



Sexual Violence Survey Reveals Increased Need for Rape Crisis Services

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (December 14, 2011) — Today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a survey revealing that nearly 1 in 2 women (44.6%) and 1 in 5 men (22.2%) experience sexual violence other than rape throughout their lifetime. The 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) demonstrates an increased need for rape crisis centers and rape prevention programs. Approximately 1.3 million women reported being raped in the 12 months prior to taking the survey.

NISVS is an ongoing, nationally representative survey that assesses experiences of sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner violence among adult women and men in the United States. It confirms what advocates and educators already know about the prevalence of sexual violence, intimate partner violence and stalking. It also sheds new light on the scope and context of these forms of violence.

The NISVS survey reveals that close to 22 million people are victims of rape; more than 2 million of these survivors live in California. In 2010-2011, about 30,000 people accessed crisis intervention services from one of California's 63 rape crisis centers. A majority of funding dedicated to rape crisis centers is delivered from the federal budget, not from the state budget. The state of California only dedicated \$45,000 to sexual violence programs, which means that the state of California allotted \$1.50 for each individual who accessed services.

In order to decrease rates of violence and foster healthier communities, it is imperative that California develops a funding initiative for rape crisis centers. The social norms that contribute to violence and the response to violence can be changed, and rape crisis centers and other anti-violence programs need support to help create that transformation. Such agencies need resources to continue to provide counseling, legal advocacy, community education, prevention programming, shelter and policy advocacy.

"Rape crisis centers are doing phenomenal work to support survivors and prevent sexual violence, but there is still so much more that needs to be done," said CALCASA's Executive Director Sandra Henriquez. "It's essential that advocates have the resources and capacity to reach more survivors and to create communities that are healthier and free from interpersonal violence."

As future survey data from upcoming years are released, findings are likely to re-enforce the need for funding allocation to reflect the number of survivors and increasing necessity for prevention efforts. The federal budget crisis has resulted in a 40 percent reduction to Rape Prevention Education awards, which has undermined critical efforts in California to prevent sexual assault throughout the state. California's rape crisis centers and service providers could stand to lose more than \$800,000 as a result of federal budget disputes.

The data from NISVS lays the foundation for greater awareness of this long-standing public health crisis and helps inform prevention, intervention and funding strategies. View the complete report and toolkit online at www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs, and additional supporting resources at calcasa.org/nisvs.

About CALCASA

The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) provides the unifying vision and voice to Californians speaking out against sexual violence. Founded in 1980, CALCASA is the only statewide organization in California with the sole purpose to promote public policy, advocacy, training and technical assistance on the issue of sexual assault. CALCASA's primary membership is the 85 rape crisis centers and rape prevention programs in the state. CALCASA's affiliate membership includes organizations, businesses, individuals and others committed to the mission of eliminating sexual violence.

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