

The Source

Fall 2005

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

FBI Study Indicating Rise in Reported Rapes May Be "Good News"

Reprinted with permission from the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network.

Changes in Criminal Justice System, Greater Numbers of Victims Seeking Support and Improved Public Attitudes Toward Rape Help Foster an Environment where More Rapes are Reported

The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization, believes that the FBI's report of an increase in reported rapes may actually be good news. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, released this week, rapes reported to police increased 0.8 percent, to 94,635, in 2004. Since 2000, FBI totals show rapes reported to police up nearly 5%.

It is important to note that the FBI report measures only rapes that are reported to police, not the total number of rapes. Since 2000, the overall number of sexual assaults — including those reported to police and those not — dropped by 22%, according to the US Justice Department's National Crime Victimization Survey, the nation's most detailed crime measure. Meanwhile, the percentage of sexual assaults that are reported to police has risen dramatically, to 42% in the last four years, up from 31% in the prior four years.

"Rape victims who receive counseling are more likely to report their assault to police," said Scott Berkowitz, founder and president of RAINN, citing academic studies. "This upward trend in the FBI statistics matches the trend of increased calls to the National Sexual Assault Hotline," which is operated by RAINN.

In September, the national hotline helped 13,983 people, the highest demand since the hotline's inception in 1994, while thousands more victims called their local rape crisis centers directly. Average monthly calls to the national

hotline have increased more than 87% since 2000. Callers to the National Sexual Assault Hotline are routed to one of 1,100 local rape crisis centers across the country, where they receive free, confidential services 24/7.

In the last decade, the US has experienced an unprecedented decline in the number of sex crimes; the total is down by 58% since 1993. Experts attribute the decline to improvements in the criminal justice system and improved public attitudes and awareness. "Crime policies in recent years have led to more criminals being locked up and longer sentences. The result is fewer potential rapists on the streets, and fewer sexual assaults," said Berkowitz.

"We have also seen an increased awareness among young women, who are four times more likely than any other group to be the victims of rape and sexual assault," he continued. "They are more aware of the risks and better equipped to protect themselves, in part due to the education efforts of groups like RAINN and its local partners."

Meanwhile, education has led to a better public understanding of the issue. The norm used to be that victims faced skeptical questions about what they were wearing and how they acted after reporting a rape to police. Now, more and more, rape is treated as the violent crime it is, with the emphasis on the actions of the rapist, not the victim. This helps create an environment where victims are more likely to report sexual assaults, thereby increasing law enforcement's ability to prosecute and convict rapists.

The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline at (800) 656-HOPE, in partnership with more than 1,100 local rape crisis centers. RAINN also carries out programs to prevent sexual assault, help victims and ensure that rapists are brought to justice. For more information about RAINN, please visit www.rainn.org.

In This Issue

- FBI Study Indicating Rise in Reported Rapes May Be "Good News".....1
- 5 Girls.....2
- A Guidebook for Clergy on Sexual Assault, Trauma and Spiritual Healing.....2
- New Online Resource Helps Parents, Caregivers Talk to Kids About Violence.....2
- Real Indian.....2
- Starting a Nonprofit Organization: Turning Vision into Reality.....2
- Recruiting & Retaining Women: A Self-Assessment Guide for Law Enforcement.....3
- Addressing Immigration and Domestic Violence Law.....3
- Best Practices for Creating a Domestic Violence Court.....3
- Lesson Plans and Guidance for Sexuality Educators and Advocates.....3
- Addressing Domestic Violence in a Clinical Setting.....4
- Sexual Assault Advocacy Manual.....4
- Statutory Rape Known to Law Enforcement.....4
- Domestic Violence at the Margins: Readings on Race, Class, Gender and Culture.....4

Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence

3893 Okemos Rd.,
Suite B2
Okemos, MI 48864
Phone: (517) 381-4663
TTY: (517) 381-8470
Fax: (517) 347-1060
E-mail:
resource@mcadsv.org

Visit us on the Web at
www.mcadsv.org/mrcdsv

National Domestic Violence Hotline
Linea Nacional sobre la Violencia Domestica
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
TTY 1-800-787-3224

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network
(RAINN)
1-800-656-HOPE (4673)

New Print Resources

- **Understanding Sexual Violence: The Patriarchy Remembering Conquest: Feminist/Womanist Perspectives on Religion, Colonization, and Sexual Violence**
- **Walking Together: Working with Women from Diverse Religious and Spiritual Religions**
-

New Video: 5 Girls

From the production company that made *Hoop Dreams*, comes this inspiring and honest portrait of five diverse girls as they bravely make their way through high school. With rare insight and sensitivity, filmmaker Maria Finitzo examines the relationships of these girls, their expectations and goals for the future, as well as those of their parents.

Finitzo and her crew spent three years with this diverse group of young women and their families, who live in and around Chicago, to ambitiously document their journey from adolescence into adulthood. Leaving sentimentality behind, this unique survey delves into the minds of these five remarkable girls to demonstrate how they confront a myriad of social dilemmas – from sexual awakenings to poverty to ethnic isolation – and how they begin forming their increasingly complex identities as young women.

Sensitively weaving together the stories and personalities of each girl, this provocative documentary succeeds in providing a rare glimpse into the resilience, intelligence and self-awareness that many young women confidently demonstrate, but are rarely given credit for possessing.

To borrow this video, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

A Guidebook for Clergy on Sexual Assault, Trauma and Spiritual Healing

This guidebook developed by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault provides the reader with legal definitions of sexual assault and what constitutes consent. Common myths will be discussed and the facts about these issues will be clarified. Sexual violence, the nature of trauma, and post-traumatic stress syndrome will be explained. Specific spiritual concerns such as virginity, pregnancy, and forgiveness will be discussed; as well as practical information on providing assistance and crisis intervention to sexual assault survivors. Please visit <http://www.taasa.org/member/pdfs/sash.pdf> to access a copy of this guidebook.

Trafficking Online Resource Center

Captive Daughters is dedicated to ending the sex trafficking of children, with a particular focus on girls and women.

To learn more about trafficking visit <http://www.captivedaughters.org/index.htm>

New Online Resource Helps Parents, Caregivers Talk to Kids About Violence

CONNECT: *A Mini-Magazine for Parents* gives parents and caregivers practical advice on how to talk to kids about respecting women and girls and cultivating healthy relationships. It offers regular features including a Parent2Parent advice column, articles on hot topics such as violent video games, questions-and-answers with authors and experts, and interviews with parents, teens and women who grew up in violent homes.

The launch issue's web site has supplements including a quiz, advice on talking advantage of teachable moments, and more. Visitors to the site are encouraged to submit questions.

CONNECT is available online in English and Spanish at www.connect-endabuse.org and www.avonfoundation.org.

New Video: Real Indian

Real Indian presents filmmaker Malinda Maynor's reflections on growing up a Lumbee Indian girl. With wit and intelligence, she confronts stereotypes about Native Americans and comments on how both whites and native people have continued to perpetuate them. Ideal for discussions on U.S.-Native American history, *Real Indian* lays bare the effects of cultural labeling and self-identity within Native communities.

To borrow this video, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.

Starting a Nonprofit Organization: Turning Vision into Reality

Every nonprofit organization must have a carefully developed structure and operating procedures in order to be effective in fulfilling its purpose. Good governance starts with helping the organization begin with sound legal and financial footing in compliance with the numerous federal, state, and local requirements affecting nonprofits.

This booklet, *Starting a Nonprofit Organization: Turning Vision into Reality* by Janis Johnston is designed to provide founding board members with answers to some important questions to ask during the beginning phases in the life of an organization. Starting a nonprofit is a detailed operation, and there are many things to take into account. This booklet does not attempt to fully address every detail; rather, it offers some practical references and guidance to help in making important decisions. To access this document online, please visit <http://www.boardsource.org/clientfiles/EBooks/Vision.pdf>

Recruiting & Retaining Women: A Self-Assessment Guide for Law Enforcement

The National Center for Women & Policing developed *Recruiting & Retaining Women: A Self-Assessment Guide for Law Enforcement*, to assist law enforcement agencies in hiring and retaining more women employees. The step-by-step guide is designed to help agencies examine their policies and procedures and to identify and remove obstacles to hiring and retaining sworn and civilian women employees at all levels within the organization. The guide also provides a list of resources for agencies to use when planning or implementing changes to their current policies and procedures. To download a copy of this guide, please visit <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/bja/185235.pdf>.

New Online Resource Addressing Immigration and Domestic Violence Law

ASISTA is a collaboration between four nationally-recognized legal experts who work to provide comprehensive and cutting-edge technical assistance on the intersection between immigration and domestic violence law. Their purpose is to centralize, enhance and expand immigration assistance to frontline advocates and attorneys who provide legal assistance to immigrant victims.

Many immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking feel that accessing our civil and criminal justice systems will expose them to deportation. Although the number of applications for VAWA status has increased, winning a VAWA self-petition is only the first step in achieving safety and independence. To gain lawful permanent residence, applicants must overcome additional legal barriers. The complicated phases of applying for immigration status coupled with the passage of VAWA 2000 have created new questions and the need for greater expertise.

Without assistance, many service providers are forced to simply turn potentially eligible clients away for fear that their inability to provide competent services may unintentionally harm immigrants already traumatized by violence, racism and xenophobia. In order to respond to the complex legal needs of their immigrant clients, service providers need advanced technical support on intricate legal questions and troubleshooting assistance with the Department of Homeland Security. ASISTA is targeted to enhance and expand service providers' ability to service this special population of immigrant clients.

ASISTA also maintains an online clearinghouse of resources, samples, and best practices. Please visit their Web site at www.asistaonline.org.

Best Practices for Creating a Domestic Violence Court

Creating a Domestic Violence Court: Guidelines and Best Practices by Emily Sack was developed to assist jurisdictions in determining if a domestic violence court structure would be helpful and if so, how best to model this structure to address the needs of their local communities.

The guidelines include the following topics:

- An examination of the values and principles that should be the foundation of all effective domestic violence courts and case response.
- A discussion of components that are essential to the operation of domestic violence courts.
- An examination of the benefits and challenges of the various domestic violence court models including civil protection order docket, criminal court, integrated court or unified family court.
- A step-by-step action plan for jurisdictions considering the implementation of domestic violence courts.
- Case studies of three different operating domestic violence courts.
- A selected list of literature on domestic violence courts, which can serve as a resource to jurisdictions considering creating a domestic violence court or dedicated docket.

To download a copy of this publication, please visit http://endabuse.org/programs/healthcare/files/FinalCourt_Guidelines.pdf

Positively Informed: Lesson Plans and Guidance for Sexuality Educators and Advocates

This kit, by Andrea Irvin, is a resource kit of lesson plans and guides for comprehensive sexuality educators. *Positively Informed* provides a handpicked selection of some of the best English-language sexuality education materials out there. Intended to serve as a source of ideas, examples, and inspiration for educators developing their own sexuality education curricula, the lesson plans use creative, interactive, learner-centered teaching strategies, and are adaptable to diverse cultural settings.

They address gender issues, challenge discriminatory attitudes and behaviors, and present sexuality as a positive part of life rather than something to be feared and shrouded in taboos. These lessons are appropriate for 10 to 19-year-olds and are classroom ready. This kit is available online at <http://www.iwhc.org/resources/positivelyinformed>.

New Video Resources

Hidden Scars, Silent Wounds: Understanding Self-Injury

Visit us on the Web!

Access the entire Resource Center collection and order materials online at www.mcadsv.org/mrcdsv



The Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence is a collaboration of the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board and the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

The Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board is the primary funder and owner of the collection. Additional funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and other generous supporters of the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Resource Center Staff

Melissa Limon,
Resource Center
Specialist



MICHIGAN
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PREVENTION &
TREATMENT BOARD



Addressing Domestic Violence in a Clinical Setting

More than twenty years have passed since beginning the first large-scale effort to confront the issue of domestic violence. During this time, in an effort to demonstrate that no woman is immune to violence, advocates have attempted to minimize the differences among women experiencing violence. We are now beginning to understand that, although all women can be subject to intimate partner violence, their life situations vary considerably. In order to address domestic violence in diverse populations effectively, it is important to recognize the impact of distinctive social, cultural, and economic circumstances.

Migrant and immigrant women face unique challenges that heighten barriers to prevention and intervention services, and which magnify the effects of intimate partner violence. Due to the distinctive life style of migrant farmworkers, the stress of travel, low income and language barriers are potential factors for abuse. Lacking access to health services, fearing deportation, and living in isolated environments, farmworker women often are forced to endure the violence rather than finding a means of escape.

This manual, *Addressing Domestic Violence in a Clinical Setting*, is designed for health care providers working with migrant and immigrant women, and addresses issues unique to this population. It also stresses the importance of screening and documentation for all patients.

To access this resource manual online, please visit the Migrant Clinician's Web site at http://www.migrantclinician.org/_resources/DVManual.pdf.

Sexual Assault Advocacy Manual

This 300 page manual was designed to train staff and volunteers to work with sexual assault survivors. The manual includes information on survivor profiles, offender profiles, special populations, self protections/risk reduction and much more. To download a copy of this manual, please visit <http://www.taasa.org/member/pdfs/saatm-eng.pdf>.

Volunteer Opportunities Available at the Michigan Resource Center!

The Michigan Resource Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence is seeking volunteers to assist with the management of the Resource Center. For more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact Melissa Limon at (517) 381-4663, ext.17.

Statutory Rape Known to Law Enforcement

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announced the availability of *Statutory Rape Known to Law Enforcement*. Written by Karyl Troup-Leasure, Ph.D., Research Associate, and Howard N. Snyder, Ph.D., Director of Systems Research, National Center for Juvenile Justice, this four-page bulletin draws on the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System to provide a comprehensive view of statutory rape.

Deriving its data from reports from law enforcement agencies in 21 states for the period 1996 to 2000, the bulletin characterizes victim and offender attributes and law enforcement responses to incidents of statutory rape. "Statutory Rape Known to Law Enforcement" (NCJ 208803) is available online at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=208803>.

Domestic Violence at the Margins: Readings on Race, Class, Gender and Culture

This groundbreaking anthology, by Natalie Sokoloff, reorients the field of domestic violence research by bringing long-overdue attention to the structural forms of oppression in communities marginalized by race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, or social class.

Reprints of the most influential recent work in the field as well as more than a dozen newly commissioned essays explore theoretical issues, current research, service provision, and activism among Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, Muslim Americans, Jewish Americans, and lesbians. The volume rejects simplistic analyses of the role of culture in domestic violence by elucidating the support systems available to battered women within different cultures, while at the same time addressing the distinct problems generated by that culture. Together, the essays pose a compelling challenge to stereotypical images of battered women that are racist, homophobic, and xenophobic.

The most up-to-date and comprehensive picture of domestic violence available, this anthology is an essential text for courses in sociology, criminology, social work, and womens studies. Beyond the classroom, it provides critical information and resources for professionals working in domestic violence programs, social workers and law enforcement.

To borrow this book, please contact the Michigan Resource Center at (517) 381-4663.