



**2020-2021 Sexual Battery Victims' Access to Services Act
Legislative Report**

February 1, 2022

**Ron DeSantis
Governor**

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**Report to the Florida Legislature:
The Sexual Battery Victims' Access to Services Act,
The Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund, and
Rape Crisis Services in Florida**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Florida Department of Health (Department), Violence and Injury Prevention Section (VIPS) is pleased to provide the Florida Legislature with the 2020-2021 Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund Legislative Report, as mandated by section 794.055, Florida Statutes.

In 2003, the Florida Legislature created "The Sexual Battery Victims' Access to Services Act" (the Act) and the Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund (RCPTF) within the Department. The Act created a funding system for the distribution of monies generated by a \$151 fine assessed on offenders convicted of sexual battery and other offenses. While the clerk of the court retains \$1 of the fine as a service fee, \$150 goes to the RCPTF. This Act also requires the Department to contract with a statewide, nonprofit association to distribute these funds for the provision of sexual battery recovery services. The Department contracts with the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, Inc. (FCASV), a statewide nonprofit organization committed to assisting victims and survivors of sexual violence and the rape crisis centers that serve them. FCASV subcontracts with rape crisis centers throughout the state to serve victims.

From September 2003 to June 2021, county clerks deposited \$27,606,121 into the trust fund. Rape Crisis Program Trust Fund monies are awarded annually to FCASV. In fiscal year 2020-2021, the FCASV received \$250,150 to provide statewide initiatives in support of victims, while 31 certified rape crisis centers received \$1,417,514 for a total annual distribution amount of \$1,667,664 to provide victims with a variety of sexual battery recovery services. Funding allocation for each rape crisis center is based on population data from the U.S. Census.

THE SCOPE AND IMPACT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

In calendar year 2020, the Florida Statewide Violent Crime by Offense Report, produced by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, identified 7,650 reported forcible sex offenses and 4,182 arrests. The consequences of sexual violence can include physical injuries such as bruising or cuts, or psychological issues, such as anxiety, depression, or suicidal thoughts (Basile & Smith, 2011). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that victims of sexual violence are also more likely to engage in negative health behaviors than those who have not experienced sexual violence. These behaviors may include a dependency on alcohol, drugs, and risky sexual activity.

As noted in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *STOP SV Technical Package*, sexual violence is highly prevalent. Approximately 1 in 5 women (19.3%) in the United States have experienced rape or attempted rape in their lifetime and 43.9% have experienced other forms of sexual violence (Basile et al., 2016). For instance, 12.5% have experienced sexual coercion, 27.3% have experienced unwanted sexual contact, and 32.1% have experienced non-contact unwanted sexual experiences (Breiding et al., 2014). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)* indicates that women carry the greatest burden of sexual violence over their lifetimes, but men are also impacted. Approximately 1 in 15 men (6.7%) have been made to penetrate someone at some point during their lives, 5.8% have experienced

sexual coercion, 10.8% have experienced unwanted sexual contact, and 13.3% have experienced non-contact unwanted sexual experiences (Black et al. 2011).

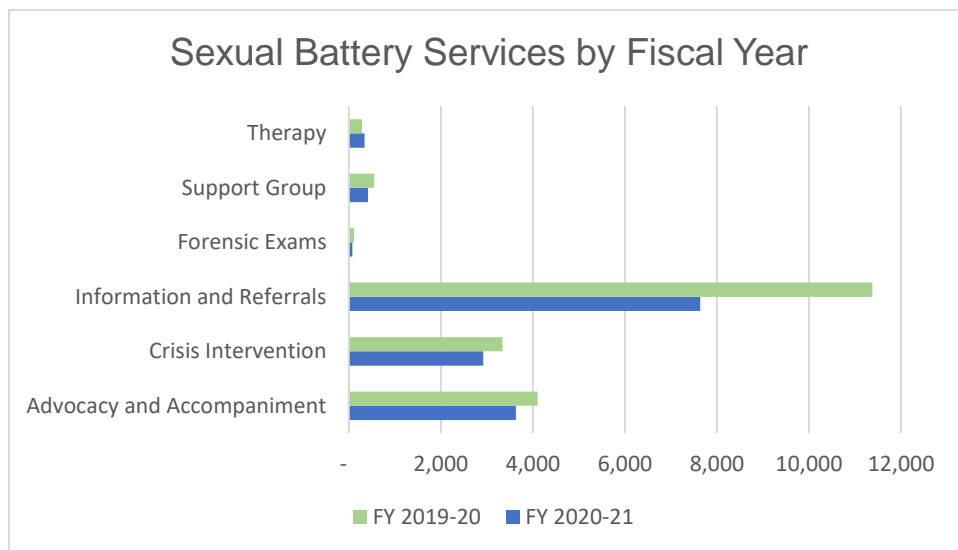
THE RESPONSE TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE: RAPE CRISIS SERVICES

During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, advocates in 31 certified rape crisis centers across the state provided an immediate and ongoing response to sexual violence victims. Certified rape crisis centers serve recent adult and adolescent rape victims and adult male and female survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Rape crisis centers provide in-person crisis intervention and/or helpline services, advocacy and accompaniment, and information and referral 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in an attempt to meet victims’ needs.

SEXUAL BATTERY SERVICES

In fiscal year 2020-2021, 1,570 new and ongoing primary and secondary victims received services. Certified rape crisis centers received 26,487 helpline calls related to sexual battery. The following details the sexual battery recovery services provided:

<u>Type of Service</u>	<u>Number of Services</u>
Advocacy and Accompaniment	3,631
Crisis Intervention	2,925
Information and Referrals	7,637
Forensic Exams	74
Support Group	416
Therapy	338
Total	15,021



Source: Florida Department of Health Sexual Violence Data Registry.

SERVICE STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION OF RAPE CRISIS CENTERS

FCASV is responsible for service standards and the certification process for Florida's rape crisis centers. Service standards and certification are based on the following:

- A broad array of high-quality, sexual violence services must exist in every community.
- Victims are best served through sexual violence services provided in the context of a coordinated, collaborative, and multidisciplinary approach including medical/forensic providers, advocates, criminal justice professionals, and other social service providers.
- All service providers must have victim empowerment as the cornerstone of service delivery.

Independent on-site reviews of each rape crisis center are conducted every other year to ensure compliance with the service standards and the certification process.

RCPTF ALLOCATIONS BY CENTER 7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021

Certified Rape Crisis Centers in Florida (City)	Counties Served	Total Award
Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc. (Fort Myers)	Lee, Hendry, Glades	\$58,675
Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center (Gainesville)	Alachua, Bradford, Union	\$45,791
Another Way, Inc. (Bronson)	Levy, Gilchrist, Dixie, Hamilton, Lafayette, Suwannee, Columbia	\$94,751
Broward County Sexual Battery Treatment Center (Fort Lauderdale)	Broward	\$73,913
Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies, Inc. (Punta Gorda)	Charlotte	\$16,705
Centerstone of Florida, Inc. (Bradenton) (formerly Manatee Glens)	Manatee	\$21,697
Creative Services, Inc. (Ocala)	Marion	\$23,381
The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, Inc. (Tampa)	Hillsborough	\$54,657
Family Life Center, Inc. (Bunnell)	Flagler	\$14,764
Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center, Inc. (Panama City)	Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington	\$83,288
Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties, Inc. (Leesburg)	Lake, Sumter	\$36,982
Lakeview Center, Inc. (Pensacola)	Escambia, Santa Rosa	\$37,433
Mujeres Unidas en Justicia, Educación y Reforma (M.U.J.E.R.), Inc. (Women United in Justice, Education, and Reform) (Homestead)	South Miami-Dade	\$30,095

Certified Rape Crisis Centers in Florida (City)	Counties Served	Total Award
Palm Beach County Victim Services (West Palm Beach)	Palm Beach	\$58,410
Peace River Center for Personal Development, Inc. (Lakeland)	Hardee, Highlands, Polk	\$61,778
Project Help, Inc. (Naples)	Collier	\$23,808
Putnam County Health Department (Palatka)	Putnam Awarded by Department of Health – not FCASV	\$22,000
Quigley House, Inc. (Orange Park)	Clay	\$17,257
Refuge House, Inc. (Tallahassee)	Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla	\$111,767
Roxcy Bolton Rape Treatment Center/Jackson Memorial Hospital, Inc. (Miami-Dade)	Miami-Dade	\$72,738
Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center, Inc. (Sarasota)	DeSoto, Sarasota	\$36,936
Safety Shelter of St. Johns County, Inc. dba Betty Griffin Center (St. Augustine)	St. Johns	\$17,223
Salvare, Inc. dba Dawn Center of Hernando County (Spring Hill)	Hernando	\$16,345
Sexual Battery Assistance Program State Attorney's Office, 19th Circuit (Fort Pierce)	Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie	\$63,122
Shelter House, Inc. (Fort Walton Beach)	Okaloosa, Walton	\$32,317
South Brevard Women's Center, Inc. (Melbourne)	Brevard	\$29,676
SMA Healthcare, Inc. (Daytona Beach)	Volusia	\$28,055
Suncoast Center, Inc. dba Family Service Centers (Clearwater)	Pinellas	\$42,714
Sunrise of Pasco County, Inc. (Dade City)	Pasco	\$26,600
Victim Service Center of Central Florida, Inc. (Orlando)	Orange, Osceola, Seminole	\$95,223
Women's Center of Jacksonville, Inc. (Jacksonville)	Baker, Duval, Nassau	\$69,413
TOTAL		\$1,417,514

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES FOR RAPE CRISIS CENTERS

General Revenue: In response to the overwhelming need for rape crisis services in Florida, Governor Ron DeSantis continued to recommend, and the Florida Legislature approved, \$2,500,000 in recurring general revenue to fund rape crisis centers, bringing the state's total general revenue appropriation to \$3,000,000. The funds appropriated for sexual battery recovery services include \$500,000 provided through the Office of the Attorney General and \$2,500,000 through the Department of Health to FCASV for distribution to certified rape crisis centers for the provision of services to victims of sexual battery.

Victims of Crime Act (Federal): The Victims of Crime Act, passed in 1986 and reauthorized in 2013, supports many direct service programs at rape crisis centers. This fees-and-fines-based funding is from the U.S. Department of Justice and is administered in Florida through the Office of the Attorney General.

Violence Against Women Act (Federal): The Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act has improved the systemic response to sexual violence victims by funding training and technical assistance to first responders at rape crisis centers, law enforcement agencies staff, and allied professionals to improve the provision of sexual battery recovery services for sexual battery victims.

- The Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program (SASP) funding is passed through from the Department to FCASV for distribution via a competitive grant process to eight certified rape crisis centers.
- During 2020-21, FCASV received Services-Training-Officers-Prosecutors (STOP) funds to improve the provision of sexual battery recovery services for sexual battery victims. To achieve this, FCASV provided training and technical assistance to first responders including law enforcement agencies and allied professionals on protocols, resources, and trauma-informed responses. As of 2021, this funding will be administered by the Department of Children and Families.

Injury Prevention and Control Research and State and Community Based Programs (Federal) and Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (Federal): These sources support 24 agencies applying the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention STOP SV Technical Package for rape prevention. Twelve competitively awarded local sites implement community-level strategies, using the best available evidence to address violence across the socio-ecological model. This includes promoting social norms that protect against violence; teaching skills to prevent sexual violence; providing opportunities to empower and support girls and women; and creating protective environments through policies, programs, and practice.

Additionally, twelve rape crisis centers work to: 1) develop or expand their partnership with county health departments to elevate sexual violence and human trafficking in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), 2) develop referral protocols with county health departments for clients who disclose sexual violence, and 3) create protective environments by conducting social marketing campaigns addressing community-level risks through environmental approaches.

FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE

As required by The Sexual Battery Victims' Access to Services Act, the Department ensures that funds allocated through the trust fund are expended in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the Act. The VIPS ensures that no more than 15 percent of the funds are used by

FCASV for administrative costs and no more than 5 percent of the funds are used by the Department for administrative costs. Additionally, FCASV submits quarterly financial expenditure reports and an annual audit to the Department for review.

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