



Rape and Sexual Assault in Massachusetts, 2010-2011

Services Provided by Rape Crisis Programs

Sexual assault is a serious social and public health problem in Massachusetts. Between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011, 2,657 unduplicated incidents of sexual assault were reported to Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)-funded Rape Crisis Centers (RCCs), including the statewide Spanish-language hotline. Of these, 2,002 incidents were reported by survivors themselves and an additional 622 were reported by partners, family members, friends and professionals. In Massachusetts, an estimated 16.6% of women and 4.9% of men have reported experiencing sexual assault[‡] in their lifetimes¹.

To respond to the needs of survivors of sexual violence, four types of services were provided through the MDPH Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services (SAPSS) program: 24-hour hotlines, education and outreach, individual and group counseling, and client accompaniment. To carry out these activities, MDPH contracted with 17 locally-based RCCs across Massachusetts (some with multiple sites). Jane Doe Inc., the state sexual assault and domestic violence prevention coalition, also provides MDPH-funded educational and professional training activities. This document summarizes services delivered over a one-year time period, from July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

24-Hour Hotline Services²

Hotline services were provided 24/7 by each local RCC, one of which also offers a statewide Spanish-language hotline number. The dedicated statewide Spanish-language hotline received 460 of the 11,761 calls that came in to RCCs during FY2011. Callers to the hotlines included sexual assault survivors, their significant others (i.e., partners, family members, and friends), and professionals (e.g., physicians, teachers, therapists). Support and resource referral services were provided on an as-needed basis to these individuals. 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 MDPH-funded RCCs or the number of individuals using the hotlines.

24-Hour Sexual Assault Hotline: Calls by Relationship of Caller to a Survivor		
Survivor Calls	Other Hotline Calls	Total Calls
6,764	4,997	11,761

NOTE: Federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) funds supported 18% of the total hotline call responses in FY11.

Educational & Professional Training Activities

Educational activities were offered through each RCC and Jane Doe Inc. Education was provided for two main audiences: (1) non-professional populations such as students, civic organizations, and faith-based groups; and (2) professional audiences such as health care providers, police, and 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. Pre-FY2006 statistics, therefore, may not be comparable.

¹Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A Profile of Health Among Massachusetts Adults, 2010: 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.

Educational and Professional Training Activities by Source and Type						
	Community Education		Professional Training		Total	
	Sessions	Persons	Sessions	Persons	Sessions	Persons
RCCs	1,033	32,109	201	3,311	1,234	35,420
Jane Doe Inc.	2	50	7	100	9	150
Total	1,035	32,159	208	3,411	1,243	35,570

Counseling and Client Accompaniment Services

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

Total Individual Counseling, Client Accompaniment, and Collateral Time Sessions²	16,101
Total Individual Counseling and Accompaniment Sessions	12,365
Total Collateral Time Only Sessions	3,736
Total Unduplicated Counseling, Client Accompaniment, and Collateral Time Clients Served³	3,279
Counseling Session Clients	2,075
Medical Accompaniment Session Clients	1,022
Legal Accompaniment Session Clients ³	298
<i>258E Restraining Order Clients</i>	24
<i>Other Civil Legal Matter Clients</i>	146
<i>Criminal Legal Matter Clients</i>	164
Police Accompaniment Session Clients	92
Other Accompaniment Session Clients	56
Collateral Time and Collateral Hours Clients ⁴	2,566
Group Counseling Sessions Conducted	806

NOTE: Federal SASP funds supported sessions for 28% of the clients served by RCCs in FY11.

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.

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

³The 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 FY2011. Some clients received multiple kinds of services from the same RCC.

⁴Collateral Time and Collateral Hours refer to time spent advocating on a client's behalf in the client's absence. This combined total was reported prior to FY2007 as it is in this report. The FY2007 number reflected clients served by Collateral Time Only sessions, in which services are separate from a one-on-one, direct service sessions.

