



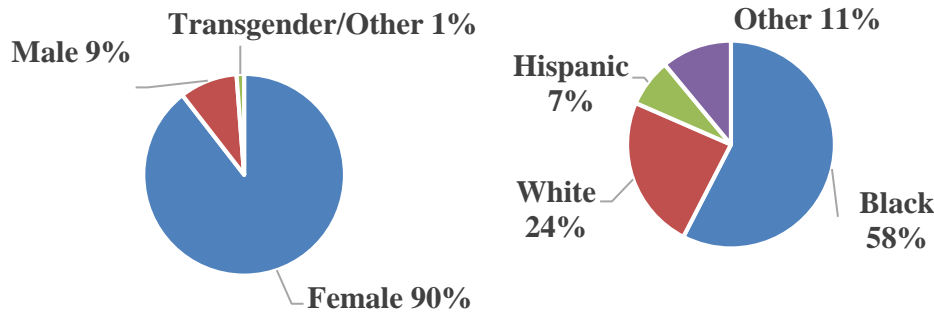
**District of Columbia Forensic Nurse Examiners (DCFNE)
Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Evaluation Project Executive Summary**

Choice Research Associates (CRA) began working with the District of Columbia Forensic Nurse Examiners (DCFNE) focused on the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program in April 2017. The goals of this project were two-fold: 1) to explore the process of the SANE program from dispatch to examination to advocacy; and 2) to determine if the SANE program needs to be expanded beyond MedStar Washington Hospital Center (MWHC) location.

The SANE program was examined through a document review, interviews and meetings with various partners and stakeholders, and analyzing available data from SANE partners – including data from Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC). In addition, surveys related to the level of awareness of the SANE program in the community and on college campuses were disseminated.

SANE Services Provided FY2015-FY2016:

DCFNE –Calls for Service: 828 unique individuals accessed SANE services for Sexual Assault (SA). Survivors were on average 31 years old, ranging from 16 to 81, and 75% were DC residents. In addition:



Key Finding:
No difference by ward in access to SANE services:
NO significant difference
1) Percentage of exempt vs. exams conducted; OR
2) Amount of time from assault to exam.

Of 887 Sexual Assault Incidents:

- 76% were seen within 1 day of assault;
- Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault suspected in 39% of cases.

NVRDC – Advocacy: Of 866 SA incidents (representing 810 unique people): 66% reported the crime to police; (94% of which report to MPD): Of those,

- 66% of women and 72% of men report to police.
- 70% of Non-White survivors report the crime, as do 54% of White survivors.

DCFNE Conducted Community and Campus Surveys to assess awareness of services:

54% of 170 community respondents & **76%** of 242 campus respondents **are** aware of SANE services.

But... The top 3 concerns related to seeking SANE services are:

Community Survey (N=170):	Campus Survey (N=242):
1) Confidentiality that spouse or partner, or family or friends might find out: 58%	1) Confidentiality that spouse or partner, or family or friends might find out: 68%
2) Process is Scary 52%	2) Fear of Retaliation/Harassment for reporting: 57%
3) Not sure where to start 46%	3) Not sure where to start: 46%

Correct these myths! Results indicate we need to educate the public *to alleviate fears* and *demystify the SANE process*; SANE is confidential, no-cost, and does not require police involvement.

Recommendations:

- Campus survey results indicate fear of retaliation and/or harassment is a major concern. This likely requires a solution that utilizes public education and a cultural shift.
- Conduct a city-wide public awareness campaign on how to access SANE services to ensure that the community is aware that services are free, confidential, and do not require reporting the incident to police. Ideally the campaign would be funded by Office of Victim Services Justice Grants (OVSJG), designed by a marketing company and/or public relations professionals, informed by community input, has measurable outcomes, and coordinated by OVSJG or the District of Columbia Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) (or some entity that represents the whole system rather than just one provider and therefore can speak to the "strategic level"). This type of effort may be necessary to overcome negative perceptions and/or to correct misinformation that may exist about the SANE program.
- Increase awareness outreach to promote accurate information about SANE services with service providers who work with underserved populations (e.g., trans, LGBT, youth, sex workers) and other community-based service providers and/or the faith-based community who could provide referrals.
- Create a strong network of cooperation between District of Columbia Hospitals, perhaps with the help of the D.C. Hospital Association. One goal may be to ensure that all DC hospital staff understand the SANE program processes and goals. One way to do this may be through conducting periodic outreach sessions to new Emergency Department staff and/or creating an online web education program that can be used as part of in-service continuing education.

**If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault call
1-844-4HELPDC
for free, confidential services and access to medical care
24 hours a day; 7 days a week**

**The DC Forensic Nurse Examiners (DCFNE) and
Network for Victim Recovery (NVRDC) partner to provide:**

Complete Medical Exam
Evidence Collection
Advocacy & Case Management
Legal Referrals, and More

**To obtain a forensic exam, go to MedStar Washington Hospital Center
Emergency Department
110 Irving St, N.W.
Washington DC 20010**

DCFNE: <http://dcforensicnurses.org/>
NVRDC: <https://www.nvrdc.org/>

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