

ARTICLES & REPORTS

Solving the Problem of Untested Evidence in Sexual Assaults. *NIJ Journal* (2010)

www.nij.gov/nij/journals/267/evidence.htm

Protocol for Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examinations of Adults/Adolescents. A guide for health care practitioners with suggested practices and recommendations to help standardize the quality of care for sexual assault victims. www.safeta.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=4

Extending the Time to Collect DNA in Sexual Assault Cases. *NIJ Journal* (2011). This article describes new technologies and techniques that are making it possible to double the traditional 3-day window for collecting DNA evidence from a sexual assault.

www.nij.gov/nij/journals/267/extending.htm

Making Sense of DNA Backlogs: Myths vs. Reality. (2010). This short report explains the nature of DNA backlogs—what they are (and are not), what causes them and what can reduce them—in order to create effective solutions. www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/232197.pdf

Increasing Sexual Assault Prosecution Rates. *NIJ Journal* (2009) This article presents research showing that examinations and protocols followed by sexual assault nurse examiners increase sexual assault prosecution rates. www.nij.gov/nij/journals/264/welcome.htm

Survey of Law Enforcement Forensic Evidence Processing (2009) This final report from a research grant explains findings from a survey about untested evidence in sexual assaults (and other alleged crimes) that occurred 2002–2007 in 2,000 police agencies.

www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/228415.pdf

The Role and Impact of Forensic Evidence in the Criminal Justice Process (2010). This final report from a research study discusses findings about the amount and types of forensic evidence found in crime scenes and what types contribute to successful case outcomes.

www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/231977.pdf

Eliminating the Rape Kit Backlog: A Roundtable to Explore a Victim-Centered Approach

Summary of proceedings of a meeting held May 11–12, 2010.

www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/rape-kit-roundtable-summary-10262010.pdf

DNA Evidence and Offender Analysis Measurement: DNA Backlogs, Capacity and Funding. (2007) This final report from a research grant presents findings from a survey of crime labs www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/230328.pdf

Census of Publicly Funded Forensic Crime Laboratories, 2005 (2008). This report examines the types of forensic requests received by the nation's nearly 400 publicly funded labs.

<http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=490>

TOOLKITS & ONLINE TRAINING

SART Toolkit: Resources for Sexual Assault Response Teams. A compilation of resources for communities wanting to develop Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) to serve victims of sexual assault. <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/sartkit/>

SAFE Virtual Practicum: An interactive virtual training (DVD) created by Dartmouth University for medical professionals who care for victims of sexual assault; covers all aspects of a sexual assault forensic examination, from initial meeting, to patient-centered medical examination and treatment, to proper collection and preparation of evidence, to pretrial and courtroom preparation. (NOTE: \$25 to purchase DVD)

www.iafn.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=174 Read an article about the training: “Sexual Assault: Virtual Training Takes Responders From Exam Room to Courtroom,” *NIJ Journal* No. 258 www.nij.gov/journals/258/sexual-assault.html

Strengthening Sexual Assault Victims’ Right to Privacy. Online guide contains general recommendations, addresses common challenges, provides core concepts, and offers practical tips to assist advocates in their efforts to maintain victim confidentiality.

www.ovc.gov/publications/infores/VictimsRightToPrivacy/welcome.html

Victim Information and Notification Program. Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) is an online tool that offers sexual assault coalitions and rape crisis centers information about the rights of victims to be notified about the status of their cases and of the alleged and/or convicted offender in their case. www.savinonline.org.

Domestic Abuse in Later Life. A training guide and 2-DVD package that examines the problem of domestic elder abuse from the perspective of older victims, including discussion on sexual violence:

www.ovc.gov/videos/textonly/itow_disc1.html

<http://www.ovc.gov/library/videoclips.html#elderabuse>

Sexual Assault Advocate/Counselor Training. This training builds the basic skills to provide competent, effective, and sensitive crisis intervention services to sexual assault victims/survivors.

<https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspSexualAssaultTraining.cfm>

Help for Victim Service Providers. An online forum on a variety of topics.

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovcproviderforum/index.asp>

American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)–Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Program. Established by OVC in 2010, the SANE-SART AI/AN Initiative addresses the needs of tribal victims of sexual assault.

http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/provisional/SANE-SART_AI_AN_Initiative.pdf

TTAC Sexual Assault Advocate/Counselor Training. This course teaches advocates how to provide competent, effective crisis intervention services to victims and survivors of sexual assault.

www.ovcttac.gov/saact/

WEB SITES

OJP agencies are engaged in ongoing work on many aspects of the issue of sexual assault. Our sister agency, the Office on Violence Against Women, offers a wealth of information as well.

For more about the Office of Justice Programs agencies, see:

NIJ: www.nij.gov/topics/crime/rape-sexual-violence/welcome.htm

NIJ's action-research project on untested evidence in sexual assaults:

- Nov. 17, 2010 Webinar, co-hosted by NIJ and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government regarding the untested evidence in sexual assaults solicitation
www.innovations.harvard.edu/xchat-transcript.htm?chid=353
- Video announcement of action-research project by Vice President Biden as part of the White House's violence against women initiative
www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/10/05/ending-violence-against-women

BJJ: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=317>

OVC: <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/topic.aspx?topicid=35>

Coming soon:

- **DNA in Sexual Assault Cases: The Role of Law Enforcement, SAFE/SANE Nurses, and Victim Advocates**, May 3–4, 2011 (Missoula, MT) This training is intended for law enforcement officers, SAFE/SANE medical personnel, and victim advocates to help strengthen collaboration in a team –response.
<https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspDNACollection.cfm>
- **Strengthening Military-Civilian Community Partnerships to Respond to Sexual Assault**, This training will help participants develop an understanding of military life and how to work within the military structure to better serve military victims of sexual assault.
 - May 10–11, 2011 in San Antonio, TX
 - May 16–17, 2011 in San Diego, CA
 - May 19–20, 2011 in Charlotte, North Carolina<https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspMilCivPartner.cfm>
- **Sixth National Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Training Conference** May 25–27, 2011 (Austin, TX) The primary focus will be to continue expanding the capacity of SARTs to promote health and healing of sexual assault victims, hold sex offenders accountable for their crimes, and realize the hope of preventing further sexual violence in their communities.
<http://www.sartconference.com/Conference.php>

