

CRIME VICTIMS: RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

April 19, 2018

PURPOSE

- Better understand rape and sexual assault in Utah, including sexual violence service provision, survivor needs, and service gaps
- Recommend best practice approaches

METHODS

- Literature review
- Secondary data – national and Utah-specific
- Consult best practice guidelines from other states
- Online survey data
- Qualitative key informant interviews
- Synthesize data

IMPACTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

1. Physical
2. Psychological
3. Care and Handling

NATIONAL FINDINGS

- Every 98 seconds an American is sexually assaulted (more than 320,000 per year*)
- Younger people (Ages 12 – 34) are at highest risk for sexual assault.
- Young women (Ages 16 - 24) are at highest risk for attempted or completed rape.

UTAH FINDINGS

- One in six women and one in 32 men experience rape or attempted rape during their lifetime.
- In 2016, 9.7% of Utah adults reported that someone had sex or attempted to have sex with them without their consent.
- In 2011, sexual violence costs totaled nearly \$5 billion. Of which, \$92 million was spent on perpetrators of sexual violence.
- Rape is the only violent crime in Utah that is higher than the national average.

BEST PRACTICE REVIEW

Iowa review (2013) – 20 states

(CA, CT, FL, HI, IA, IL, KY, MA, MI, MO, NE, NH, NY, NC, OR, PA, TN, VT, WA, & WV)

SRI collected documents from 9 of these states AND

(GA, KS, MT, ND, NV, OH) PLUS Australia (2), Canada (2), EU Parliament, India, Ireland (2), New Zealand, Scotland, & UK (2)

Berkley Human Rights Center, DOJ, IACP, The White House, WHO (2)

CORE PRACTICES IDENTIFIED ACROSS SOURCES

- Crisis intervention
- Information & referral
- Medical advocacy
- Legal advocacy
- Counseling / therapy
- Support groups
- Prevention
- Community awareness
- Professional training / continuing education
- Systems advocacy

2013 IOWA REVIEW: COMMON PHILOSOPHIES

- Social Justice Approach – victim-centered, anti-oppression, empowerment
- Specifically trained workers
- Free
- Maintain community presence
- Support survivors' choice
- Provide services to ALL survivors
- 24- hour access
- Confidential services

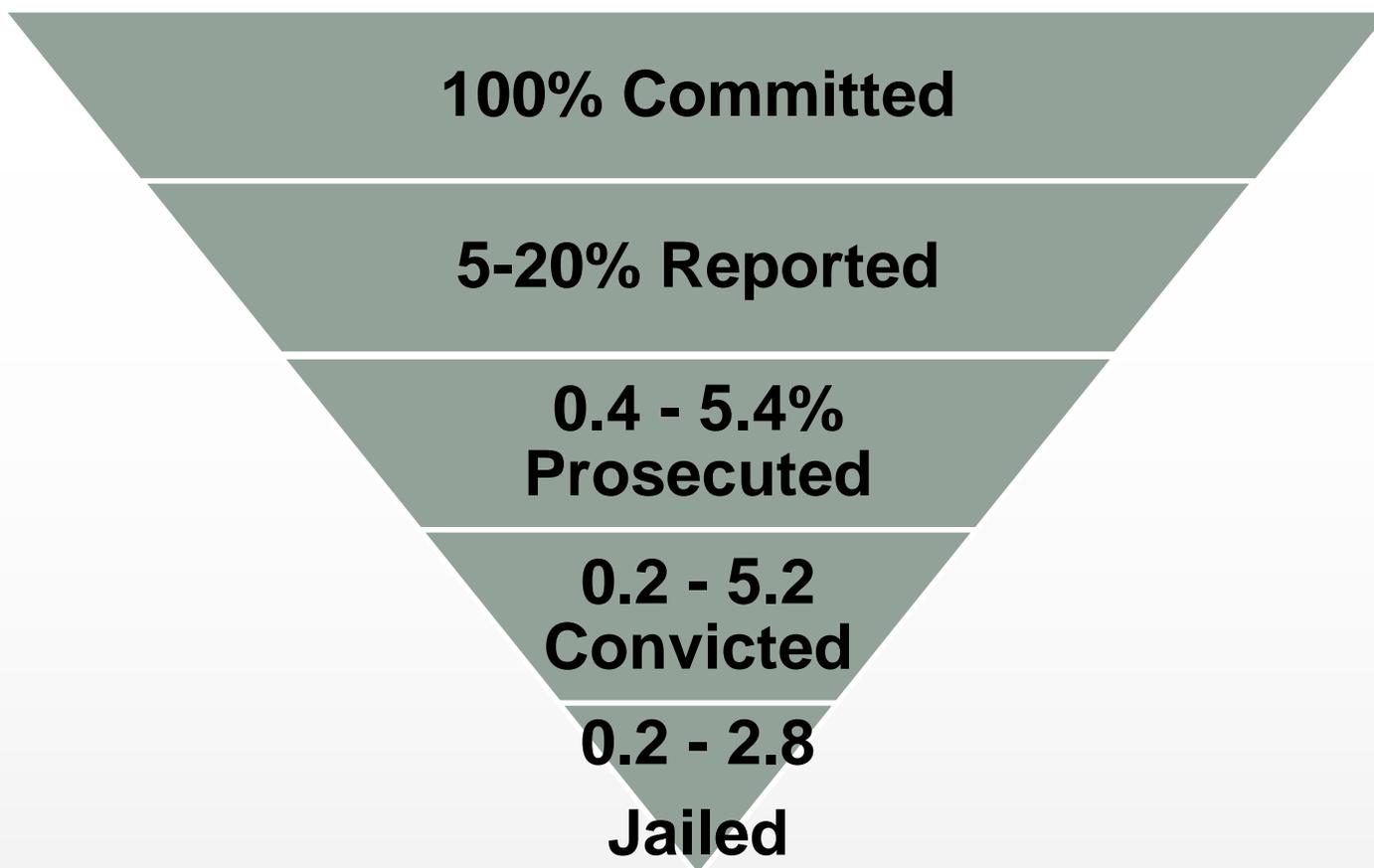
TITLE IX INVESTIGATIONS

- Nationally 458 investigations of private and public colleges have been conducted, exploring potential mishandlings of sexual assault reports.
- Since 2015, five of the eight major universities in Utah have been or are currently under investigation for their handlings of sexual assault reports on campus.
 - Common response: Campus climate surveys and campus service awareness campaigns.

BIAS

- “Implicit biases may oppose a person’s adopted worldview, but because they are not consciously controlled, they may nonetheless be reflected in their behavior – including in the professional realm.”
- Gender bias refers to the inclination toward, or prejudice against, one gender versus the other(s).
- SAK data collected: male victims were 46% more likely to be submitted indicates gender bias in law enforcement.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: NATIONAL



Lonsway, K.A. & Archambault, J. (2012). The “justice gap” for sexual assault cases: Future directions for research and reform. *Violence Against Women*, 18(2) 145-168.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: UTAH



Valentine, J. L., Shaw, J., Lark, A., & Campbell, R. (2016). Now we know: Assessing sexual assault criminal justice case processing in an urban community using the SANE Evaluation Toolkit. *Journal of Forensic Nursing, 12*, 133-140.

ONLINE SURVEY FINDINGS

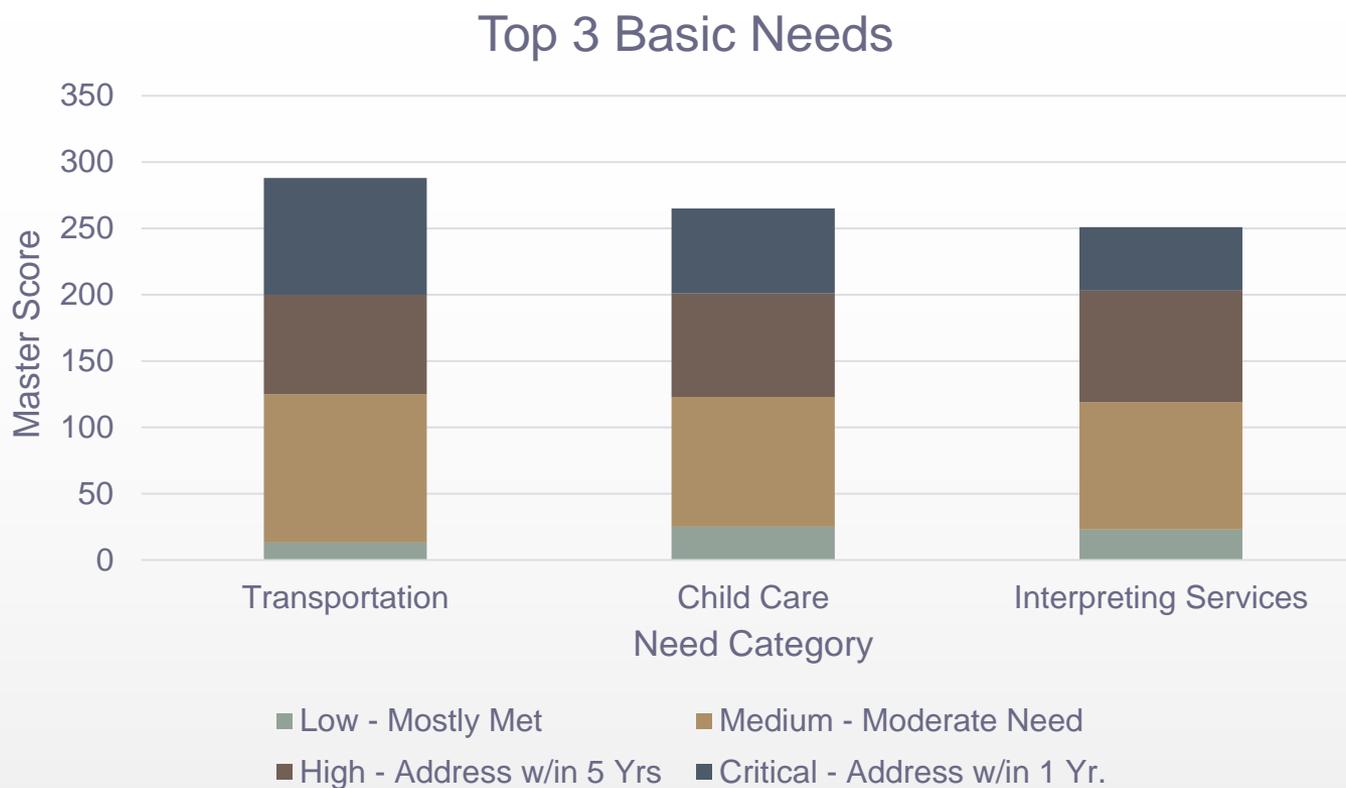
SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Age	N =129
Age: Range	21 - 66
Age: Mean	45.4
Highest level of education	
Some High School	0.8% (1)
High School Diploma/GED	4.7% (6)
Some College	17.8% (23)
Two-Year Degree	5.4% (7)
Four-Year Degree	37.3% (48)
Graduate Level Degree	33.3% (43)
None of the Above	0.8% (1)
Years of Experience: Range	<1 – 31
Years of Experience: Mean	8.61

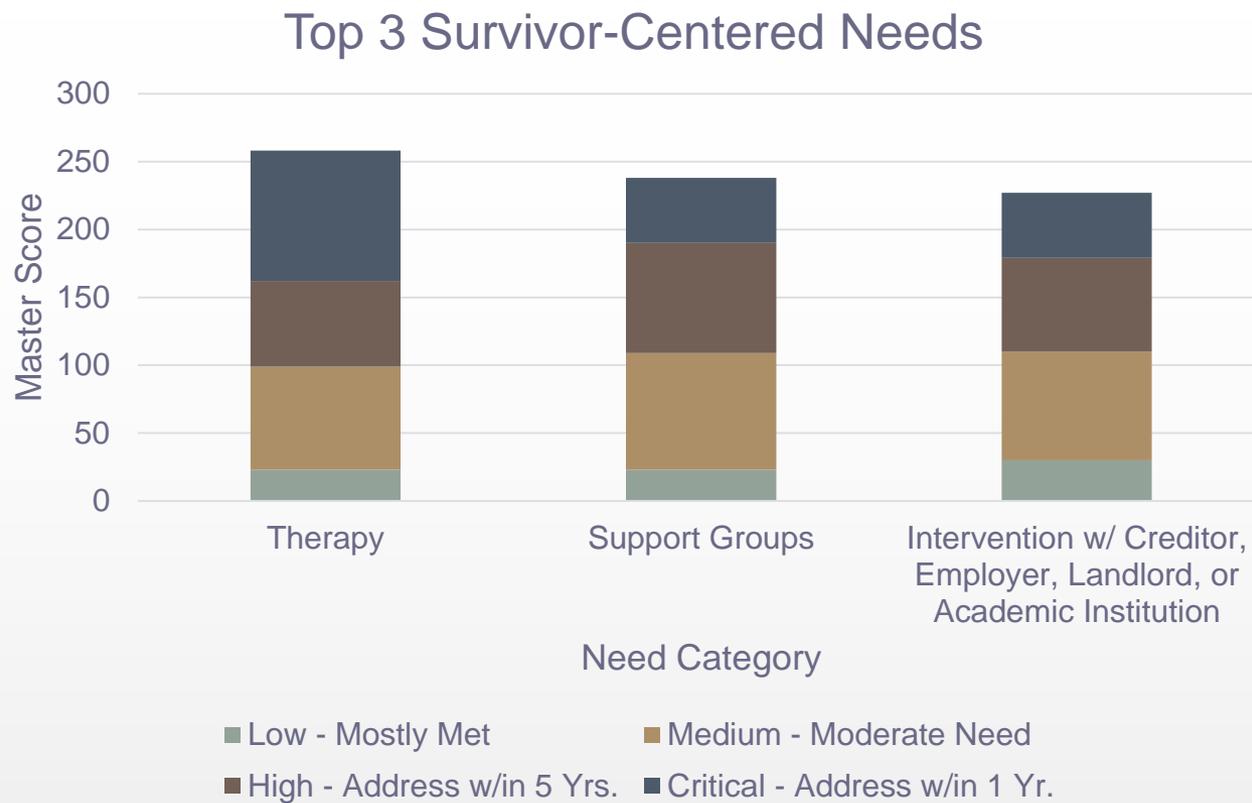
SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS CONT.

What category best describes your current position?	n = 129
Attorney	5 (3.9%)
Children's Justice Center or Family Justice Center Employee	7 (5.4%)
Detective	3 (2.3%)
Executive Director	20 (15.5%)
Police/ Law Enforcement	23 (17.8)
Program Manager	5 (3.9%)
Therapist	7 (5.4%)
Individual Victim Advocate	11 (8.5%)
System-Based Victim Advocate	29 (22.5%)
Other	19 (14.7%)

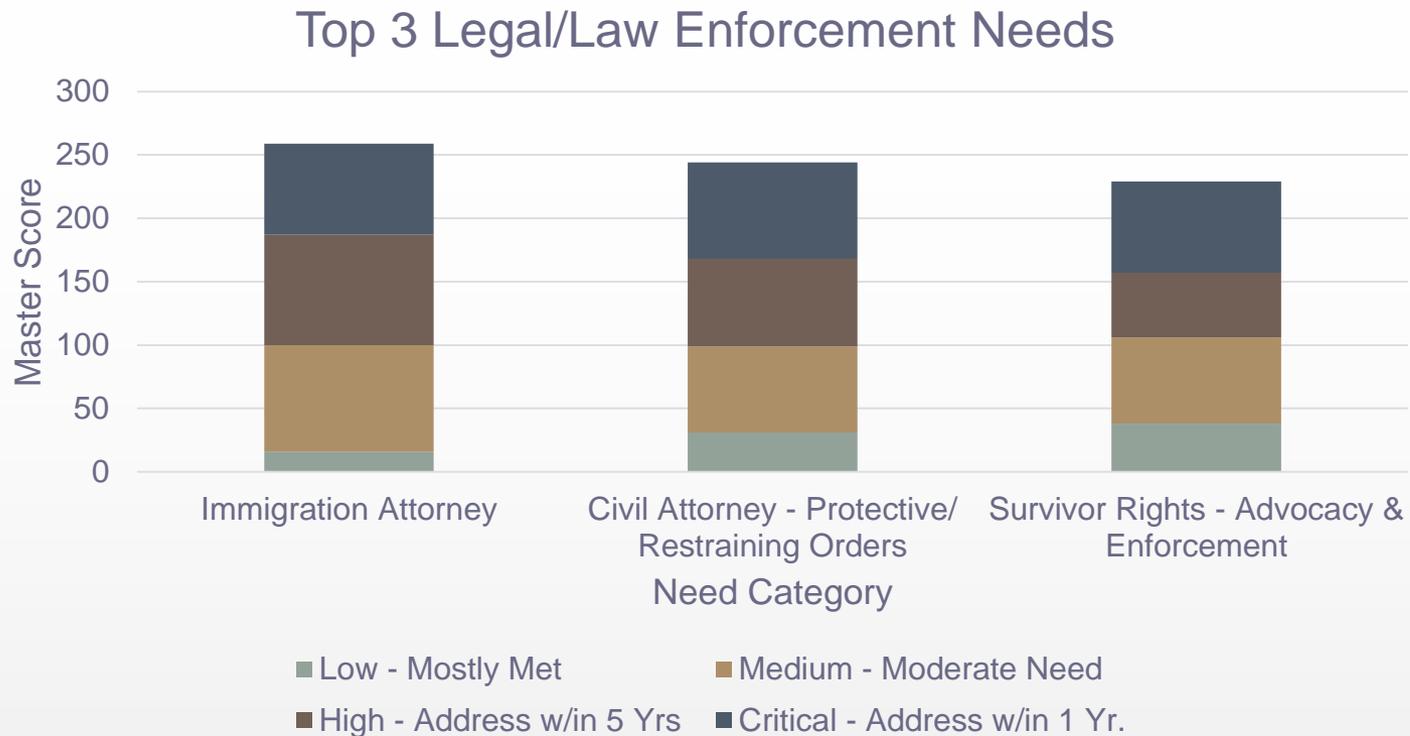
BASIC NEEDS



SURVIVOR-CENTERED NEEDS



LEGAL/LAW ENFORCEMENT NEEDS



BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SUPPORT

	Strongly Agree or Agree
Survivors believe if they report the crime, they will be blamed or not believed by authorities.	79.6%
Survivors are concerned their confidentiality may not be preserved.	68.8%
Survivors do not want to be labeled as a victim.	60.2%

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

- 37 Respondents
- Primarily conducted in-person across the state
- Covered urban and rural areas
- Participants included direct service providers, agency directors, legal and law enforcement representatives, and state-level providers.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

Nearly all believe the most helpful support survivors receive is someone that listens to their story, believes them, and/or guides them through the process they are trying to navigate (legal, Code-R exams, reporting, etc.)

What Key Informants Said:

“That initial contact with an advocate, with someone to help guide them through the process and can offer crisis counseling if necessary. Many [survivors] say it was so nice to have somewhere to go and talk about what happened.”

“We believed them. They recognized our entire role is to be on their side.”

INTERVIEWS CONT.

Need for increased trauma and sexual assault training for those that come into contact with survivors.

What Key Informants Said:

“Survivors need to receive all services by trauma-informed people - including families - but especially police, advocates, therapists, prosecutors, and judges.”

“Officers often are not trained on trauma-informed behaviors. Often officers are reverting to what they did know and what they were trained on, and that is interrogating. So a lot of times victims are interrogated and the interaction is about proving the victim is wrong.”

“In our community specifically, we struggle with finding qualified counselors that specialize in trauma... To have the survivor be able to see someone qualified in a timely manner has been really challenging.”

INTERVIEWS CONT.

Need for greater public awareness and education of available services, sexual assault, and trauma to shift the culture and increase service reach.

What Key Informants Said:

“The community needs to be more believing and we need to get rid of the shaming and blaming the community does to victims.”

“Changing our culture is important - who we are as a people. Non-judgmental support for survivor is needed everywhere. Need public education effort.”

“It is heart breaking when there is a rape case with a survivor committed to process. They get torn apart and juries in our community have ideas about what rape looks like and they don’t believe the victim.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop and implement trauma and sexual assault training for providers.
2. Increase public awareness of sexual assault and services available to survivors.
3. Increase access to trauma-informed, mental health services.
4. Expand SANE services.

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