

Partnerships

- The Connecticut Judicial Branch entered into agreements with six acute care hospitals to participate in the SAFE Program.
- CONNSACS obtained grant funding to provide a staff liaison, multi-disciplinary trainings to key stakeholders, and to host a two-day statewide sexual assault conference.
- The Connecticut Forensic Science Laboratory provides training sessions on specific evidence collection techniques to SAFEs.
- Prosecutors have provided guidance on certain SAFE Program policies and legal issues related to sexual assault.
- The Connecticut Judicial Branch contracted with Quinnipiac University to provide a seven-week SAFE training course to qualified nurses and physicians.
- Planned Parenthood of Southern New England Connecticut agreed to serve as a preceptor site for students who complete the SAFE training.
- Participating hospitals also serve as a clinical site for precepting SAFEs.
- The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association has provided assistance in the promotion of the SAFE Program.

Progress

- The following equipment has been made available to participating hospitals: locked refrigerators to maintain chain of custody, LED forensic light sources to aid in the detection of evidence that is not visibly seen, and GynoCarts, which convert a bed or stretcher into a gynecological exam space.
- An on-call system is utilized to dispatch SAFEs to hospitals. SAFEs respond within 60 minutes to the designated hospital to provide services.
- Between its first day of operation on December 2, 2010 and December 31, 2011, 163 sexual assault victims received expert care from program SAFEs.
- 30 nurses have participated in the program to date. 21 of these nurses received their specialized training through the SAFE Course at Quinnipiac University.
- Secured Digital Forensic Imaging (SDFI) systems, state-of-the art technology that captures and stores digital images of evidence, were provided to the participating hospitals.

Budget

- The SAFE Program is federally funded through a Recovery Act Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and a Recovery Act STOP Violence Against Women (VAW) grant from the U.S. Department of Justice awarded to the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management. The JAG grant ends February 2013 and the VAW grant ended December 2011.

Contact

- For additional information, please contact SAFE Program Coordinator Denise Covington, MSN, RN, CEN, SANE-A at 860-263-2760, 860-748-3706, or by email at: denise.covington@jud.ct.gov

**Gail Burns-Smith Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program
December 2, 2010 – December 31, 2011 Statistics**

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE) program launched on December 2, 2010 with hours of operation Thursday 7:00 a.m. to Monday 7:00 a.m. On April 1, 2011, the hours of the SAFE program were expanded to 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The SAFE program was called by participating hospitals 180 times and the SAFE program provided services 163 times.

The following statistics reflect SAFE program utilization for the first year of operation:

Order of Program Utilization	Number of Cases	Busiest Month(s)	Busiest Day(s)	Percentage of Cases
Hartford Hospital	56	August	Saturday	34
St. Francis Hospital	27	January and October	Thursday	17
The Hospital of Central CT	26	May, June, and September	Tuesday and Saturday	16
Windham Hospital	23	September and October	Sunday	14
Middlesex Hospital	17	July	Sunday	10
Manchester Memorial Hospital	14	May, June, and October	Sunday and Wednesday	9

Patient Age Range

13-17	31	19%
18-24	58	36%
25-59	64	39%
60 +	5	3%
Unknown	5	3%

Patient Race/Ethnicity

White	87	53%
Black	39	24%
Hispanic	29	18%
Other	8	5%

Patient Sex

Female	159	98%
Male	4	2%

Case Duration

< 2 hours	10	6%
2-3 hours	20	12%
3-4 hours	50	31%
4-5 hours	39	24%
5-6 hours	25	16%
> 6 hours	9	5%
Unknown	10	6%

Case Frequency by Day of Week

Sunday	36	22%
Monday	19	12%
Tuesday	21	13%
Wednesday	22	13%
Thursday	17	10%
Friday	16	10%
Saturday	32	20%

Reporting Outcomes

<i>Assault Reported to Police at Time of Exam</i>		
Reported	108	66%
Not Reported	55	34%
<i>Relationship of Assailant to Victim</i>		
Stranger	59	36%
Non-stranger	96	59%
Unknown/other	8	5%
<i>Stranger Assault</i>		
Reported	41	69%
Not Reported	18	31%
<i>Non-stranger Assault</i>		
Reported	63	66%
Not Reported	33	34%
<i>Unknown/Other Assault</i>		
Reported	4	50%
Not Reported	4	50%