



Rape and Sexual Assault in Massachusetts, 2013-2014¹

Services Provided by Rape Crisis Centers

Sexual assault is a serious social and public health problem in Massachusetts. Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014, 2,003 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, 1,480 incidents were reported by survivors themselves and an additional 465 were reported by partners, family members, friends and professionals. In Massachusetts, an estimated 16.2% of women and 4.8% of men have reported experiencing sexual assault[‡] in their lifetimes².

To respond to the needs of survivors of sexual violence, at least four types of services were provided by community-based RCCs funded through the MDPH Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services (SAPSS) program: 24-hour hotlines, prevention education and professional training, individual and group counseling, and client accompaniment. To carry out these activities, MDPH contracted with 16 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, 2013 – June 30, 2014.

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 918 calls during FY2014. 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
9,592	3,788	13,380

NOTE: Federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) funds supported 19% of the total hotline call responses in FY14. Each hotline is required to have access to telephonic interpretation services and TTY/Relay access.

Educational & Professional Training Activities

Community educational and professional training 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

¹Some FY14 counts may be lower than in previous fiscal years due to the transition from a paper-based to an electronic data submission system during FY14 and major staff turnover at some RCCs.

[‡] 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.

²Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A Profile of Health Among Massachusetts Adults, 2013: Results from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Boston, Massachusetts: Health Survey Program, Office of Data Management and Outcomes Assessment, Department of Public Health.

teachers. The statewide coalition, Jane Doe Inc., provided many types of educational services; Jane Doe Inc. counts presented below reflect only their major conferences and statewide training sessions funded by MDPH.

Educational and Professional Training Activities by Source and Type						
	Community Education		Professional Training		Total	
	Sessions	Persons	Sessions	Persons	Sessions	Persons
RCCs	468	14,301	273	5,513	741	19,814
Jane Doe Inc.	1	7	10	196	11	203
Total	469	14,308	283	5,709	752	20,017

NOTE: FY2014 Educational and Professional Training numbers are not comparable to counts from fiscal years 2011 and earlier due to a change in the rules for reporting activities that consist of multiple sessions.

Counseling and Client Accompaniment Services

Individual counseling and client accompaniment services provided by each local RCC included: short-term individual counseling, medical (including support during forensic evidence collection exams), legal, and police accompaniment, assistance accessing social services, and advocating for a client when the client is not actually present (collateral service sessions/time). Group counseling sessions provided by many of the RCCs offered essential opportunities for individuals to support one another through the healing process.

Total Individual Counseling, Client Accompaniment, and Collateral Service Sessions³	16,885
Total Individual Counseling and Accompaniment Sessions	15,820
Total Collateral Time-Only Sessions	1,065
Total Unduplicated Counseling, Client Accompaniment, and Collateral Service Clients Served⁴	3,271
Counseling Session Clients	1,974
Medical Accompaniment Session Clients ⁵	923
Legal Accompaniment Session Clients ⁴	482
<i>258E Restraining Order Clients</i>	32
<i>Other Civil Legal Matter Clients</i>	248
<i>Criminal Legal Matter Clients</i>	281
Police Accompaniment Session Clients	62
Housing Accompaniment Session Clients	179
Financial Accompaniment Session Clients	171
School Accompaniment Session Clients	< 10
(Post-Secondary) School Accompaniment Clients	33
Other Accompaniment Session Clients	48
Collateral Service and Collateral Hours Clients ⁶	1,470
Group Counseling Sessions Conducted	835

NOTE: Federal SASP funds supported sessions for approximately 23% of the clients served by RCCs in FY14.

³Due to changes in data coding, these numbers are not comparable to those reported for years prior to FY2007.

⁴Numbers of individual clients by service type will add up to more than the total, unduplicated count because some clients received multiple service types from the same RCC.

⁵These 923 clients were served in a total of 994 sessions during FY2014 (some clients received more than one medical accompaniment session). A subset of these clients (903) received medical accompanied services in a hospital setting. Hospital medical accompaniments constituted 947 of the total 994 medical accompaniment sessions.

⁶The FY2007 version of this number was computed differently and so is not comparable to this FY2014 count.

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.

