



**The Sexual Battery Victims' Access to Services Act  
Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund - Rape Crisis Services in Florida**

**Report Issued by the Division of Community Health Promotion  
Sexual Violence Prevention Program**

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**Report to the Florida Legislature:  
The Sexual Battery Victims' Access to Services Act,  
The Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund, and  
Rape Crisis Services in Florida**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Department of Health, Sexual Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) is honored to provide the Florida Legislature the 2010-2011 Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund legislative report, as mandated by section 794.055, *Florida Statutes*. In 2003, the Florida Legislature created "The Sexual Battery Victims' Access to Services Act" and the Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund (RCPTF) within the Department of Health. The Act created a funding system for distribution of monies generated by a \$151 fine assessed on offenders convicted of sexual battery and other offenses, including many battery type offenses. While the clerk of the court retains \$1 of the fine as a service fee, \$150 goes to the Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund. This Act also requires the department to contract with a statewide, nonprofit association to distribute these funds for the provision of sexual battery recovery services. The department contracts with the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, Inc. (FCASV), a statewide nonprofit organization committed to victims and survivors of sexual violence and the rape crisis centers who serve them. FCASV subcontracts with certified rape crisis centers throughout the state to serve victims and enhance services.

From September 2003 to June 2012, county clerks deposited \$11,782,600 into the trust fund. In 2011-2012, the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence received \$353,844 to provide statewide initiatives in support of victims, while 30 certified rape crisis centers received \$1,415,375, for a total annual contract amount of \$1,769,219. These funds served 10,592 new primary and secondary victims; as well as continuing services to 35,150 victims who were first seen prior to July 2011 (but are not included in the count for new victims). These victims received 79,184 sexual battery recovery services.

**THE SCOPE AND IMPACT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

In 2011, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement reported 9,880 forcible sex offenses and 2,517 arrests. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), approximately 17 percent or one out of every six women in Florida has been the victim of rape or attempted rape while 42 percent of women in Florida have experienced other forms of sexual violence. Many victims fear disgrace if they tell family and friends about the abuse, and suffer alone (Jewkes, Sen, and Garcia-Moreno, 2002).

Victims of sexual assault who do not receive recovery services face serious risks to their health and well-being:

- Adverse childhood experiences, including child sexual abuse, can lead to serious long-term physical and mental health problems, poor job performance, and work absenteeism in adulthood (Anda et al., 2004).
- Recent research has found that rape survivors who had the assistance of an advocate were significantly more likely to have police reports taken and were less likely to be treated negatively by police officers. These women also reported less distress after their contact with the legal system (Rebecca Campbell, 2006).
- Compared to those who have never been victimized by sexual assault, victims are thirteen (13) times more likely to abuse alcohol, twenty-six (26) times more likely to abuse drugs, and four (4) times more likely to contemplate suicide (Jewkes, Sen, and Garcia-Moreno, 2002).

- Sixty-one percent of homeless girls and 16 percent of homeless boys report sexual abuse as the reason for leaving home (Estes & Weiner, 2001).

Sexual assault hurts the state’s economy, and the economic impact worsens if victims do not receive the services they need to regain their stability:

- Almost half of all working women have experienced some form of sexual harassment on the job. Sexual harassment can have a serious negative effect on women’s physical and emotional health, and the more severe the harassment, the more severe the reaction (National Women’s Law Center, 2000).
- Approximately 500,000 women work in U.S. fields picking crops or packing fruits and vegetables, many of whom are sexually harassed and assaulted by their male supervisors who control whether they get or keep their jobs (Clarren, 2005).
- Sexual assault victims earn \$6,000 less in annual income than non-victims (MacMillan, 2001).
- Lifetime income loss, due to sexual violence in adolescence, is estimated at \$241,600 (MacMillan, 2001).

### **THE RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE: RAPE CRISIS SERVICES**

In 30 certified rape crisis centers across the state of Florida, advocates provide the immediate and ongoing response to sexual violence. Staff at rape crisis centers provide services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to attempt to meet victims’ needs with limited resources.

During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the Department of Health contracted with the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV) to subcontract \$1,415,375 to 30 certified rape crisis centers for the provision of services to primary and secondary victims of sexual battery.

### **SEXUAL BATTERY SERVICES**

In 2011-2012, 10,592 new primary victims, the victim of sexual assault, and secondary victims, an individual impacted by the sexual assault of a primary victim, received services. During this time, 35,150 ongoing victims that received services prior to 2011 continued to receive services. The following sexual battery recovery services were provided:

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Number of Services</u>
Advocacy and Accompaniment	21,010
Crisis Intervention	12,356
Hotline calls	19,113
Information and Referrals	12,632
Forensic Exams	1,209
Support Group	1,026
Therapy	8,666
<u>Other</u>	<u>3,172</u>
Total	79,184

Source: Florida Department of Health Sexual Violence Data Registry.

**RCPTF ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM  
7/1/11-6/30/12**

<b>Certified Rape Crisis Centers in Florida</b>	<b>Counties Served</b>	<b>Total Award</b>
Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Incorporated (Fort Myers)	Lee, Hendry, Glades	\$55,577
Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center (Gainesville)	Alachua, Bradford, Union	\$46,352
Another Way, Incorporated (Bronson)	Levy, Gilchrist, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Suwannee, Columbia	\$93,973
Bridgeway Center (Fort Walton Beach)	Okaloosa	\$18,967
Broward County Sexual Assault Treatment Center (Fort Lauderdale)	Broward	\$81,186
Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies (Punta Gorda)	Charlotte	\$17,428
Creative Services, Incorporated (Ocala)	Marion	\$23,152
Crisis Center of Tampa Bay (Tampa)	Hillsborough	\$53,689
Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties, Incorporated (Leesburg)	Lake, Sumter	\$49,578
Lakeview Center Rape Crisis and Rape Awareness Programs (Pensacola)	Escambia, Santa Rosa	\$39,447
Manatee Glens Rape Crisis Services (Bradenton)	Manatee	\$21,922
Mujeres Unidas en Justicia, Educación y Reforma (M.U.J.E.R.), Incorporated (Women United in Justice, Education, and Reform) (Homestead)	South Miami-Dade	\$32,632
Palm Beach County Victim Services (West Palm Beach)	Palm Beach	\$62,467
Peace River Rape Recovery and Resource Center (Lakeland)	Hardee, Highlands, Polk	\$61,379
Project Help, Incorporated (Naples)	Collier	\$23,685
Putnam County Health Department Sexual and Physical Violence Intervention Program (Palatka)	Putnam	\$16,809
Quigley House, Incorporated (Orange Park)	Clay	\$17,113

<b>Certified Rape Crisis Centers in Florida</b>	<b>Counties Served</b>	<b>Total Award</b>
Refuge House, Incorporated (Tallahassee)	Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla	\$111,540
Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center/Jackson Memorial Hospital (Miami-Dade)	Miami-Dade	\$78,116
Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (Sarasota)	DeSoto, Sarasota	\$37,719
Safety Shelter of St. Johns County, Incorporated (Saint Augustine)	St. Johns	\$16,630
Salvare, Incorporated dba Dawn Center of Hernando County (Spring Hill)	Hernando	\$16,400
Salvation Army Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Program (Panama City)	Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington	\$83,285
Sexual Assault Assistance Program State Attorney's Office, 19th Circuit (Fort Pierce)	Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie	\$61,829
Sexual Assault Victim Services (Viera)	Brevard, Seminole	\$54,961
Suncoast Center, Incorporated dba Family Service Centers (Clearwater)	Pinellas	\$49,928
Sunrise of Pasco County, Incorporated (Dade City)	Pasco	\$25,212
The Children's Advocacy Center of Volusia and Flagler Counties Sexual Assault Response Team (Daytona Beach)	Volusia, Flagler	\$43,627
Victim Service Center of Central Florida (Orlando)	Orange	\$49,128
Women's Center of Jacksonville Rape Recovery Team (Jacksonville)	Baker, Duval, Nassau	\$71,644
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,415,375</b>

## **IMPROVING RAPE CRISIS PROGRAM TRUST FUND COLLECTIONS**

As in previous years, FCASV sent letters to state attorneys in circuits collecting less than \$1,000 per month, requesting that the assessment be part of standard orders for all applicable offenses. Additionally, recognition letters were sent quarterly to state attorneys' offices, rape crisis programs, and clerks of court in judicial circuits with the most improved collections.

While increasing collections in the trust fund is an important goal, in order to ensure that services are available to all victims of sexual violence in the state of Florida, additional recurring funding sources are needed.

## EXISTING FUNDING SOURCES FOR FLORIDA'S RAPE CRISIS CENTERS

**Victims of Crime Act (Federal):** The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), passed in 1986, supports many direct service programs at rape crisis centers. This is fine-based funding from the United States Department of Justice and administered through the Office of the Attorney General of Florida.

**Violence Against Women Act (Federal):** The Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act (VAWA), has improved the systemic response to sexual violence victims by funding intervention services.

**National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (Federal):** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds the Rape Prevention Education Program through the Florida Department of Health, Sexual Violence Prevention Program (SVPP). This source supports many of Florida's rape crisis hotlines and primary rape prevention education.

**Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (Federal):** The Florida Department of Health's SVPP funded nine rape crisis centers to provide sexual battery recovery services through the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant.

**General Revenue:** In 2011, the Florida legislature appropriated \$250,000 of recurring general revenue funds to FCASV for certified rape crisis centers to provide services to victims of sexual battery.

## SERVICE STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION OF RAPE CRISIS CENTERS

The Florida Council Against Sexual Violence (FCASV) is responsible for service standards and the certification process for Florida's rape crisis centers. Service standards and certification are based on the following:

- A broad array of high quality sexual violence services must exist in every community.
- Victims are best served through sexual violence services provided in the context of a coordinated, collaborative, and multidisciplinary approach including medical/forensic providers, advocates, criminal justice professionals, and social service providers.
- All service providers must have victim empowerment as the cornerstone of service delivery.

In December 2007, FCASV updated and printed the *Certification Standards* manual, which describes rape crisis center eligibility and certification requirements. The manual was distributed to rape crisis centers and programs interested in becoming certified.

In January 2008, FCASV initiated on-site certification monitoring of currently certified and applicant programs. All certified rape crisis centers are reviewed by an independent agency every other year to ensure compliance with the *Certification Standards*. It is critical that centers continue to demonstrate their ability to effectively operate and provide quality services to primary and secondary victims of sexual assault.

### The Sexual Violence Prevention Program

The Sexual Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) receives funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for Rape Prevention Education (RPE). The CDC funding provides a statewide-integrated system of primary rape prevention education for citizens

in Florida to create social change and prevent sexual violence. In order for Florida to achieve a statewide-integrated system of primary rape prevention education, a Sexual Violence Prevention Planning Committee (SVPPC) was established in 2007. The Committee's membership is comprised of a multi-disciplinary team representing state agencies, victim service sites, funded hotline sites, community based organizations and universities.

The SVPP and committee membership developed, implemented, and evaluated the Rape Prevention 2007 – 2012 Strategic Plan.

SVPP prevention activities and accomplishments in FY 11/12:

- Provided technical assistance to funded sites to optimize organizational and community capacity building
- 17,063 public and professional presentations were conducted (an increase of 56 percent from FY 10/11)
- 165,503 public and professional persons attended primary rape prevention presentations (greater than 90 percent of attendees reported gaining an increase in awareness, as well as, having a change in attitude and actions regarding sexual violence)
- 217,591 educational items were distributed to funded sites
- Florida schools implemented policies to address bullying and teen dating violence prevention
- 29 community agencies were funded to strengthen prevention efforts and enhance systems operations at the community level
- Ensured contracted sites' program staff educators receive 30 hours of primary prevention topics and a six-hour, annual update
- Maintained the Sexual Violence Prevention Program resource data web page
- Ensured sexual violence prevention curricula is theory based or, at a minimum, a promising practice
- Acknowledged the complexity in changing social norms and behaviors and therefore, required funded sites to provide 50-minute, education sessions five times to the same audience
- Conducted four Webinars with experts sharing best practices and relevant data
- Required all funded agencies to participate in strategic planning efforts
- Sexual Violence Prevention Community Action Teams cover 47 of 67 counties
- Ensured that 100 percent of the state has access to hotline services and advertisement of the toll-free numbers through various media

Prevention and the provision of sexual battery recovery services is critical in keeping with Florida's vision to be the healthiest state in the nation and end sexual violence in Florida. *Prevention* is the key to being able to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

## **CONCLUSION**

Each victim of sexual violence has suffered terrible trauma. The RCPTF funding helps to ensure sexual violence victims have access to basic services including 24/7 hotlines, crisis intervention, advocacy, counseling services, therapy, medical/forensic intervention, service coordination, and community awareness. Victim advocates in rape crisis centers throughout the state diligently work to provide professional, compassionate services to all who have experienced this terrible trauma.

The Department of Health and SVPP joined state and community partners to develop the first-ever, five-year strategic plan to prevent sexual violence in Florida. With funding, guidance, and



support from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the SVPP, along with state and community partners, created a common vision statement, mission statement, and six important goals. Through the year 2012 and beyond, statewide partners will work together on preventing sexual violence in their communities by addressing each community's unique needs, cultures, and resources.

The Department of Health and SVPP, in partnership with the FCASV and Florida's rape crisis centers, continues to ensure each victim has an opportunity to receive vital services necessary for the healing process. The Florida Department of Health remains committed to funding the 30 certified rape crisis centers and FCASV to ensure sexual assault victims are served.

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