

Enhancing Victim Services Throughout Rutgers University: Project Overview

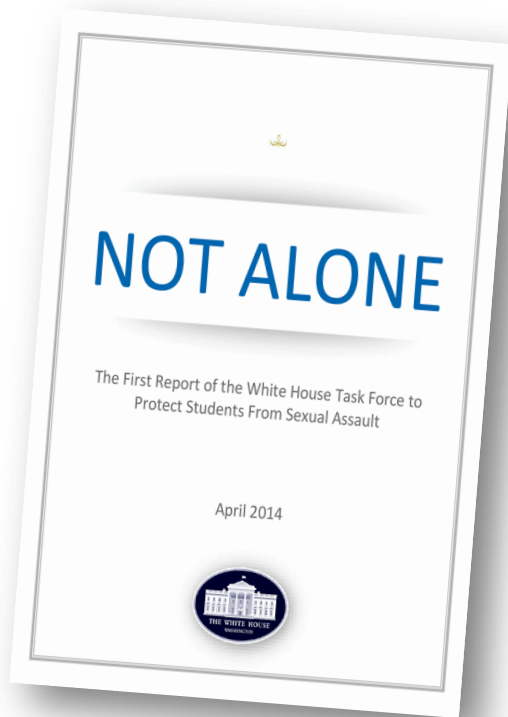
University Senate Meeting
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*Funded by a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Administered by the New
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Campus Sexual Violence



We call on colleges and universities to voluntarily conduct the survey next year. Again, a school that is willing to get an accurate assessment of sexual assault on its campus is one that's taking the problem – and the solution – seriously. Researchers recommend that schools conduct the survey in the winter or spring semesters, rather than when students first arrive on campus in the fall.

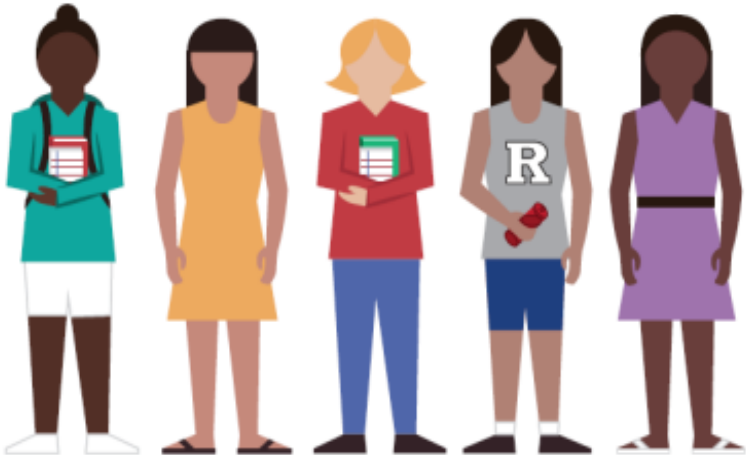
Rutgers University, with its leading research institute on violence against women,¹¹ will pilot and evaluate the survey. Also, the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women will work with its campus grantees to conduct the survey and evaluate it. And the Bureau of Justice Statistics will further refine the survey methodology. What we learn from these pilots, evaluations, and schools' experiences will chart the path forward for everyone – and will culminate in a survey for all to use.

Campus Climate Surveys

24%

Twenty four percent of undergraduate women reported experiencing sexual violence before coming to Rutgers.

1 in 5



Twenty percent of undergraduate women reported at least one instance of unwanted sexual contact since coming to Rutgers.



5%

Five percent of undergraduate males reported at least one instance of unwanted sexual contact since coming to Rutgers.

2X to 3X



Students who did not identify as 100 percent heterosexual were two to three times more likely to experience sexual violence both before coming to college and since becoming college students.

VOCA Grant Project Goals

A diagram consisting of two white circles with thin grey outlines, connected by a vertical line. The top circle is connected to an orange rectangular box, and the bottom circle is connected to a grey rectangular box. Both boxes have a slight drop shadow.

Goal One: Enhance the services and programs on each campus

Goal Two: Continue to develop a cohesive University wide response

Accomplished through expansion of direct services, training, and education.

Rutgers model

- Moving beyond compliance and employing institutional courage
- Whole school approach- everyone has a role to play in creating positive, welcoming climate
- Services and responses are integrated and coordinated
- Efforts are based on research evidence

Goal One

Enhance the
services and
programs on
each Rutgers
campus

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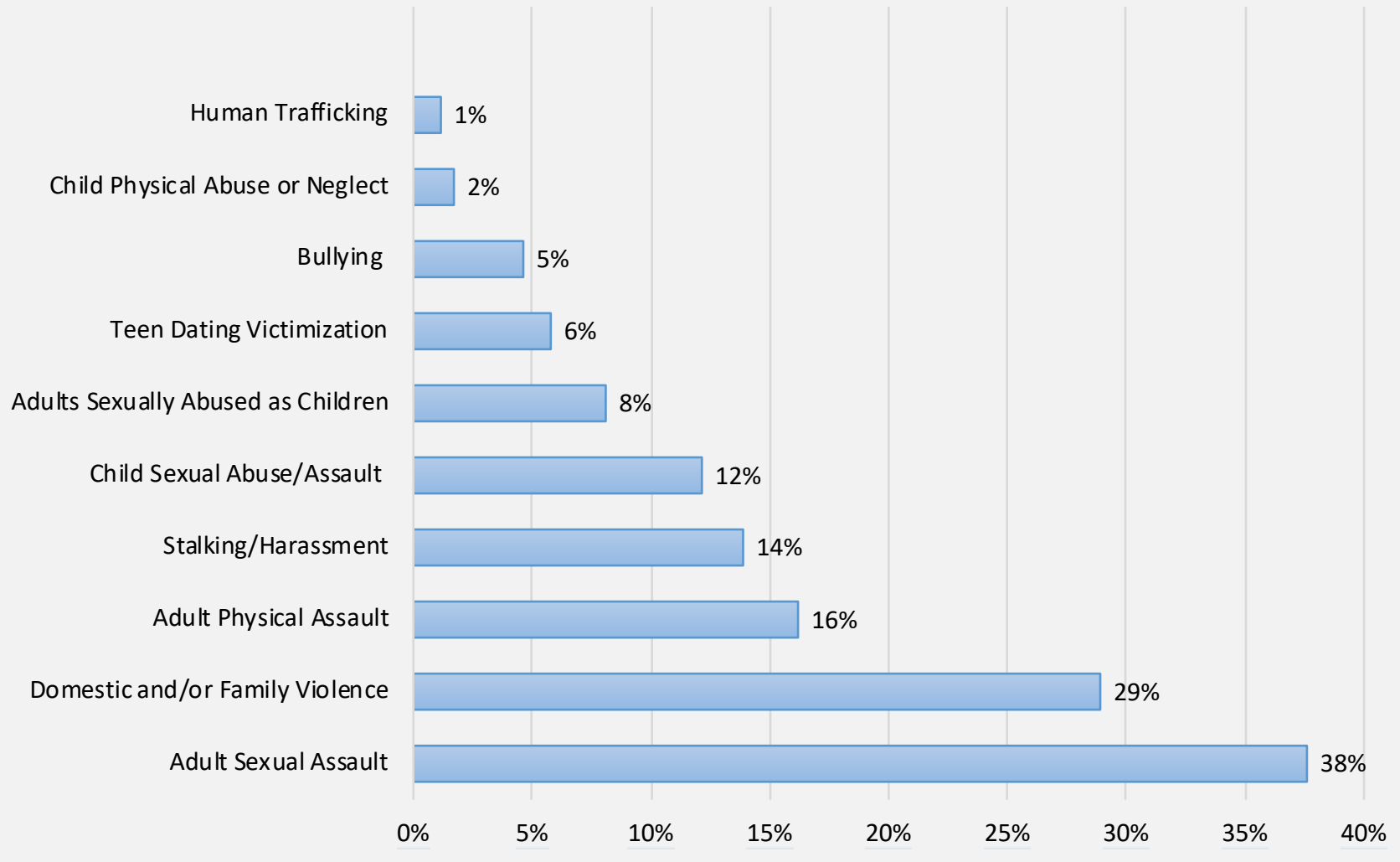
Direct Services

Offices of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) have been established on all four Rutgers University campuses

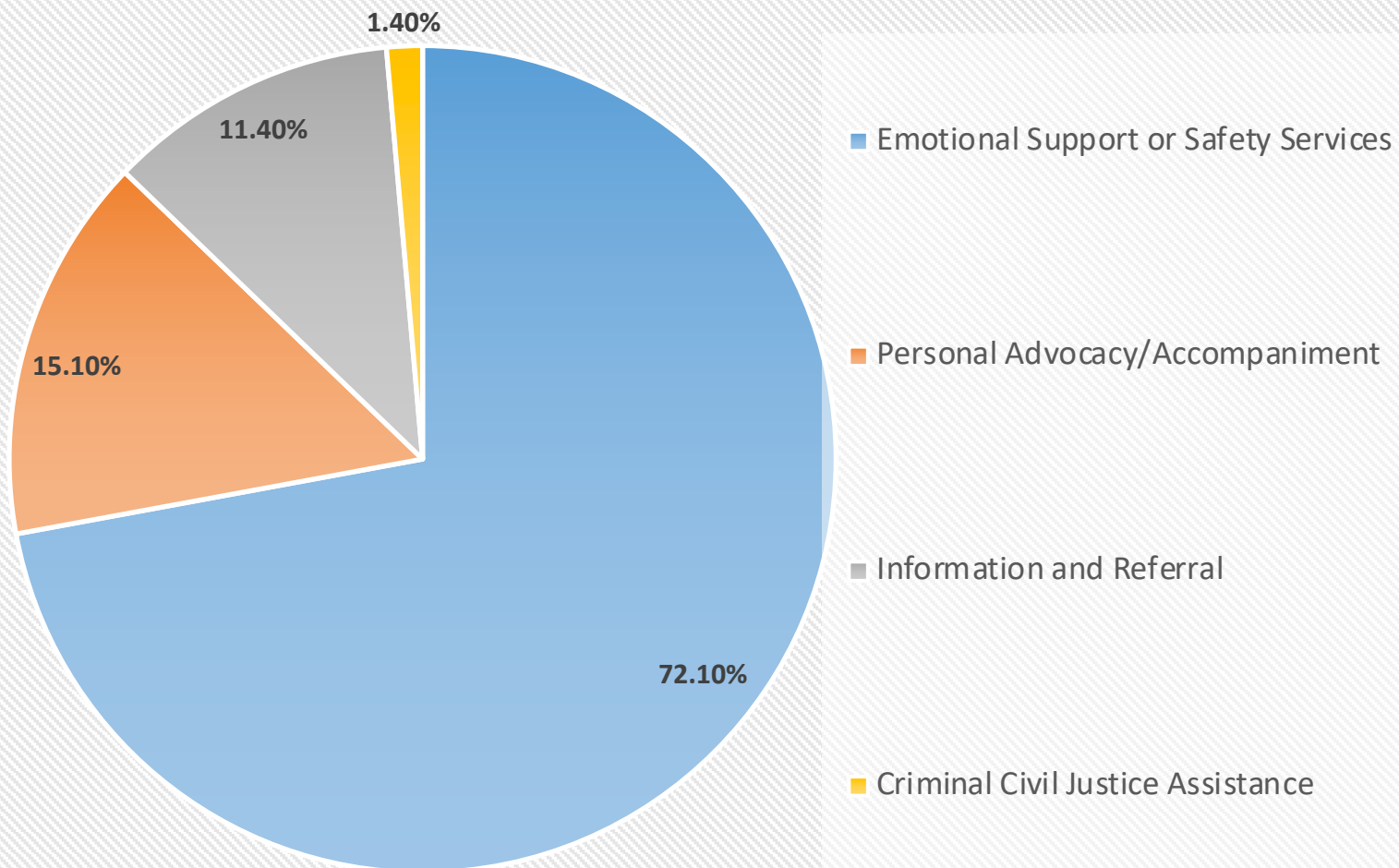
Providing crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy, court accompaniment, training, education, and prevention

A total of 445 clients were seen since the inception of the grant (October 2017-August 2019)

Victimization type for VPVA clients



Services Provided to Clients



Impact of Victim Services



“Just the fact that they [VPVA] were so helpful to me, and they helped me to be, to feel so powerful and to feel like I had the ability to do something about this and, like help me through this process.”

“VPVA services has helped me to overcome some of the anxiety I've had from traumatic experiences and focus on healing, and turning what made me feel insecure about my experiences into strengths. Counseling helps me to cope and I know I have a safe resource to utilize when needed.”

Training and Education



Over 2,400 participants have received training and education since the inception of the grant and have participated in over 130 programs.



Goal Two

Develop a
cohesive
university-
wide
response

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University-Wide Efforts

- Advisory Board
- Website
- Communication from senior leadership
- We R Here Campaign
- Crime Victim Rights Awareness events
- Public Service announcements
- Video for faculty & staff

We **R Here**
Support Services for Victims of Violence



Evaluation

- Using multiple data points to create a “data ecosystem”
- Providing real-time evaluation data that is used to inform programming

Sharing our Rutgers Model

- Statewide Higher Education Plan Working Group
- Local & National Conferences
- Webinars and consultation with other universities



Statewide Conference



Looking ahead to the new grant year

Expand outreach to traditionally underrepresented groups

Extend services to victims of other types of crime

Hire a Faculty and Staff Training Coordinator

Technical Assistance Workshops

For more information

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PSA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4O9qV00cyqQ>