

NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE

RAPE CRISIS CENTER ANNUAL SURVEY

2025

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The Rape Crisis Center Annual Survey is a project of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence. This document was made possible through the time and efforts of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence team as well as many of our partners who contributed by providing feedback throughout the survey development process.



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PURPOSE

The following report summarizes data from the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV) 2025 Rape Crisis Center (RCC) Survey. This survey sought to capture the opportunities and challenges faced by RCCs during 2024.

There are several areas of interest that the survey covered:

- Funding;
- Staffing;
- Services:
- Technical Assistance Needs; and
- Stories.

This data will be shared to inform funders, improve technical assistance, and supplement political advocacy.

DATA COLLECTION

All RCCs in 50 states and all U.S. territories were invited to participate in the survey. NAESV sent out a recruitment email to state sexual violence coalitions to be forwarded to all RCC members of the coalition. Targeted emails were also sent to states and territories with low response rates or without a coalition.

RCC is defined as any of the following:

- Culturally-specific program: Sexual assault services by and for culturallyspecific communities
- Dual sexual assault & domestic violence program
- Sexual assault/rape crisis center standalone program
- Sexual assault services provided within a multi-service organization (such as a community action organization, community health center, or hospital)
- Tribal sexual assault service program



RCC's were incentivized to complete the survey with the chance to enter a raffle drawing for one of four free registration to the National Sexual Assault Conference for one employee. (*Note*. Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services funds did not pay for participant incentivization).

The data analyses included herein represent data collected between October 28, 2024 and December 20, 2024. An initial extension to the data collection deadline was launched on December 1, set to close on December 9. One more data collection extension was opened due to high response rate through December 9 and targeted outreach to states with low response rates.

A preliminary data analysis was conducted in mid-December. The decision to open additional extensions was not dependent on the results of preliminary analyses.

To accurately capture RCC experiences this year, NAESV designed closed and openended questions in each area of interest. Questions were edited from previous years' surveys for clarity and precision.

DATA CLEANING



- Blank survey, <10 questions answered = participants may have started the survey and clicked through to preview. Too much missing data to include in analyses.
- Incomplete survey, ≥30% missing data = Too much missing data to include in analyses. 30% is an industry standard.
- **Duplicate IP Address.** Participants may have returned to the survey for several reasons. Some duplicate addresses were also removed for being blank or incomplete, likely because some participants may have clicked through before completing the survey in full. In each case where duplicates were not already removed due to the above two reasons, the initial survey attempt was removed, and the most recent attempt was retained for analyses. This decision was made in the likelihood that the retained response is the most up-to-date and accurate data if participants returned to the survey due to new information or information coming to light after an initial survey attempt. Additionally, some participants may have completed the survey once to get a sense of the questions and returned with more accurate information the second attempt.
 - **Limitation.** Messaging with the survey invitation clearly stated that we were seeking only one response per program. There is a possibility that more than one person responded per program, however there was no way of identifying that (outside of duplicate IP addresses).

Reason Removed *	Total N Removed	Remaining Total N
Blank survey, <10 questions answered	236	553
Incomplete survey, ≥30% missing data	27	526
Duplicate IP Address	19	507
	FINAL TOTAL	507

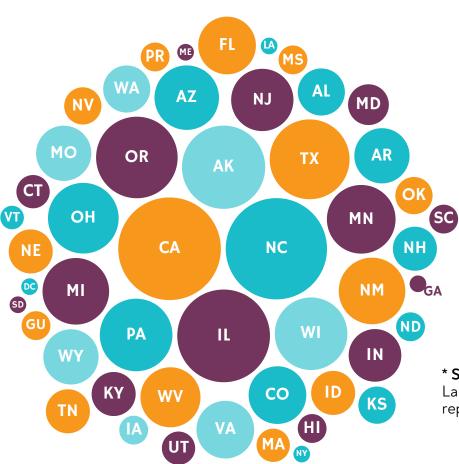
^{*} **Note.** Although some participants had both duplicate ID's and incomplete survey attempts, only one reason was recorded for each attempt. The order of reasons represents the order in which the data was removed.

WHO RESPONDED?

Rape Crisis Centers across **47 states** as well as D.C., Guam, & Puerto Rico

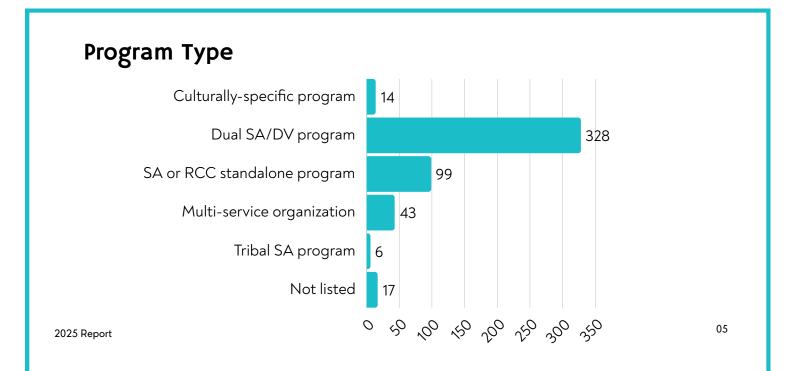
* No reporting from Delaware, Montana, or Rhode Island

^{*} Two respondents did not report state



END SEXUAL VIOLENCE

* Size indicates percentage of total: Larger circles indicate more programs reporting; smaller circles indicate fewer.

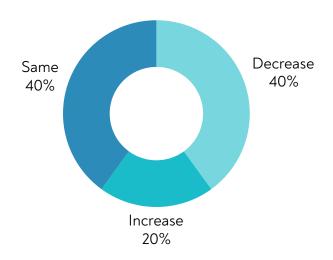




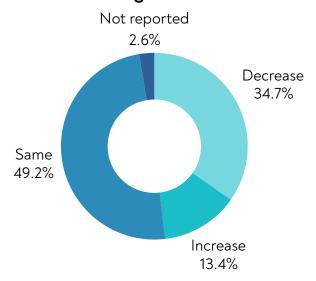
FUNDING: FACING DECREASES

Findings demonstrate an alarming reduction in funding, deeply affecting staffing and capacity.

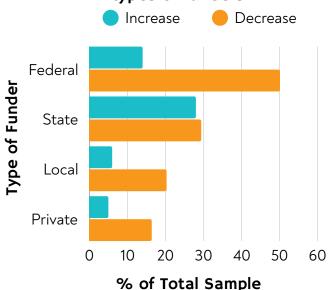
40% of RCC's saw a decrease in funding for direct services



35% of RCC's saw a decrease in funding for prevention



RCC's saw decreases across all types of funders



Funding through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act American Rescue Plan



1/3 RCCs used this funding for outreach and services to underserved populations



The biggest concern of losing this funding was staff layoffs



The second largest concern was reducing prevention & education







Nearly 1/3 of programs have not received state funds or other redirected funds to offset VOCA cuts



FUNDING: RCCs SHARE THEIR STORIES



The costs of operating the organization have increased, and when funding stays the same or decreases, we face the prospect of scaling back services.

-Texas Rape Crisis Center



Due to limited funding we no longer provide counseling. The counselor needed more money and we could not pay her what she requested and deserved. We no longer offer support groups on a regular basis. We no longer offer Play Yoga, Trauma Informed Yoga, We have limited supports to help people remain in safe and secure housing, with many survivors without a home that are couch surfing.

-Oregon Rape Crisis Center



Reduced funding has strained our budget, making it impossible to hire more essential staff needed to keep up with demand of services. Without adequate resources, we face challenges in providing the necessary support and services to victims. If these cuts continue, we may be forced to downsize our staff further or, worst-case scenario, discontinue our programs altogether.

-Minnesota Rape Crisis Center



One significant challenge we faced this year was the inability to expand our sexual assault prevention programming to rural communities due to limited funding and staff capacity. Despite a clear need for education on consent and healthy relationships in these underserved areas, we lacked the resources to deliver workshops or build partnerships with local schools and organizations. -North Carolina Rape Crisis Center

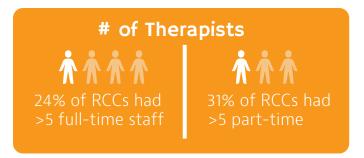


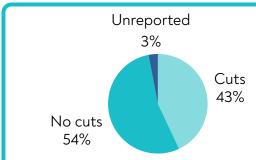


STAFFING: DECREASED CAPACITY

RCCs faced decreased capacity because of limited funding or cuts to funding resulting in too few staff, turnover, and lay offs.



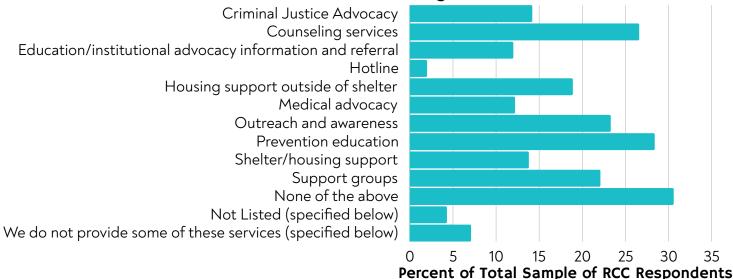




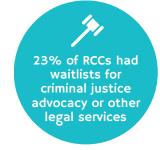
Nearly half of RCCs experienced a reduction in staffing for sexual assault services and/or prevention this year.

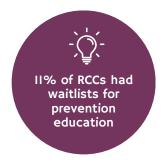
77% of RCCs shared that if they had 1-5 additional full-time staff, they could meet current demand.

Rape Crisis Centers faced decreases in the following areas:











STAFFING: CHALLENGES

Salaries, benefits, capacity, and staff burn out are major concerns resulting from the lack of funding and resources provided to rape crisis centers.



The most common reason for staff turnover was that RCCs are unable to provide competitive salaries.
*For 43% of programs, the average annual salary for sexual assault direct service staff is between \$30k-59k



We had to layoff approximately 25% of our staff despite our efforts to expand our portfolio and take on extra projects. Because of layoffs we received backlash from our staff and the community which is resulting in further cuts to funding in other areas. - Ohio Rape Crisis Center





For the last two years, we have had to cut staff positions in order to make ends meet. Fewer staff means fewer services being provided to victims and survivors in our area. -Alaska Rape Crisis Center



Of the 85 RCCs who shared that they had part-time or full-time therapists and mental health staff...



25% had waitlists for support groups



35% had waitlists for trauma-informed therapy



66% had waitlists for counseling services

Therapist Retention



60% of RCCs had no therapists on staff



~30% of RCCs had 5 or fewer therapists



The largest barrier to retaining therapists was low salary

RCCs ranked the top reasons for turnover...

- 1. Salary not competitive
- 2. Salary not a living wage
- 3. Limited paid leave
- 4. Limited flexibility to work from home
- 5. Lack of parental leave
- 6. Access to or affordability of childcare
- 7. Insufficient retirement or other savings plans
- 8. Insufficient healthcare
- 9. Lack of trauma-trained staff
- 10. Work is too stressful
- 11. Work hours/on-call requirements



STAFFING: RCCs SHARE THEIR STORIES



Staff reduction against all programs, and we are the only service provider in our region. Further cuts will grossly hamper service delivery and leave survivors without support.

-Arizona Rape Crisis Center



We are unable to hire enough staff to cover 24/7 work. The limited staff causes staff burnout and need for long leaves, causing even greater short staffing. The number of operational services we are able to provide have decreased greatly causing waitlists or not being able to provide what survivors need.







We had to make staffing cuts to our outreach team. We eliminated 4 positions. It also meant we have had to re-delegate tasks to other staff members, expecting them to take on more work with no extra compensation. The extra work for remaining outreach team members directly affects our ability to do more community prevention and outreach events.

-Florida Rape Crisis Center



This living in constant fear of the next cut is detrimental to our staff, and as a result we do not do some of the programming we would like to because of the fear of it not being able to be funded in the near future and the impact on clients.

-Minnesota Rape Crisis Center





SERVICES

Although funding cuts and limitations have resulted in decreased capacity...

- 60% of programs reported an increase in demand for sexual assault PREVENTION EDUCATION
- 58% of programs reported an increase in demand for sexual assault SERVICES
- 44% of programs reported an increase in demand for SERVICES for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse

If given more capacity to target underserved populations, about 50% of programs reported that the highest priority populations for FY 2026 would be...

- Adolescent/teens survivors,
- Homeless/unhoused survivors,
- Immigrant survivors,
- LGBTQIA+ survivors,
- Male survivors,
- Survivors from communities of color, and
- Survivors with disabilities

If given more capacity to target underserved populations, about 30-40% of programs reported that the highest priority populations for FY 2026 would be...

- Adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse
- Black communities
- Latina/o/x communities, and
- Survivors in sex work

If funding were not a concern, in order to better reach these populations, RCC's shared they would...

- Hire more staff, especially bi/multilingual staff
- Provide professional development to provide culturally-specific services
- Increase culturally specific services and prevention
- Partner with the school system
- Do more outreach by partnering with community leaders and organizations

^{*} Percents are not mutually exclusive: Participants were free to select all that applied.



SERVICES: RCCs SHARE THEIR STORIES



We are losing staff positions and have been unable to assist with emergency financial assistance for clients. We have had to cut back on our prevention budget. We are serving less clients due to these cuts.

-Washington Rape Crisis Center



Also, our services in the rural, western part of our county will become sporadic, as we will no longer have the capacity to maintain a staff member at our satellite office for the foreseeable future. Finally, we cut emergency funds for survivors, which help remove barriers to their healing, and we have canceled free alternative healing events for survivors and their support networks. -Wisconsin Rape Crisis Center





We lost two employees, our counseling and our housing program. We no longer have any housing or mental health dollars internally and have to fully rely on community partners, who are also struggling with funding.

-Oklahoma Rape Crisis Center



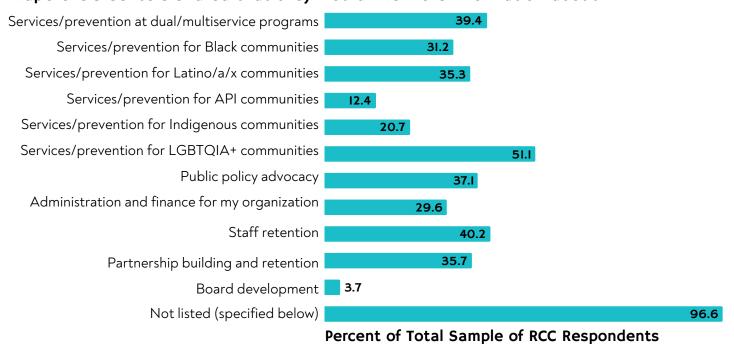
If it was not for the ladies at the local rape crisis center, I never would have got the help I needed. The free services provided by the RCC have helped more individuals reach out to help with trauma related issues. The advocate was a lifesaver in helping me navigate through the whole process.

-Survivor at a Kentucky Rape Crisis Center



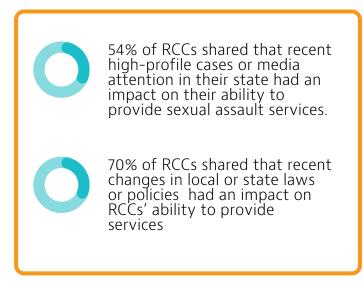
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Rape Crisis Centers shared that they would like more information about:



RCCs who selected "Not listed" shared alternatives like...

- Trauma-informed supervision and staff wellness and community building practices within organizations;
- Building and sustaining prevention education programs in schools;
- Strategic planning;
- Leading coordinated community responses (SART meetings); and
- Community awareness/marketing



RCCs ranked the unmet needs of sexual assault survivors from most common to least common

- 1. Housing
- 2. Cash assistance
- 3. Basic needs such as clothing and food
- 4. Emergency medical services
- 5. Transportátion
- 6. Immigration support
- 7. Job or education accommodations
- 8. Legal support
- 9. Mental health care
- 10. Substance abuse treatment
- 11. Crisis intervention