



Rape and Sexual Assault in Massachusetts, 2007-2008

Services Provided by Rape Crisis Programs

Sexual assault is a serious social and public health problem in Massachusetts. Between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008, 2,496 unduplicated incidents of sexual assault were reported to Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)-funded Rape Crisis Centers (RCCs) and Llámanos, the statewide Spanish language helpline. Of these, 1,784 were reported by survivors themselves and an additional 675 were reported by partners, family members, friends and professionals. In Massachusetts, an estimated 13.5% of women and 4.9% of men experience sexual assault[†] in their lifetime¹.

To respond to the needs of survivors of sexual violence, three types of services were provided through the MDPH Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services (SAPSS) program: 24-hour hotlines, education and outreach, and counseling and client advocacy. To carry out these activities, MDPH contracted with 17 locally-based RCCs across Massachusetts (some with multiple sites), Llámanos, and Jane Doe Inc., the state sexual assault prevention coalition. The information below summarizes services delivered over a one-year time period, July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.

24-Hour Hotline Services

Hotline services were provided by each local rape crisis center (RCC) as well as Llámanos. Callers to the hotlines include sexual assault survivors, their significant others (such as friends, family members and partners), and professionals (such as physicians, teachers, or therapists). Hotline services were provided on an as-needed basis to these individuals for support and resource referrals. Because callers may use the hotlines repeatedly and anonymously, the number of calls to the hotlines is a measure of service use, not sexual assault incidents reported to DPH-funded RCCs or the number of individuals using the hotlines.

24-hour Hotline Services	Survivor Calls	Significant Other Calls	Professional Calls	Other Sexual Assault Calls, Caller Type Unknown	Other RCC Hotline Calls	Total Calls
RCCs	6,125	1,145	1,480	733	2,727	12,210
Llámanos	70	45	70	33	100	318
Total Calls	6,195	1,190	1,550	766	2,827	12,528

Educational Activities

Educational activities were offered through each RCC, Llámanos, and Jane Doe Inc. Education was provided for two main audiences: (1) non-professional populations such as students, civic organizations, or faith-based groups; and (2) professional audiences such as health care providers, police, or teachers. As a statewide coalition, Jane Doe Inc. provided many types of educational services; the Jane Doe Inc. numbers presented below reflect only Jane Doe Inc.'s major conferences and statewide training sessions funded by MDPH.

[†] Lifetime sexual assault is defined as ever having experienced rape, attempted rape, or physical sexual assault. This is not the definition used prior to FY2006, so statistics from pre-FY2006 may therefore not be comparable.

¹ Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A Profile of Health Among Massachusetts Adults, 2007: Results from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Boston, Massachusetts: Health Survey Program, Bureau for Health Information, Statistics, Research, and Evaluation, Department of Public Health.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Bureau of Community Health Access and Promotion ♦ Division of Violence and Injury Prevention

250 Washington Street, Fourth Floor, Boston, MA 02108 (617) 624-5463, (617) 624-5992 tty

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/sexualassaultservices>

May 2009

Education Activities	Community Education		Professional Training		Total	
	Sessions	Persons	Sessions	Persons	Sessions	Persons
RCCs	709	26,309	299	7,906	1,008	34,215
Llámanos	0	0	8	44	8	44
Jane Doe Inc.	1	400	9	234	10	634
Total	710	26,709	316	8,184	1,026	34,893

Counseling and Client Advocacy Services

Individual counseling and client advocacy services were provided by local RCCs. Services included short-term individual counseling, medical client advocacy (including support during forensic evidence collection exams), legal client advocacy, police client advocacy, assistance accessing social services, and advocating on a client's behalf when the client is not actually present. Group counseling sessions were also provided by the RCCs and provided opportunities for individuals to support one another through the healing process.

Total Individual Counseling, Client Advocacy, and Collateral Time Sessions²	12,277
Total Individual Counseling and Advocacy Sessions	10,182
Total Collateral Time Only Sessions	2,095
Total Unduplicated Counseling, Client Advocacy & Collateral Time Clients Served³	2,569
Counseling Session Clients	1,596
Medical Client Advocacy Session Clients	759
Legal Client Advocacy Session Clients	229
Police Client Advocacy Session Clients	78
Other Client Advocacy Session Clients	46
Collateral Time and Collateral Hours Clients ⁴	2025
Group Counseling Sessions Conducted	1,779

For more information about sexual assault services and a list of MDPH-funded rape crisis centers, please see the Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/sexualassaultservices>. For more information about the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program (SANE), please go to <http://www.mass.gov/dph/sane>. If you need help, please contact your local rape crisis center.

² Due to changes in data coding, these numbers are not comparable to those reported for years prior to FY2007

³ The numbers of individual clients listed by service type will add up to more than the total, unduplicated count because these counts constitute the number of unique clients who were provided a particular kind of service in FY2008. Some clients received multiple kinds of services from the same RCC.

⁴ Collateral Time and Collateral Hours refer to time spent advocating on a client's behalf when the client is not present. This combined total was reported prior to FY2007 and has been calculated for inclusion in this report. The FY2007 number included clients served by Collateral Time Only sessions, in which these services are separate from a one-on-one, direct service session.

