

# ACCESS TO SEXUAL ASSAULT CARE AND EXAMS ON KANSAS COLLEGE CAMPUSES – A RESEARCH-TO-ACTION PROJECT

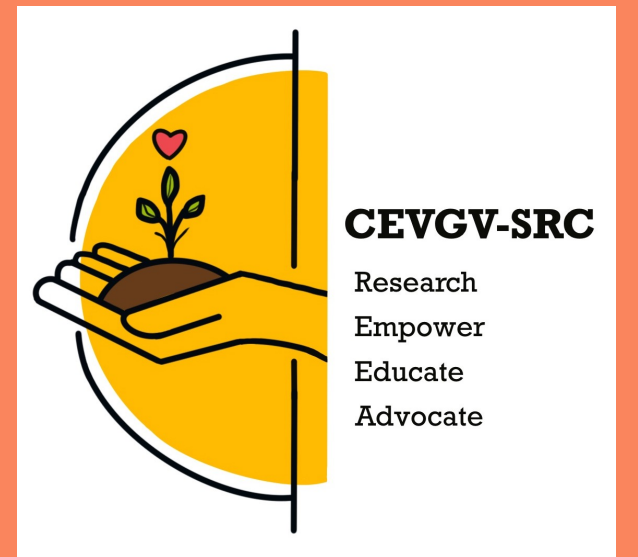


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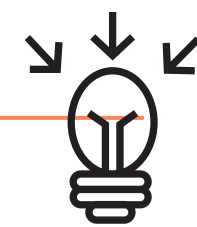


## INTRODUCTION



Obtaining evidence through sexual assault forensic examinations is a crucial step in the prosecution/conviction of sexual assault crimes within the legal system (Kjærulff et al., 2019). However, the unreported sexual assault rate on college campuses is staggering, not mentioning the low utilization of SANE exams. Various factors contribute to underreporting/low utilization of SANE exams, including access to the Sexual Assault Kit, transportation barriers to SANE exam locations and an overall lack of awareness pertaining to the procedure (Thiede & Miyamoto, 2021). Research has shown, campuses offering SANE examination services experience a utilization rate among students that exceeds expectations. Many victims of sexual assault, particularly marginalized students such as those living in poverty or belonging to communities of color, often lack options for post-assault health services, despite some students having access to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) in local hospitals (Campbell et al., 2023)

## KEY THEMES



- Lack of Sexual Assault Exam Services in Kansas Universities:
  - None of the universities in Kansas offer sexual assault exam services for their students on campus.
  - Contrast with other universities where SANE services are integrated into student health programs.
- Integration of SANE Services in Student Health Programs:
  - Many universities integrate SANE services into student health programs, often in collaboration with nursing programs.
  - On campuses providing these services, students are aware of the steps needed to access care after an assault.
- Impact on Reported Cases:
  - Rates of reported cases are rising after the implementation of SANE services on college campuses.

## RESULTS/FINDINGS



### Underreporting of Sexual Assault on College Campuses:

• **More than 90 percent of sexual assaults on college campuses in the United States remain undisclosed (Civic Nation, 2023).**

• **Factors contributing to underreporting:**

- Challenges related to transportation.
- Limited access to supportive resources.
- External pressures influencing the decision to report.

### Utilization of Sexual Assault Forensic Examinations (SANE exams):

- Crucial for prosecution/conviction of sexual assault crimes.
- Staggering unreported sexual assault rate on college campuses.
- Factors contributing to low utilization of SANE exams (Thiede & Miyamoto, 2021):
  - Limited access to Sexual Assault Kits.

◦ Transportation barriers to SANE exam locations.

◦ Lack of awareness about the procedure.

◦ Research shows campuses offering SANE examination services experience higher utilization rates among students (Campbell et al., 2023).

### Vulnerability of Young Adults to Sexual Crimes:

◦ College-age demographic most susceptible to violent sexual crimes.

◦ Statistical data:

◦ Women three times more likely to experience assault while enrolled in college.

◦ Men face an increased likelihood of being subjected to such crimes during college attendance (RAINN, 2024).

### Prevailing challenge: Low reporting rates and lack of justice.

#### Contributing Factors:

- Lack of awareness regarding available resources.
- Barriers impeding the reporting process.

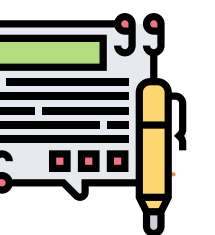
## CONCLUSION



None of the Universities in Kansas offer sexual assault exam services for their students, but many other Universities have integrated SANE services into student health programs, often in collaboration with nursing programs. On campuses that provide these services, students know the needed steps to access care after an assault. Rates of reported cases are rising after these services are being offered on college campuses.

SANE programs provides immediate access to specialized medical care and forensic examinations for survivors of sexual assault. By having SANE programs directly on campus, students can receive timely and comprehensive support, which is essential for their physical and emotional recovery.

## CITATIONS



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### STEPS TO REACH IMPLEMENTATION

BASED ON RESEARCH AND SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES  
CONTACT THE AUTHOR FOR MORE REFERENCES

1

Identify key stakeholders: Student organizations, university administration, healthcare providers, law enforcement, etc. Conduct needs assessment: Survey students, analyze campus resources, assess existing support services.

2

Hold informational sessions: Educate stakeholders about the importance of a SANE program and the benefits it offers. - Recruit members: Invite representatives from various departments and organizations to join the coalition.

3

Define the mission and objectives of the coalition. Set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals for implementing the SANE program.

4

Divide tasks among coalition members based on their expertise and resources. Create subcommittees to focus on different aspects of program implementation (e.g., training protocols, funding, outreach).

5

Build partnerships with local hospitals, advocacy groups, and law enforcement agencies. Organize training sessions for SANE program staff and volunteers. Develop outreach strategies to raise awareness about the program among students and faculty.

6

Launch the SANE program on campus. Monitor progress and make adjustments as needed based on feedback and evaluation. Continuously assess the program's effectiveness and impact on campus.