

Cost of Sexual Violence
SART Listserv
August 2007

Issue: How much money do medical systems or social systems spend/absorb in responding to sexual assault victims? Have any states/communities calculated their systems' costs?

Responses

- State of Maine/crime division estimates 90,000 dollars for a case that is followed through from forensic exam – prosecution.
- We are only just beginning to look at these stats in Broome County, specifically to address necessary funding for it.

Resources

Cost of Crime and Victimization

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/2005/pg5b.html>

2003 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calculates the annual health-related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking and homicide by intimate partners to exceed \$5.8 billion each year. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2003. Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)

Costs of Sexual Violence in Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Health:

http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/pub/MN_brochure21FINALtoWeb.pdf

Sexual assault in Minnesota cost almost \$8 billion in 2005, or \$1,540 per resident. The largest cost was due to the pain, suffering, and quality of life losses of victims and their families, and related breakdowns in their lives and relationships. Medical care, mental health care, victim work loss, sexually transmitted diseases, unplanned pregnancy, suicidal acts, substance abuse, and victim services cost \$1.3 billion. Criminal justice and perpetrator treatment cost \$130.5 million.

The Rape Tax: Tangible and Intangible Costs of Sexual Violence
Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Vol. 17, No. 7, 773-782 (2002)
DOI: 10.1177/0886260502017007005 2002 SAGE Publications

Victim Costs and Consequences: A New Look 1996

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/victcost.pdf>

The National Institute of Justice estimates that rape and other sexual assaults of adults cause an annual minimum loss of 127 billion dollars, or about \$508 per U.S. resident. This includes tangible losses such as initial police response, medical care, mental health services, property damage or loss, and loss of productivity; and intangible losses, such as loss of quality of life, pain, and suffering. These costs do not include the costs of investigation, prosecution or incarceration of offenders. This figure makes sexual assault the costliest crime; even higher than murder.