



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

2014 Rape Crisis Center Survey*

Sexual assault is widespread and devastating.

According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey/NISVS (CDC, 2011), nearly 1 in 5 women have been the victim of an attempted or completed rape and over 1.3 million women are raped in the U.S. in one year. Over 80% of women who were victimized experienced significant impacts such as PTSD, injury (42%) and missed time at work or school (28%).

Recent national media attention on campus and military rape and public accusations of rape against several celebrities have spotlighted the issue of sexual assault. Now, more than ever, **our nation needs a strong network of rape crisis centers** to lead communities in prevention work and to support survivors.

Rape Crisis Center services are based in research that works. A 2006 study found that when victims receive advocate-assisted services they fare better in both short- and long-term recovery.

2014 Survey Results

In the past year, **rape crisis centers experienced an overall loss in funding** through a combination of local, state and federal cuts.

	Decreased Rape Crisis Center Funding
Federal	55%
State	51%
Local	58%

Over forty percent of rape crisis centers were forced to reduce staffing because of funding levels. Of those with staffing reductions, an average of 3 positions were terminated or left vacant.

Advocates at **rape crisis centers provide the nation's frontline response to sexual assault.**

Rape Crisis Centers provide:

- 24 hour emergency room response;
- 24 hour hotlines;
- crisis intervention;
- counseling & support groups;
- accompaniment to criminal justice agencies;
- awareness and prevention programs; and
- a lifeline for survivors.

Sadly, due to staffing reductions and lack of funding, **almost 50% of centers had to decrease services** in at least one critical area.

	Percentage of centers that decreased service due to lack of funding.
Public Awareness/Prevention Education	27%
Outreach	25%
Education/Institutional Advocacy	19%
Support Groups	16%
Counseling Services	13%

Over 1/3 of rape crisis centers (39%) have a waiting list for services with victims waiting most often for counseling services (21%) and communities waiting for prevention education (18%). **Waiting lists for counseling were reported as high as 60 survivors** with wait times as long as 5 weeks before a first appointment.

Despite financial challenges, rape crisis centers provide outstanding services:

- Individual counseling to teen survivors on school campuses;
- In rural areas, transporting survivors hundreds of miles for medical forensic exams;
- Therapeutic counseling over the phone for disabled survivors;
- Support groups for survivors in jails, prisons and detention facilities;
- Instilling hope within survivors; and Inspiring communities to live without violence.

At times of decreased funding and services, **some of the most vulnerable populations do not receive the assistance they need.** Rape Crisis Centers identified the following populations as the most in need of additional services in their regions:

- Trafficking Survivors;
- Adolescent/Teen Survivors;
- Elderly Survivors/Nursing Home Residents;
- Survivors with Disabilities; and
- Homeless Survivors.

Many rape crisis centers noted that while the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and attention to campus and military sexual violence are positive, they have **increased demand for services**, but provided no new funding.

Rape crisis centers and survivors are telling their stories:

“Our program is at a point where demand seriously exceeds capacity. Without increased funding, we will continue to leave the communities in which we work wanting for more. We are committed to helping survivors heal, especially survivors who face additional barriers to service, or who would otherwise be unable to access our healing services... We are without the necessary resources to do the work that we know is so important.” – Rape Crisis Center

“If the rape crisis center had not been able to offer me counseling, I know for certain I wouldn’t be standing here today. It is the simple truth. So, today, as a survivor...I am rebuilding my life, going back to school, trying to raise healthy, happy contributing boys.” - A survivor, veteran and single mother.

Congress must act to prevent further rape crisis cut backs, assist victims who are left to fend for themselves, and ensure prevention is occurring in all of our communities.

** These results are based on a 2014 internet survey conducted by NAESV and completed by 326 rape crisis centers across the United States.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Terri Poore at (850) 228-3428 or terri@endsexualviolence.org