



Campus Sexual Assault State Assessment Summary 2016

Campus sexual assault is an increasing focus area in the media, legislature and in communities across the nation. Sexual assault programs throughout Washington State are well-situated to share their expertise, as communities work to build a survivor-centered campus response. Many programs are prioritizing work in this area because the increased focus means there is increased momentum in their communities to address campus sexual violence. This year WCSAP conducted a survey to learn what is working in different communities and how community advocates are partnering with campuses across the state.

We learned valuable information about successful strategies and areas where the coalition can provide continued support through training, site visits, and technical assistance. WCSAP will use information gathered in the survey to identify current and future work related to campus sexual assault and learn about barriers to services for survivors who are attending college.

Sixteen programs that provide sexual assault services across Washington State responded to all or part of this survey. Programs shared information related to strategies for building partnerships, barriers to working with campuses, and the goals programs hope to achieve as a result of strong partnerships. Survey participants worked with public and private schools as well as community colleges.

Knowledge of Title IX and Campus Procedures

Background Knowledge of Title IX

- Most survey participants had a foundational understanding of Title IX.
- Only 27% of survey participants were "Very Familiar" with how Title IX relates to sexual assault survivors.
- Nearly 80% of participants were "Not Familiar" or "Somewhat Familiar" with how a Title IX investigation is initiated.

Campus Procedures and Resources for Survivors

- 60% of participants were "Not Familiar" with their local campus's conduct process.

- 56% of participants were “Not Familiar” or “Somewhat Familiar” with resources available for survivors on campus.
- When asked about their knowledge of which resources on campus are confidential or private 31% of participants chose “Not Familiar,” 25% chose “Somewhat Familiar,” and 44% chose “Very Familiar.”

Relationships with Local Campuses

Out of the sixteen programs surveyed, eleven have relationships with local campuses.

When asked about kinds of partnerships community programs have with campuses and to check all that apply, participant’s responses indicate that:

- 11 programs provide trainings and workshops on campus
- 8 programs attend meetings with local campus staff
- 6 programs co-host events together
- 4 programs have an MOU with their local campus or campuses
- 4 programs provide advocacy services or walk-in hours on campuses

Programs also mentioned these activities:

- Training student advocates
- Providing a student support group off campus
- Partnering on annual Vagina Monologues event

Points of Contact on Campus

50% of survey participants had multiple contacts on campuses in their community, such as:

- 6 programs had a point of contact in health or counseling centers.
- 5 programs had a point of contact in a women’s or LGBTQ center on campus.
- 4 programs had a campus advocate or Title IX Coordinator as a point of contact.
- 3 programs listed student activists or a student club as a point of contact.
- 2 programs listed faculty as a point of contact for their campus work.

For programs who provide advocacy to students on campus:

- 9 programs received no funding from the local campus.
- 2 programs received partial or full funding for a co-located campus advocate.

Barriers to Sustaining a Partnership Between Program and Campus and Successful Strategies

Five of the programs in Washington State that responded to the survey don't have a partnership with a local campus. Participants selected these four barriers to building relationships with local campuses:

- The college is not receptive to building a relationship with a program.
- The program lacks the resources needed to build the relationship.
- The program is not sure where to begin.
- The program has identified other types of work as higher priority areas.

When asked which two priorities programs have for partnerships with local campuses, survey participants responded:

- More referrals to their program (56%)
- Provide workshops and trainings on campus (56%)
- More students would be aware of their rights and confidentiality on campus (44%)
- Receiving payment for advocacy services or training (38%)
- A program staff person co-located on campus (38%)
- Increasing campus trauma-informed approach to survivors (31%)
- Advocating for survivor rights on campus (25%)

When asked "What barriers have you faced when trying to partner with campuses?"

The majority of participants selected:

- School's lack of knowledge about the importance of advocacy (50%)
- Difficulty in locating a point person to build a relationship with (44%)
- Confidentiality issues (36%)
- The college being closed off from the community (31%)
- Advocacy services already available on campus so community program seems unnecessary (31%)

Participants also noted these additional barriers:

- Historical tension between college and program
- Time constraints
- Territorial issues

When asked "What strategies have strengthened your relationship with local colleges?"

- 12 programs selected outreach and taking the initiative to set up meetings.
- 11 programs selected attending college events.
- 8 programs selected offering trainings or workshops.

Top Priorities for WCSAP Campus Work

Thank you so much for your feedback and commitment to working with survivors on campus! The work of community sexual assault advocates is essential in every area of our communities, including responding to survivors on campus. Often, the role of a community advocate is conflated with the role of a campus-based advocate. Like the work advocates do with the criminal justice system, the role of a community advocate is separate and distinct from systems advocates. Community based advocates are often the only professional that survivors meet who is able to offer privilege and unconditional support for the choices that survivors make. This distinction makes the work community sexual assault advocates essential to survivors on campus.

In the coming year WCSAP will provide training and publications on the intersection of Title IX and survivors' experiences on campus, campus misconduct hearings in Washington State, and confidentiality, privacy, and privilege on college campuses. WCSAP will continue working with colleges and universities in our state to inform campuses about the role and importance of advocacy. We will increase our efforts to support to programs through technical assistance in person and over the phone. We look forward to working with many of you on this important issue for survivors. Please reach out if you have any needs in this area.