

The Source

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The Quarterly Newsletter of the Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

In Brief: Treatment of Adult Sex Offenders

By Robert Prentky and Barbara Schwartz with contributions from Gail Burns-Smith
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The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) administered the National Census of Domestic Violence Services (NCDVS) in November 2006. The survey period began on November 2, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time and ended on November 3, 2006 at 7:59 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. The survey instrument was designed to collect information about the number of victims being served and the types of services being provided, without collecting information that could identify any specific victim seeking services at a participating domestic violence program.

On the survey day in November 2006, 47,864 adults and children were served by 1,243 local domestic violence programs across the United States. Since this is only 62% of domestic violence programs in the U.S., it does not represent the total number of victims seeking services nationwide. During the 24-hour survey period more than 22,277 victims of domestic violence received housing services from a domestic violence program, either in emergency shelters or transitional housing. An additional 25,587 victims received non-residential services such as support groups, children's counseling, and legal advocacy. 14,344 adults and children found refuge in emergency domestic violence shelters. 7,933 adults and children were living in transitional housing programs, designed specifically for domestic violence survivors. 25,587 adults and children sought non-residential advocacy and services such as individual counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

On average, each program participating in the count served 39 individuals during the one day survey period, with about 10% of the participating

programs serving more than 70 people. While some local programs served many more, on average, each participating local program also answered 12 hotline calls and trained 32 members of the community.

Programs reported a considerable unmet demand for services due to a lack of resources, including limited staffing and overflowing shelters. During the 24-hour period, 5,157 requests for services were tragically unmet due to a lack of resources. 1,740 requests for emergency shelter went unmet, 1,422 requests for transitional housing went unmet, and 1,995 requests for non-residential services went unmet.

Approximately 60% of these requests were for residential services—either emergency shelter or transitional housing—and 40% were for non-residential services. It is important to note that a disproportionate number of unmet requests for service were for transitional housing. Faced with insufficient resources, local programs can sometimes successfully refer domestic violence victims to other agencies. However, too often, victims seeking help are left with no viable alternatives but to remain with an abuser.

Results from the census show that most programs operate with relatively few staff. More than 70% of participating local domestic violence programs operate with 20 or fewer paid staff members, and 36% operate with fewer than 10 paid staff members.

Domestic violence hotlines provide critical support and information for victims in danger. When victims of domestic violence and their family members call 24-hour emergency hotlines, it is often their first time seeking help and receiving crucial support from a local domestic violence program. During the survey period, participating programs reported that local and state hotline advocates answered 15,431 calls and the National Domestic Violence Hotline answered 1,213 calls. In total, advocates responded to almost 17,000 hotline calls in the 24-hour survey period, which equals more than 11 hotline calls every minute.

To access a full copy of this report, please visit http://www.nnedv.org/census/DVCounts2006/DVCounts06_Report.pdf.

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New Print Resources

- **Child Custody Litigations: Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse**
- **We Are Not Alone: A Guide Book for Helping Professionals and Parents Supporting Adolescent Victims of Sexual Abuse**
- **Parenting in Public: Family Shelter and Public Assistance**
- **Parenting by Men Who Batter: New Directions for Assessment and Intervention**
- **The Nonprofit Handbook — Management**
- **The Art of Waking People Up: Cultivating Awareness and Authenticity at Work**
- **Raising Our Children, Raising Ourselves: Transforming Parent Child Relationships From Reaction and Struggle to Freedom, Power, and Joy**

Fight Like a Girl: How to Be A Fearless Feminist

Fight Like A Girl offers a fearless vision for the future of feminism. By boldly detailing what is at stake for women and girls today, Megan Seely outlines the necessary steps to achieve true political, social and economic equity for all. Reclaiming feminism for a new generation, *Fight Like A Girl* speaks to young women who embrace feminism in substance but not necessarily in name. Seely is herself a long-time activist and details her own activism from a young teenager going on hunger strikes to protest the rights of agricultural workers to a Third Waver in college to the youngest elected President of the California chapter of the National Organization for Women—the largest statewide feminist organization in the country. With an eye toward what it takes to create actual change, Seely offers a practical and useful guide for how to get involved, take action, and wage successful campaigns. The book is full of valuable resources for novice and committed activists alike, including such features as How to Write a Press Release, Guidelines to a Good Media Interview, A Feminist Shopping Guide, and a list of over 100 Fabulous Feminist Resources, including organizations, websites, and events to attend. Each chapter is full of ideas, both big and small, for ways to get involved, as well as providing countless examples of successful actions already achieved. Exploring such issues as body image and self-acceptance, education and empowerment, health and sexuality, political representation, economic justice and violence against women; *Fight Like A Girl* looks at the challenges that women and girls face while emphasizing the strength that they independently and collectively embody. Seely delves into the politics of the feminist movement—exploring both history and current day realities. A Third Wave manifesto as well as an introduction to feminism for a new generation, *Fight Like A Girl* is a powerful blueprint for young women today. To borrow this book, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

Report on International Parental Kidnapping

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has released A Family Resource Guide on International Parental Kidnapping. Topics include: stopping an abduction in progress; searching for your child; civil remedies; reunification; and resources to help resolve such cases. The report includes discussion of developments since the first edition of the report was published in 2002, including establishment of the Amber Alert program and access to resources via the internet. The document can be found at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/>

Broken Bodies—Broken Dreams: Violence Against Women Exposed

Broken Bodies — Broken Dreams: Violence Against Women Exposed offers a powerful testimony of the different types of gender-based violence experienced by women and girls worldwide throughout their lives, using photographs, individual case studies and illustrative text. The publication is part of an ongoing campaign to highlight the issues of violence against women through film, text and photography.

Violence against women is a pandemic, one that transcends the bounds of geography, race, culture, class and religion. It touches virtually every community, in almost every corner of the globe. Too often sanctified by custom and reinforced by institutions, it thrives on widespread impunity for perpetrators in what remains a patriarchal world that is reluctant to grant women equal rights and protection from gender-based violence.

For more information on this book please visit <http://www.irinnews.org/broken-bodies/default.asp>.

Domestic Violence Prevention

Transforming Communities: Technical Assistance, Training and Resource Center (TC-TAT) is pleased to announce the availability of an exciting, new, online manual *Making the Case for Domestic Violence Prevention Through the Lens of Cost-Benefit*. This manual was created over several years with generous funding from the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) and has benefited greatly from the expertise and guidance of TC-TAT's national advisory committee. More than ever, domestic violence prevention programs are being asked questions such as; is this program a good investment of public and private funds? Can this program describe how the money is spent and how the funds have led to specific results? Can this program's cost be justified? This manual can help answer these questions.

This manual is free of charge and can be found at http://www.transformcommunities.org/cdvp/CDVP_toc.html.

Volunteer Opportunities Available at the Michigan Resource Center!

The Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence is seeking volunteers to assist with the management of the Resource Center. For more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact Melissa Limon at (517) 381-4663, ext.17.

In Brief: Sexual Violence in the Lives of African American Women: Risk, Response, Resilience

By Carolyn M. West with contributions from Jacqueline Johnson. Reprinted with permission from National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women

Throughout much of U.S. history, the rape of Black women was widespread and institutionalized. The legal system offered little protection and stereotypes about Black women's hypersexuality ("Jezebel" stereotype) were used to justify limited social and legal support for Black survivors. Black women developed a culture of silence and engaged in activism in order to cope with their victimization.

In studies of sexual violence among Black women, rates have ranged from 18% in national surveys to 67% in a community sample of low-income women. Most rapes are Black-on-Black assaults, committed by acquaintances and intimate partners, and involve a range of sexually abusive behaviors, including forced oral sex, gang rapes, and attacks by armed assailants.

Poverty and multiple victimizations (e.g., a history of childhood sexual abuse that involved physical force) were consistent risk factors for rape in adulthood. Many survivors will experience some degree of acute or chronic mental or physical health disturbance. Black survivors reported fear, anger, anxiety, depression, PTSD, suicidal feelings, preoccupation with the rape, and low self-esteem. These mental health problems may be exacerbated if survivors endorse the Jezebel stereotype. Rape can contribute to physical and sexual health problems (e.g., unintended pregnancies, vaginal infections, painful intercourse, and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV).

Researchers can conduct longitudinal studies, over a sample of ethnically diverse women, and collaborate with advocates, survivors, and community members. Victim advocates and counselors can begin to have ongoing dialogues that take into account the intricacies of rape and other forms of oppression, develop culturally sensitive policies, practices, and education programs, and help survivors find vital services (e.g., emergency housing, assistance with employment). Legal professionals can consider concerns about racial loyalty to African American men and the historical legacy of discrimination in the criminal justice system when they conduct interviews and legal proceedings with Black survivors. Medical professionals can screen for sexual and physical victimization and document genital injuries in Black rape survivors. The goal is to break the culture of silence. This can be accomplished by conducting comprehensive assessments, which consider a broad range of

sexual and physical violence in the lives of Black women, and help survivors develop strong social support systems. With culturally sensitive and appropriate services, African American women can be both sexual assault victims and resilient survivors.

Additional Information:

National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault (SCESA)

SCESA is a Women of Color led nonprofit committed to ensuring that system-wide policies and social change initiatives related to sexual assault are informed by critical input and direction from Women of Color.

<http://www.sisterslead.org>

NO! The Rape Documentary

Through testimonies from Black women survivors, commentaries from acclaimed African American scholars and community leaders, music, and dance, NO! unveils the reality of rape and healing in the African American community. Aishah Shahidah Simmons, AfroLez Productions P.O. Box 58085 Philadelphia, PA 19102-8085. (215)701-6150.

<http://www.notherapedocumentary.org>

Silence: In Search of Black Female Sexuality in America

Director Mya B conducts interviews with African American women, academic experts, and religious leaders about historical factors that influence contemporary silence around Black female sexuality and sexual violence. National Film Network 4501 Forbes Boulevard Lanham, MD 20706. (800)431-4586.

<http://www.nationalfilmnetwork.com>

Black Women's Rape Action Project (BWRAP)

BWRAP Founded in 1991, one of the few Black women's organizations specializing in counseling, support, and advice to Black women, women of color, immigrant, and refugee women, who have suffered rape and sexual assault in the U.K.

<http://www.womenagainstrape.net/indexpage.htm>

Have a suggestion?
The Resource Center welcomes your ideas for materials to add to the collection. Send us an email to resource@mcadsv.org or call us at (517) 381-4663, ext. 17

New Video Resources

- **NO! The Rape Documentary**
- **Mind If I Call you Sir?**
- **Silence: In Search of Black Female Sexuality in America**
- **Girl Trouble: Girls Tell Their Truth about the Juvenile Justice System**
- **Twist of Faith: A Story of Sin, Betrayal, and the Power of Truth**
- **Battered Mothers Speak Out: A Human Rights Report on Domestic Violence and Child Custody in the Massachusetts Family Courts**



Visit us on the Web!

Access the entire Resource Center Collection and request materials online at www.mcadsv.org/mrcdsv

The Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence is a collaboration of the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

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**MICHIGAN
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PREVENTION &
TREATMENT BOARD**



Oregon's Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force (SATF) Handbook

The sexual assault task force is pleased to share a copy of their recently published SART Handbook (Version II) and Oregon's sexual violence prevention plan, *Recommendations to Prevent Sexual Violence in Oregon: A Plan of Action*. In Oregon the Task Force frequently receives requests for materials that outline recommendations and promising practices, provide suggestions for work, and give sample materials. Oregon prevention service providers specifically want resources that discuss *how to's* as well as weighing in on some of the emerging issues and concerns facing Oregon service providers.

To access a free copy of the Handbook please visit, <http://www.oregonsatf.org/documents/ORSARHandbookVersionII.pdf>.

To access a free copy of the Prevention Plan, please visit, <http://www.oregonsatf.org/documents/svpplow.pdf>.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADSV) Domestic Violence Legislation Action Guide: An Advocate's Guide to Domestic Violence Policy

NCADV is proud to offer an updated Second Edition Legislative Action Guide for domestic violence advocates. This comprehensive manual contains a guide to the legislative process and the Federal Government, sample letters, tips for scheduling congressional visits, recommendations on community organizing activities, and so much more.

To access a free copy of this manual, please visit, <http://www.ncadv.org/files/How-toLobbyManualFinal2006.pdf>.

Access to Justice: Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and Access to Protection Orders

This CD-rom and PowerPoint presentation is a resource for court personnel, community based organizations, volunteer and interpreters who provide assistance to LEP individuals seeking a protection order. The information is provided in five sections so that the viewing audience can focus on specific areas of information need. The training is presented by individuals who have acquired subject matter expertise through the years of professional experience, highlighting the challenges faced by individuals who seek protection from abusers, but have limited or no English language skills.

To borrow this kit, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663

How to Help a Sexual Assault Survivor: What Men Can Do

How to Help a Sexual Assault Survivor: What Men Can Do by Dr. John Foubert is a video designed with the goal of empowering men to take a positive role in ending the suffering caused by male sexual assault. This new program teaches men how they can be supportive of sexual assault survivors.

Presented in an all male, peer education format, this program is designed to teach men how awful rape feels, how they can help their women friends recover from rape, and how they as men can take more responsibility for ending rape by challenging themselves to change their own behavior.

To borrow this video, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

When Your Child is Cutting: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Overcome Self-Injury

As a parent, what's harder to deal with than seeing your child in pain? It's especially frustrating when you feel like you've exhausted all resources you could use to help him or her stop hurting. And if your child is cutting or engaging in another form of self-injury, a behavior that you simply can't make any sense of in the first place, this feeling of helplessness can be unbearable.

This book offers information and advice for dealing with a child who is hurting him or herself. Learn how to identify self-injury, why it happens, and how to address this sensitive topic with calm confidence. This book outlines a clear and simple plan for communicating with your child about this problem and connect with the best kinds of professional help to get him or her through this painful time.

To borrow this book, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

About the Resource Center

The Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence enhances the capacity of individuals and organizations to prevent violence against women and strengthen service delivery for survivors. This unique collection of books, videos, journals and other media promotes awareness and increases accessibility of educational information and resources for the state of Michigan. These materials are useful for training, counseling, education, research, nonprofit business management, program development and activism.