

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Indiana Sexual Assault State Plan

Report for Indiana on the Status of Sexual Violence



2003-2008

Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault

The statewide network of professionals and survivors working to end sexual violence in Indiana through

- **Prevention Education**
 - **Community Awareness**
 - **Supportive services for victims**
 - **Effective treatment for offenders**
 - **Promoting zero tolerance**
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OVERVIEW

Sexual violence is a crime of power and control. It knows no boundaries and does not discriminate with regard to age, sexual orientation, race, creed, gender, disability, socio-economic status, or other distinguishing demographics within society. Sex crimes are one of the most culpable crimes against people and society.

Financial Impact of sex crimes:

- The average rape costs \$5,100 in tangible, short-term, out of pocket expenses
- Long term expenses per victim are figured at \$87,000, and accounts for more than 25% of the total cost of crime in the United States.
- Prison costs expended on a sex offender reach nearly \$30,000 annually.



The American Medical Association (AMA) considers sexual violence a “silent violent epidemic.” The cost to the victim and society extend well beyond the confines of financial considerations. The physical, emotional and spiritual impact that a sexual assault has on a victim are visible long after the assault occurred. The child victim of sexual abuse faces the potential of irreparable emotional and psychological damage, unwanted pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases, developmental delays, or trauma that affects their interaction with other people and capability of dealing with daily life. The adult victim, whether male or female, is challenged with anxiety and fear of not being believed, loss of self-esteem, thoughts of suicide, physical ailments, depression, and many other debilitating issues.

In all instances the life of the victim is never the same following a sexual assault. The life of family and friends are also impacted. It will take several years for a victim of sexual violence to move from victim status to survivor status and that process involves everyone involved in the victim’s life.

Because sexual violence is a crime against society it must be addressed as a priority issue. The Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault in partnership with rape crisis professionals, educators, therapists, law enforcement departments, medical professionals, survivors, and criminal justice agents spent two years in the process to create a comprehensive report on the status of sexual violence in Indiana. Surveys, meetings, focus groups, research, and data collection were all components used to develop this plan.

We cannot do enough at this point to increase education in our communities and promote the enforcement of zero tolerance in dealing with sex offenses. The executive summary provides a snapshot of the findings and recommendations to move Indiana into a proactive and progressive response to addressing sexual violence.

One in four women will be sexually assaulted

It is estimated that only 6% of the child and adult victims of sexual assault receive treatment in Indiana

Findings

One in six boys will be sexually assaulted

Education and Services for child victims of sexual abuse

- Each year in Indiana according to reports from Family and Social Services Administration Child Protective Services Division there are over 4,000 substantiated cases of child sexual abuse.
- According to a recent study of young women, of the participants 66% reported being sexually abused. 54% of those reported having been molested said the perpetrator was a family member, 14% by father, 21% by stepfather, 9% by mother's boyfriend, 16% by an uncle, 20% by a cousin, 9% by grandfather, 6% by brother and 5% by other relatives
- Over 66% of homeless youth are victims of sexual abuse.
- Sexually abuse teens are more likely to participate in unprotected and early intercourse and are more prone to become offenders (prostitution, drug users, petty theft convictions, etc.).



Data Collection Systems

- There is consensus among the professional organizations and state agencies that none of the existing data collection on sex crimes in Indiana accurately identify the magnitude of the problem.
- There exists no uniform system of data entry for end users such as law enforcement departments, rape crisis programs, emergency rooms, and mental health centers.
- The numbers of actual survivors of sexual violence in Indiana is unknown.
- Current data collection systems exist through the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the Uniform Crime Report (UCR); however in Indiana only 30% of law enforcement agencies report to UCR.
- Legal Services Association (LSA) in Indiana conducted a review of adult sex crimes in the court system in the last year and found approximately 9,000 cases; UCR only reported 1,952 cases of rape in Indiana.
- Law enforcement departments do not classify sex crimes uniformly throughout the state. Rape crisis programs lack an established system of reporting. The ability to access current and relevant statistics, curriculums, and materials on the prevention of rape and attempted rape, as well as other pertinent information on sexual violence is lacking in Indiana.

College Campus and Young Adults

- The issues of acquaintance and date rape are prevalent on college campuses and among young adults between the ages of 16 and 24.
- A nation-wide study by Koss (1985) surveyed over 6,000 students on their sexual experiences on college campuses. The study found **1 in 8 women were "victims" of rape**. As well, **1 in every 12 men admitted to forcing a woman to have intercourse or attempting to through physical or psychological coercion**. Interestingly enough, **none** of these men identified themselves as rapists.
- The introduction of drug-facilitated sexual assault compounds the problem.
- Young women entering college are in the highest risk category for victimization of sexual violence.

Findings

Qualifications and Training for Professionals

- Surveys and studies of direct service provider programs for victims of sexual violence reveals a tremendous disparity in the quality and quantity of training for advocates and other professionals serving victims.
 - In Indiana the training provided to sexual assault victim advocates ranges from a comprehensive fifty-seven hour training to a fifteen-minute training.
 - Inadequately trained advocates will retraumatize a victim and undermine the valuable role that advocates play in the continuum of services.
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Identification and Provision of Services for Diverse and Underserved Populations

- Marital Rape is thought by many to have more serious effects on a victim than if the rape had been at the hand of a stranger. Because a wife lives with her assailant and she may live in constant terror of another assault whether she is awake or asleep.
- The criminal justice response in Indiana to marital rape is very low. The majority of marital rape cases never see a rape charge, rather there is generally a lesser charge to battery and the case is treated as a domestic dispute.
- Elderly victims of sexual violence are a vastly underserved and unidentified population in Indiana.
- Nursing homes and elderly assisted living facilities are not providing adequate training or paying aides or direct line staff sufficient wages to maintain quality employees.
- Sexual abuse data on children from the Family and Social Services Administration ranked Residential Facilities with the highest incidence of reports. Residential facilities refers to group home and living environments for emotionally, physically, and developmentally impaired children.
- Although various programs and strategies exist throughout the state, there is no coordination between sexual assault service providers and disability service providers to ensure effective prevention, awareness, service delivery and evaluation of programs.
- Indiana has a growing population in the communities of color. Many metropolitan areas have experience 100 to 200 percent growths in diversity among race and ethnic populations.
- The changing face of America in terms of religious practices and belief systems makes it imperative for the anti-sexual violence movement to explore and understand the diversity in religions and the response to sexual violence within specific faith communities.

The FBI reports that only 30% of law enforcement departments in Indiana report data on sex crimes

Recommendations

- Maintain and build upon the existing statewide networks, develop strategies to include non-traditional entities in the continuum.

- Implement an effective system of evaluation for assessing the accomplishments toward reducing rape, attempted rape, and sexual assault throughout Indiana.

- Establish a statewide data collection system for sex crimes that effectively addresses the barriers that currently prevent many law enforcement departments from providing data.

- Develop a certification process for sexual assault victim advocates

- Promote collaborations on the state and local levels between the coalition/rape crisis programs and entities serving underserved, high-risk, special needs, and general populations.

- Develop a method of promoting qualified professionals and organizations providing services to victims and offenders, as well as promoting trainers qualified to train on issues of sexual violence.

- Create or expand prevention education, public awareness, training for professionals, and resources that will address the issues of sexual assault, rape, and attempted rape.

- Establish additional funding mechanisms to support the increased and ongoing efforts of professionals and organizations in the anti-sexual violence movement. Funding is needed for both prevention and intervention programming for rape crisis service programs throughout the state.

Strategy

Until we understand and identify the true problem or magnitude of sexual violence in Indiana we cannot possibly begin to accomplish a reduction or eradication. The recommendations represent goals to accomplish over the next five years. However, there are preliminary steps that must take place before measurable impacts will be realized.

- ***Clearly identify the providers of services in each county in Indiana for victims of sexual violence.***

There needs to be a clear definition of the organizations in Indiana that provide services to victims of sexual violence. There are several entities that identify themselves as providers, however the services that are provided according to the community and other professional entities that work with victims of sexual violence present a different picture. The appendices contain maps of Indiana that present a realistic picture of what service providers exist in Indiana. There are many counties that do not have any social services identified for survivors of sexual violence. *The data gathered to create the maps in the full report was comprised of surveys of hospitals, law enforcement departments, rape crisis programs, victims assistance programs, and prosecutor's offices in each of the ninety-two counties.

- ***Clearly identify the number of sex crimes that occur annually in Indiana***

Bringing together the key players in the anti-sexual violence movement on both the victim service and offender treatment ends of the continuum is the first step in accurately identifying a method for determining the number of sex crimes that happen annually in Indiana. INCASA is in the process of bringing together the key partners in the movement to improve the data collection process in the state. In the appendix there is a technical design sheet of the plans in development for improving data collection in Indiana.

These two steps must occur prior to the implementation of the recommendations of the Sexual Assault State Plan. These two strategies will allow a clear identification of baselines and allow the key entities of the anti-sexual violence movement to understand the depth of the issue before applying the processes.

The Anti-Sexual Violence Movement in Indiana

It truly takes a village to raise a child. The birth of the anti-sexual violence movement in Indiana was realized out of the hard work and dedication of volunteers and professionals throughout the state. Their efforts continue today and are realized through their establishment of the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault back in 1987. The mission of the coalition is to pursue the eradication of sexual violence. The vision of the coalition is to one day realize its own non-existence. This plan would not be possible if not for the hundreds of professionals, volunteers, and survivors who contributed their time and expertise. All would be for nothing however if we stop the forward thinking that education and prevention will one day bring an end to sexual violence.

To order a copy of the comprehensive Sexual Assault State Plan for Indiana, 2003-2008, or to find out more information on prevention and intervention programs in your area, please call: 317.423.0233 fax: 317.423.0237 or email: incasa@incasa.org

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INCASA is a member based coalition and is recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization. INCASA receives funding from the Family and Social Services Administration, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, Violence Against Women Act through the Department Of Justice, private foundation, professionals, and concerned individuals. All contributions to the coalition are tax deductible to the full extent allowable under the charitable contributions ruling by the IRS.

