
ENHANCING VICTIM SERVICES THROUGHOUT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

2018-2019 FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Principal Investigator
Sarah McMahon, Ph.D.

Co-Principal Investigator
Rita Seabrook, Ph.D.

Report Authors
Simone Snyder
Airelle Smith
Julia Cusano
Thomas Benjamin

Report Designer
Catie Buttner

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INTRODUCTION

Rutgers University has a long and successful history of responding to and preventing campus interpersonal violence. A victim services office was first opened in 1991 in New Brunswick and the university has worked off the strong foundation this office provided. The university has been identified as a leader in the field for programs, prevention, and research. The “Enhancing Victim Services” project at Rutgers University finished its second year on August 31, 2019. Generous grant funding from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant, administered through the N.J. Attorney General’s office, allowed Rutgers to expand its services and education to better address issues of sexual and dating violence. This funding allowed the university to continue work to expand and refine the “Rutgers Model” for addressing violence on campus.

Rutgers has engaged in work with crime victims on each of its four campuses, across all campuses, and within the state. On each of our campuses, an Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) exists to offer counseling and advocacy services, educational programming and training, and consultation and policy development services to students. The VPVA offices also support student survivors and promotes active bystander behaviors through education and training to enhance safety on campus. Through this grant the New Brunswick office has been able to expand their services and programs for students, faculty, and staff. It has also been through this grant that the Newark and Camden campuses were able to open offices in year one, and Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) was able to open an office in year two. Across all four of our campuses, Rutgers has engaged in university-wide efforts to demonstrate a consistent message that demonstrates Rutgers’ commitment to addressing issues of interpersonal violence on campus.

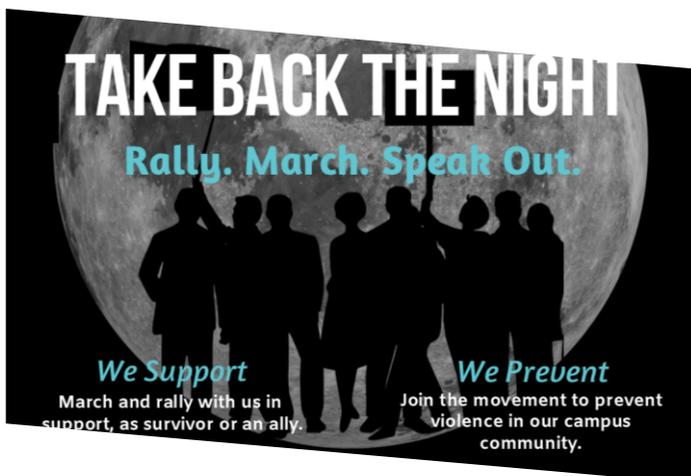
VICTIM SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

The Offices for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) on each of the four campuses provides a broad spectrum of services and trainings including advocacy, counseling, crisis management, programming, trainings, and hosts a wide range of events raising awareness about issues related to dating violence, sexual violence, and stalking.

- Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences established VPVA office
- Clients who were surveyed about their experience strongly agreed that they would use the VPVA offices again.
- Clients reported very high levels of satisfaction with both the provision of services and the overall experience from VPVA Rutgers staff across all of the campuses.

**261 New
Clients**

**88% clients
visited VPVA
more than
once**



CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

All campuses have dedicated their time through this grant to expand education efforts to reach their specific campus communities. The programs that have been sustained are innovative and evidence informed and engage students, faculty, and staff around issues related to interpersonal violence. The following is a list of programs that happen across all of our campuses.

Take Back the Night: An annual event that includes a student march around campus to reaffirm the university's support for victims/survivors of violence and its stance against interpersonal and sexual violence.

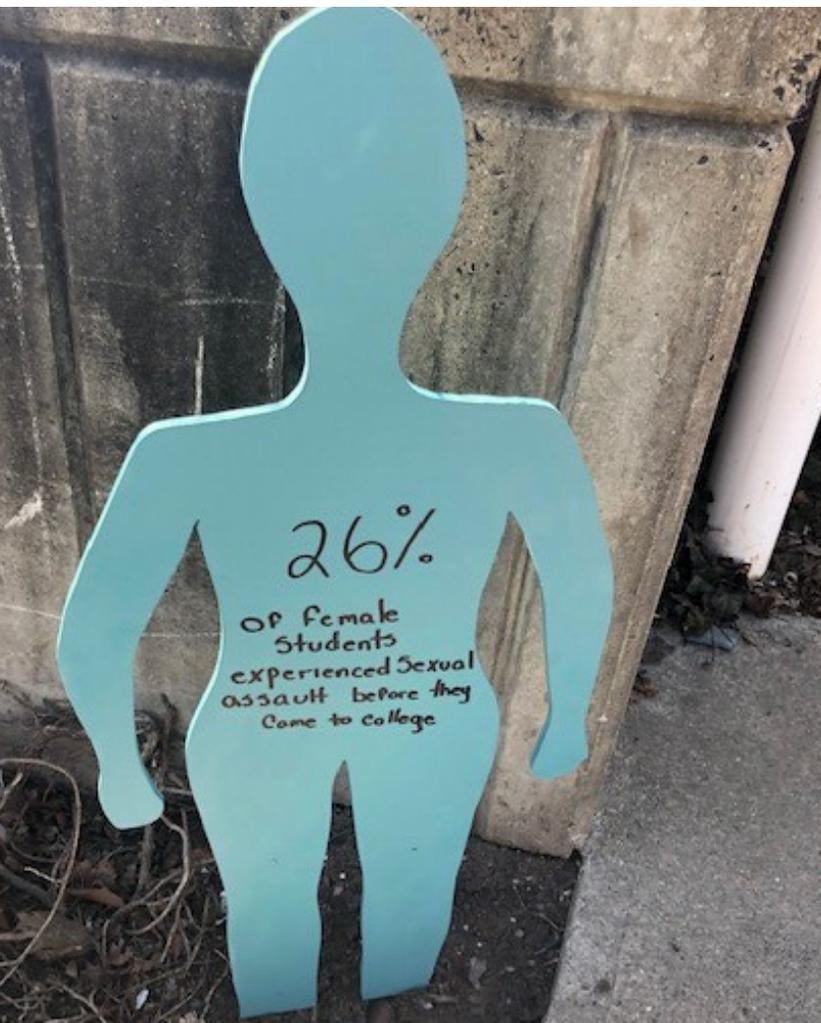
The Clothesline Project (TCP): A visual display of shirts made by those that have experienced violence firsthand or made by members of the Rutgers community in honor of those who have experienced violence.

Denim Day: Wearing denim jeans is a visible mode of protesting sexual violence. Denim jeans are chosen based on historical context: in 1998, an Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction because the victim was wearing tight jeans.

Turn the Campus Purple: A domestic violence awareness campaign meant to spark conversation around dating and domestic violence by covering the campus in purple adornments and hosting related events. Turn the Campus Purple occurs in October and the signature color for raising awareness about related issues is purple.

Turn the Campus Teal: A sexual assault awareness campaign meant to spark conversation around sexual assault and violence-related issues by covering the campus in teal adornments and hosting related events, many of which coincide with National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 7-13). Turn the Campus Teal occurs in April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Teal is the signature color for sexual assault awareness.

All campuses hosted online training for incoming students to complete on sexual and dating violence. Bathroom stall inserts were created for each campus explaining how to access support services if a student is a victim of sexual or dating violence. Faculty and Staff postcards were created to provide information about mandated reporting requirements and how to support students. All campuses provided education and resources on sexual and dating violence in June through August during new student orientations.



SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Every 92 seconds an
American is sexually
assaulted



20% of women and 15% of
men are victims of forced
sex during their time in
college

The **Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance** is responsible for supporting students on the RU-N campus who have been affected by sexual assault, partner violence, stalking and harassment.

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Other campus & community programs included:

Camden

The Healthy Relationship Series was designed to provide students with a space to consider their own choices when engaging in emotional, sexual, and intimate relationships. The four-part workshop series encourages students to discuss different aspects of healthy relationships. Infusing programming methods with psycho-educational information about domestic violence, participants learn practical information that will assist them in communication skills within their intimate partner relationships.

New Brunswick

Rutgers CARES (Community Action, Respect, Engagement, and Service) is a workshop that trains students how to sensitively respond to and support peers who have disclosed being a victim/survivor of interpersonal violence and how to confidently direct them to appropriate campus resources such as Rutgers-New Brunswick VPVA or the Office of Student Affairs Compliance & Title IX.

Newark

WeSpeak Upstander Program at Rutgers-Newark, trains participants on how to be an engaged “upstander” rather than a passive bystander of interpersonal violence. They are taught about the causes and dynamics of violence, how violence perpetuates itself, myths and facts about rape culture, and sexual consent. The objective is to increase efficacy in safely and effectively intervening in violent or potentially violent situations among peers.

RBHS

The Empty Chair Campaign is a week-long event that raises awareness and seeks to prevent incidents of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other forms of interpersonal violence on campus. During the week purple folding chairs were assembled in different spots around campus, each containing a sheet with several fictional accounts from victims of these forms of violence under the banner “Why I’m Not on Campus Today” as well as brochures in order to highlight the fact that this sort of violence impacts many facets of a person’s life and can impede their participation in various activities.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Advisory Board continued to engage the highest levels of leadership on each campus and the University about issues related to sexual violence, dating violence, and stalking
- A Public Service Announcement (PSA) was created and released focusing on the specific experience of graduate students on campus
- An interactive video was created in collaboration with the New Jersey Victim Assistance Academy targeting faculty and staff and engaging around issues related to mandated reporting, supporting students, and creating an environment free from violence. Currently, the video is being translated into Spanish.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance was developed and provided by The Center on Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) at the Rutgers School of Social Work to all four campuses to help them use evidence-informed programs and procedures

Examples of Technical Support Provided to Campuses

- Evaluating Passive Programming
- Running Support Groups
- Trauma Informed Services
- Crime Victim Compensation Fund

EVALUATION

Ongoing evaluation and assessment of all project related activities was conducted by the Center on Violence Against Women and Children. Findings were shared with the campuses to help them improve their services. Evaluation feedback was provided in real-time to those who delivered the programs so that they could adjust their efforts accordingly. Please see Table 1 for a summary of evaluation findings.

Findings illustrated that Rutgers made significant progress in addressing the needs of victims/survivors.

HIGHLIGHTS

Across all campuses...

- A total of 69 programs were evaluated, which included 1836 participants.
- Evaluations found an increase in awareness of interpersonal violence and Rutgers' reporting procedures across all campuses.
- Additionally, students reported an increase in confidence and willingness to intervene during an incident of interpersonal violence.

Upcoming Events

4/1 Turn the Campus Teal- Wear TEAL to honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Stop by our Tabling Events at PRCC and RBS (3rd Floor Lounge) from 10:00am-2:00pm and visit the Clothesline Project on Samuels Plaza from 9:00am-4:00pm.

4/2 We Chat Warmline Launch- A confidential text based crisis warmline run by students for students. [973-339-0734](tel:973-339-0734)

4/8 The Survivor Flag Project- Each year 11.29 of college students are sexually assaulted on their campus. Each flag on Samuels Plaza represents each student affected by sexual violence on our campus. If you identify as a survivor and wish to participate, you can anonymously be recognized by placing a purple flag next to any white one.

4/11 Take Back The Night- A designated safe space for survivors and allies to openly march rally and share their stories of empowerment and strength.
[#SAAM2019](https://twitter.com/SAAM2019)



TABLE 1: EVALUATION COMPONENTS ACROSS THE CAMPUSES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-2019

Evaluation Component	Brief Description	Key Findings
<p style="text-align: center;">Tracking Victim Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On each campus, the number of clients, services provided, and who referred the clients was tracked. • The number of awareness and educational events were also tracked for each campus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In this grant year, the campuses saw a combined total of 178 victim/survivor clients. • A majority of clients (89%), visited the VPVA offices for services more than once. • Individual Counseling was the single largest service provided and comprised 58% of the services provided
<p style="text-align: center;">Satisfaction Surveys Victim Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who received services from VPVA on each campus were invited to participate in a brief survey. • The survey contained questions regarding 1) the number and types of services received, and 2) overall satisfaction with VPVA staff and services received. • A total of 76 satisfaction surveys were completed across 3 campuses within the 2018-2019 academic year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who received services from VPVA and participated in the surveys strongly agreed that they would use VPVA's services again if they needed a similar type of service in the future, and they were highly satisfied with the services they have received. • Students who received services from VPVA and participated in the surveys reported that the staff respected their backgrounds, and felt the counselor/advocate responded to them in an appropriate manner.

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Evaluation Component	Brief Description	Key Findings
<p>In-depth Interviews with non-help seeking survivors</p> <p>Victim Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews were conducted with a sample of students who experienced interpersonal violence but did not seek help from campus services. • Interviews focused on students' why students may or may not have disclosed to an on campus provider other than VPVA. The purpose of the interviews is to better understand student perception of victim services on campus and if and where to seek services. • A total of 22 students participated in the interviews. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research team is in the process of identifying general themes from the data.
<p>Training Posttest Evaluations</p> <p>Educational programs & Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief surveys were administered to all training participants immediately following the conclusion of the various prevention and education programs regarding interpersonal violence across all campuses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluations found an increase in awareness of interpersonal violence and Rutgers' reporting procedures across all campuses.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Training Posttest Evaluations cont.</p> <p>Educational programs & Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey items assessed contained knowledge of interpersonal violence and how to assist survivors, confidence level in intervening, knowledge of where to seek help, quality and relevance of materials and information provided. • A total of 1,836 training participants, from 69 programs completed the posttest evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additionally, students reported an increase in confidence and willingness to intervene during an incident of interpersonal violence.
<p style="text-align: center;">Bystander Focus Groups</p> <p>Educational programs & Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus groups were held on each campus, centering the thoughts and experiences of LGBTQ students and students of color. • Students were asked to complete the prompt: “One thing that would support students in becoming active bystanders who prevent violence, harm and oppression on this could is...” • Statements provided by students were uploaded into software that allowed their peers to sort statements by theme & rate by importance and influence. 6 total brainstorming sessions were held across Camden, Newark, and New Brunswick campuses with a total of 39 students, ranging from 4 to 12 participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is currently in the process of being analyzed.



2019 FINAL REPORT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project team thanks the many members of the Rutgers University community who contributed to the Enhancing Victim Services project. This report and the project as a whole are the result of the enthusiastic support and participation of administrators, faculty, staff, and students across Rutgers. This report is dedicated to all those who are survivors of sexual and dating violence. We hope our efforts can help contribute to creating campus communities that are free of all forms of violence.

2018-2019 AG-VOCA ADVISORY BOARD

The AG-VOCA Advisory Board was created including representatives from all campuses.

Those members include:

Sarah Baumgartner, Deputy Director of Athletics, Rutgers University

Nancy Cantor, Ph.D., Chancellor, Rutgers-Newark campus*

Kenneth Cop, Chief of University Police & Executive Director of Police Services, Rutgers University

Mary Beth Daisey, M.Ed., Associate Chancellor of Student Affairs, Rutgers-Camden campus

Timothy Fournier, Ed.D, MBA, Senior Vice President for Office of Enterprise Risk Management, Ethics, & Compliance, Rutgers University

Phoebe A. Haddon, J.D., LL.M., Chancellor, Rutgers-Camden campus*

John Hoffman, J.D., Sr. Vice President and General Counsel, Rutgers University

Barbara Lee, Ph.D., Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs, Rutgers University

Peter McDonough, Sr. Vice President for External Affairs, Rutgers University

Felicia McGinty, Ed.D., Executive Vice Chancellor of Administration and Planning, Rutgers-New Brunswick campus

Salvador Mena, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Rutgers-New Brunswick

Christopher J. Molloy, Ph.D., R.Ph., Chancellor, Rutgers-New Brunswick campus*

Cathryn Potter, Ph.D., Dean School of Social Work, Rutgers University

Judith Ryan, J.D., University-Wide Title IX Coordinator, Rutgers University

Brian L. Strom, Ph.D., Chancellor, Rutgers-Rutgers Biomedical & Health Services campus*

Karen Stubaus, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University

Corlisse Thomas, Ed.D, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Rutgers-Newark campus



RUTGERS
CENTER ON VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN AND CHILDREN

*Chancellors and/or designees attended