

Crime Victims' Institute



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Our Mission

The mission of the Crime Victims' Institute is to :

- Conduct research to examine the impact of crime on victims of all ages in order to promote a better understanding of victimization
- Improve services to victims
- Assist victims of crime by giving them a voice
- Inform victim-related policymaking at the state and local levels.

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College of Criminal Justice
Sam Houston State University

Examining the Issues

Sexual Assault During Military Service

By Nicole Wilkes

Summer is oftentimes filled with vacations, watermelon, and hot weather here in Texas. The unofficial start to summer is marked by Memorial Day, a holiday to honor individuals who have served in the military. As we take time to recognize the members of the armed forces, we oftentimes neglect the impact and prevalence of sexual violence with other military members amongst those who serve.

Research has indicated that 21-25% of women reported experiencing sexual assault during military service and 24-60% of women reported sexual harassment.¹ A recent study with active duty military members found 6.1% of women and 1.2% of men experienced unwanted sexual contact during 2012.² Of those who were assaulted, only 17% reported the incident to a military authority or organization and 16% reported to both a civilian and military authority or organization.³

Sexual assault in the military has been in the limelight for several years. The United States Congress and the Department of Defense have taken an active approach to prevent further sexual violence and support survivors when they report an assault. In recent years they have developed programs to as-

sist victims. For example, victims can now elect to have an independent attorney, known as Special Victims Counsel, to assist in navigating the military justice system and make motions on behalf of the victim.

The Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC) military program began in 2005. SARCs serve as a single point of contact for coordinating sexual assault services. They can assist victims throughout their case, starting with reporting. SARCs are available in numerous regions of Texas, including San Antonio, Corpus Christi, and Fort Worth.

1. Kelly, U. A., Skelton, K., Patel, M., & Bradley, B. (2011). More than military sexual trauma: Interpersonal violence, PTSD, and mental health in women veterans. *Research in nursing & health*, 34(9), 891-467.
2. Defense Manpower Data Center. (2013). *8678 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Active Duty Members* (Survey Note No. 6457-007). Retrieved from http://www.sapr.mil/public/docs/research/2012_Workplace_and_Gender_Relations_Survey_of_Active_Duty_Members-Survey_Note_and-Briefing.pdf
3. Ibid.

Focus on:

Victoria "Torie" Camp

Torie Camp is an independent consultant with more than 15 years of experience in the non-profit and policy arenas. Specializing in anti-sexual assault initiatives, Torie has worked with a variety of grassroots, community nonprofit, criminal justice-based, and statewide organizations to improve services for sexual assault survivors. Her expertise also includes nonprofit management, policy development, legislative advocacy, training and technical assistance.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (M.Ed.), Torie began her career as a Rape Prevention Educator, providing sexual assault awareness programming to fifteen counties in rural Alabama. Later she became Executive Director of the Alabama Coalition Against Rape (ACAR) where she oversaw the transition of Federal Rape Prevention Education grants from the Alabama Health Department to the agency. Additionally, Torie held a variety of positions at the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) including Training Specialist, Special Projects Coordinator, and Deputy Director. While at TAASA she authored the Texas Model Protocol for Responding to Sexual Assault, conducted multiple needs assessments, and led the agency's legislative initiatives including the \$5 strip club fee, the rape survivors' emergency room treatment act, expansion of sexual assault protective orders, and mandatory testing of Texas' backlogged sexual assault kits.

Torie has been an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at Austin, is a licensed Texas law enforcement instructor and is a gubernatorial appointee to the Texas Crime Victims' Institute Advisory Board.

Torie was awarded the 2014 Defensor Pacem medal by Sam Houston State University



Integrating Crime Victims' Issues into University and College Curricula

On May 1, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) announced the release of "Integrating Crime Victims' Issues into College and University Curricula," a series of multidisciplinary educational model materials designed to broaden college and university students' exposure to and awareness of criminal victimization and its impact on victims and teach them about helpful responses when encountering victims. This free online resource (available at: <https://www.ovcttac.gov/educators/>) consists of curriculum kits and teaching materials, including class exercises and sample assignments; a faculty involvement guide with steps for creating a supportive learning environment for students and responding to student experiences with victimization; and templates of internship agreements to increase undergraduate and graduate student placements in victim services. The overall goal of the curriculum is to provide comprehensive and quality education and training materials to educate future victim service providers and allied professionals by

integrating victims' issues into the Nation's educational system and to professionalize the field of victim services.

The College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University is ahead of the curve in several respects. Victimology is a required course for our undergraduate criminal justice majors, recognizing that individuals working in all areas of the criminal justice system interact regularly with victims and should have some understanding of victimization and related issues. SHSU is also one of very few universities to have a specific undergraduate degree in Victim Studies, as well as a master's degree program designed for victim service professionals (MS Victim Services Management online). You can find more information about SHSU's Victim Studies/Services programs at:

<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/criminal-justice/departments/criminal-justice-and-criminology/academic-programs.html>



CVI Website

The Crime Victims Institute is excited to introduce our redesigned and updated website! Here you may access updated news and events, publications, and the interactive CVI Resource Directory as well as many other features.

Please take a moment to visit:

www.crimevictimsinstitute.org





Upcoming Events



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| 2014 VOCA National Training Conference Boston, MA | 8/19-20/2014 |
| 26th Annual Crimes Against Children Conference Dallas, TX | 8/11-14/2014 |
| 2014 National Sexual Assault Conference Pittsburgh, PA | 8/20-22/2014 |
| Institute on Violence Abuse & Trauma 19th International Conference San Diego, CA | 9/7-10/2014 |
| 2014 National Center for Victims of Crime National Conference Miami, FL | 9/17-19/2014 |
| 28th Statewide Conference- Texas Council on Family Violence Galveston, TX | 9/21-24/2014 |

Share your ideas:

We welcome your input. Please send issues or topics you would like to see CVI conduct research on to: crimevictims@shsu.edu



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