you in front of students while lending you support and credibility and start scheduling workshops. At the same time have resources and events in place to give students a way to continue to engage. Finally, be as connected to colleagues as you can!”

“We have just completed a Gender Violence Prevention Plan, written by the Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment Task Force, and just now being submitted to our Chancellor. The 5 month process of researching and writing it was very good for us and I highly recommend it.”

“Build an interdisciplinary board, this is very helpful. Connect with local resources and the community at large. Connect with other campuses.”

“Not all campuses are the same. Learn yours.”

“As a sexual assault educator, I have found that the key to male involvement is relevance. We have to make the information we give to men pertinent to them – they must be able to relate to it. This often includes immersing yourself in the dynamics at play in your audience. For example, if someone requests a program for a freshmen residence hall, follow up with that person to get some information about things that are going on in that hall, what they are in to, what they like/dislike, etc. That way we can tailor our content to be specific to that crowd, thus allowing them to see how they fit with this issue.”

“Contact other colleges and universities in your state and see what they are doing.”