

Healing Partnerships for Survivors Act (HPSA) – H.R. 4510 / S. 2348



Lead Sponsors: Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM-3) Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1)
Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

The Healing Partnerships for Survivors Act (HPSA) authorizes \$30 million to create a program at the Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services (OFVPS), a division of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to strengthen partnerships between community-based sexual assault programs and substance use treatment, behavioral health, and disability programs to develop trauma-informed, culturally relevant responses, services, prevention, and policies to address and improve the comprehensive response to survivors of sexual assault.

HPSA BILL SUMMARY

- **Amends the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act** to authorize \$30 million each year from 2026 to 2030 to strengthen relationships between health systems and community-based sexual assault programs to support survivors of sexual assault.
- **Eligible grant recipients** include state, territory, and tribal sexual assault coalitions, nonprofit community-based sexual assault programs, and Indian tribes, tribal organizations, or Alaskan Native organizations.
- **With funding, grant recipients can:**
 - Build workforce capacity to meet survivor needs and retain staff;
 - Upgrade and add technology to improve virtual services and increase accessibility;
 - Support the unique housing and shelter needs of survivors; and
 - Provide services to survivors, including therapy, support groups, holistic healing, somatic approaches, and personal advocacy through case management.
- **Requires a report to the HHS Secretary** outlining the activities carried out with grant money and an evaluation of the effectiveness of each activity.
- **Ensures grant recipients** prioritize victim privacy and safety.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IS A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM.

According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), 26.8% of women and 3% of men have experienced a completed or attempted rape in their lifetime. Sexual assault continues to happen at a young age: 48.7% of female victims of rape were first raped before the age of 18. NISVS confirms that sexual violence has severe short- and long-term impacts. Among females, 1 in 7 victims contracted a sexually transmitted infection; 1 in 3 were injured; and 2 in 3 were concerned for their safety (Basile et al., 2022).

INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES EXPERIENCE THE COST OF SEXUAL ASSAULT.

The short- and long-term effects of sexual assault can undermine a person's physical and mental health. Based on an analysis of studies from 1980-2008, survivors of sexual assault have a significantly higher prevalence of anxiety, depression, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicide attempts (Chen et al., 2010). According to the 2005 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, survivors of sexual assault are more likely to suffer from asthma and joint conditions. Studies have also found an increased risk of cervical cancer and sexually transmitted diseases (Basile et al., 2021).

The societal costs of sexual assault are incredibly high, including medical and mental health care, law enforcement response, and lost productivity. A 2017 research study sets the lifetime economic burden of rape at \$122,000 per victim (Peterson et al., 2017).

Sources:

Basile et al., NISVS Sexual Violence Report, CDC, 2022.
Chen et al., Mayo Clinic Proceedings, 2010.
Basile et al., Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 2021.
Peterson et al., American Journal of Preventive Medicine, 2017.

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National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

SURVIVORS NEED MORE SUPPORT

Sexual assault programs don't have adequate resources to meet victims' needs.

In fact, a 2025 survey by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence of local rape crisis centers (RCCs) found that:



report an increase in demand for **sexual assault services**.



report an increase in demand for services for **adult survivors of child sexual abuse**.



report a **waiting list for mental health counseling/therapy services**.



report having **no mental health counseling or therapy providers on staff**.

VICTIMS DESERVE SUPPORT TO HEAL AND GET THEIR LIVES BACK.

Supporting victim services is a smart, high-impact investment. The data is clear: services reduce long-term costs, improve public health, and make communities safer. Investing in solutions today isn't just the right thing to do; it's a strategic move toward a healthier, more prosperous future.

Sexual assault survivors seeking out mental health services at our organizations are added to our waiting list and provided referrals to other therapy providers in the community. However, resources are limited community-wide and most face significant wait times to access mental health services.

North Dakota RCC

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Our staff is at a breaking point and cannot continue to manage the influx of demand at the current funding level.

Pennsylvania RCC

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Despite our team's dedication, limited funding prevents us from meeting the full demand for services. Currently, 66 survivors await counseling, likely only a fraction of those in need.

Illinois RCC

SURVIVORS NEED HPSA!

HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?
Contact Terri Poore, Policy Director
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