



Fiscal Year 2021-2022

ST. CROIX VALLEY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT



About Us

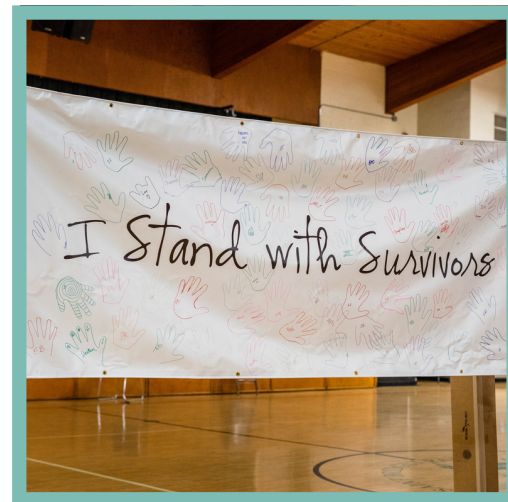
St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team is a 501c3 non-profit; providing medical exams, forensic evidence collection, education and advocacy for survivors of all ages of interpersonal violence, strangulation, human trafficking and sexual exploitation in the counties of Barron, Pierce, Polk, Rusk and St. Croix. We are staffed by an Executive Director, Operational Manager, Advocacy Coordinator, Forensic Nurse Coordinator, Forensic Nurse Supervisor, Forensic RNs, and countless volunteers.



Mission and Vision

Our Mission is to improve community health and safety by providing comprehensive services and resources that respond to and prevent interpersonal violence.

St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team works to end sexual violence through providing comprehensive support and medical services to Victim/Survivors as well as encouraging and teaching social change. We believe through proactive education we can change societal norms and beliefs that allows sexual violence to continue to be perpetrated in our society.



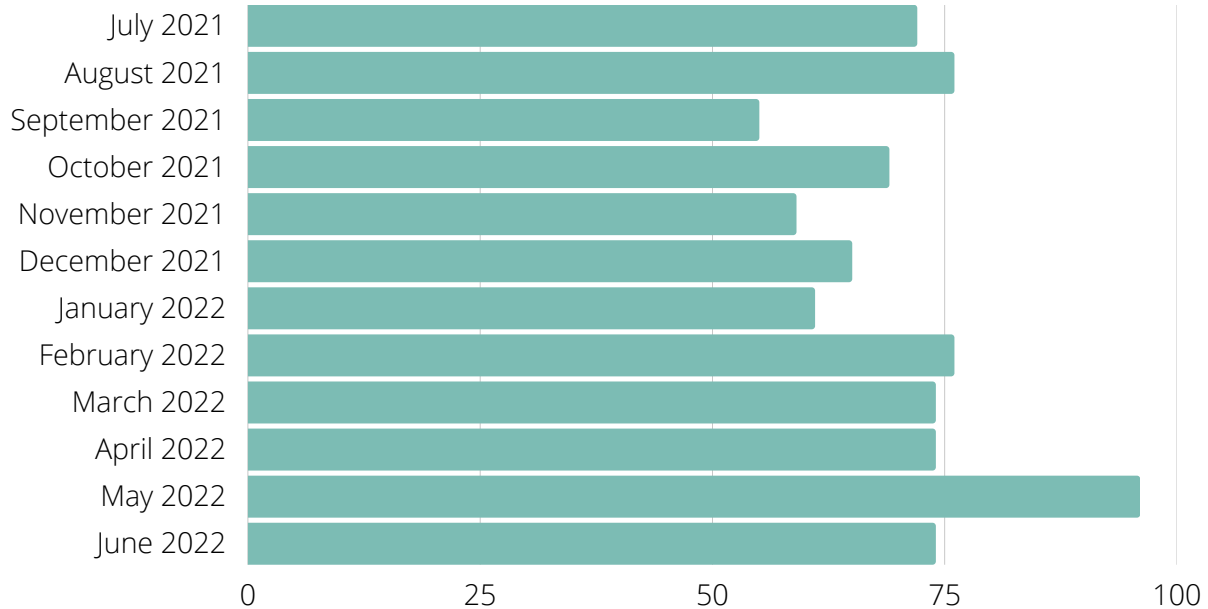
WE SERVED

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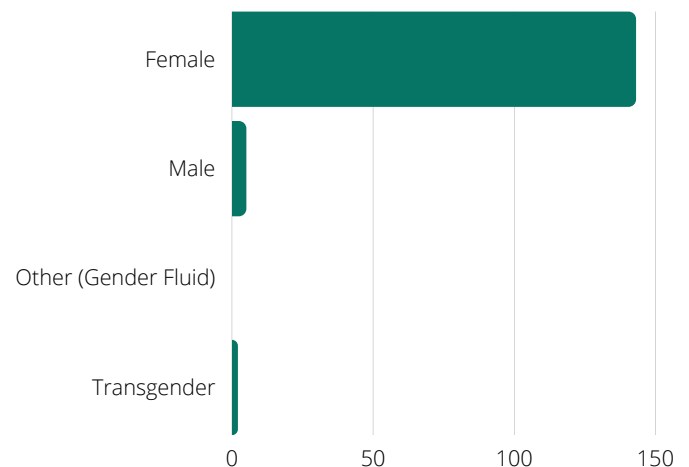


*83 men, women, and children in FY 2021-2022.
With those clients, we had 793 interactions by
providing advocacy, information, and referrals.*

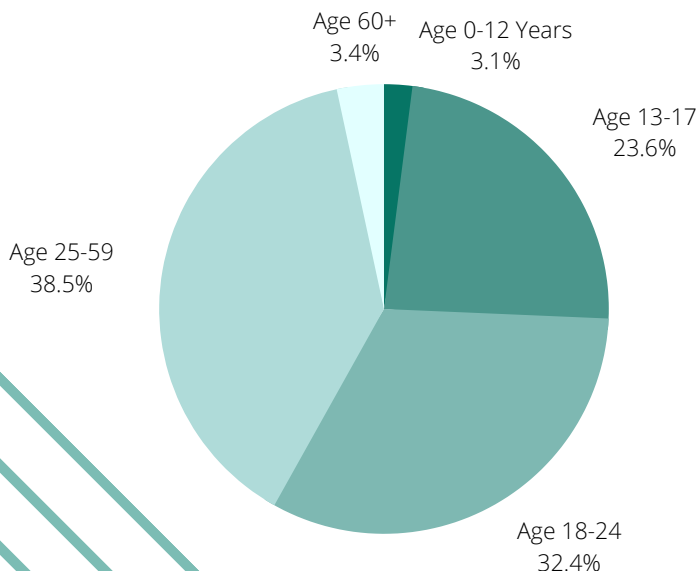
Number of Clients by Month



Gender of New Clients



Age of New Clients

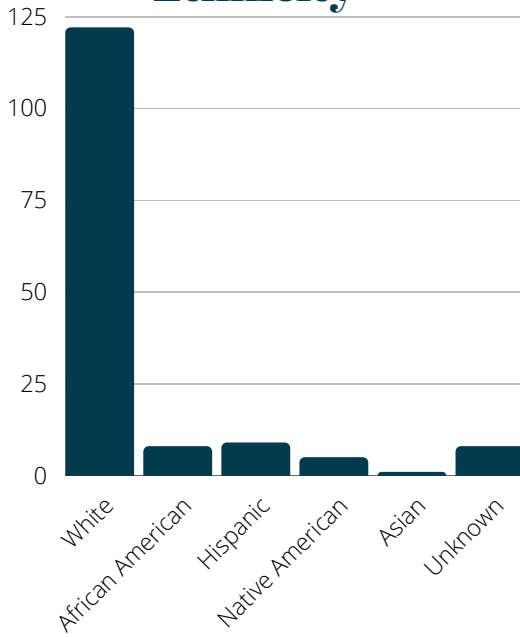


Demographics

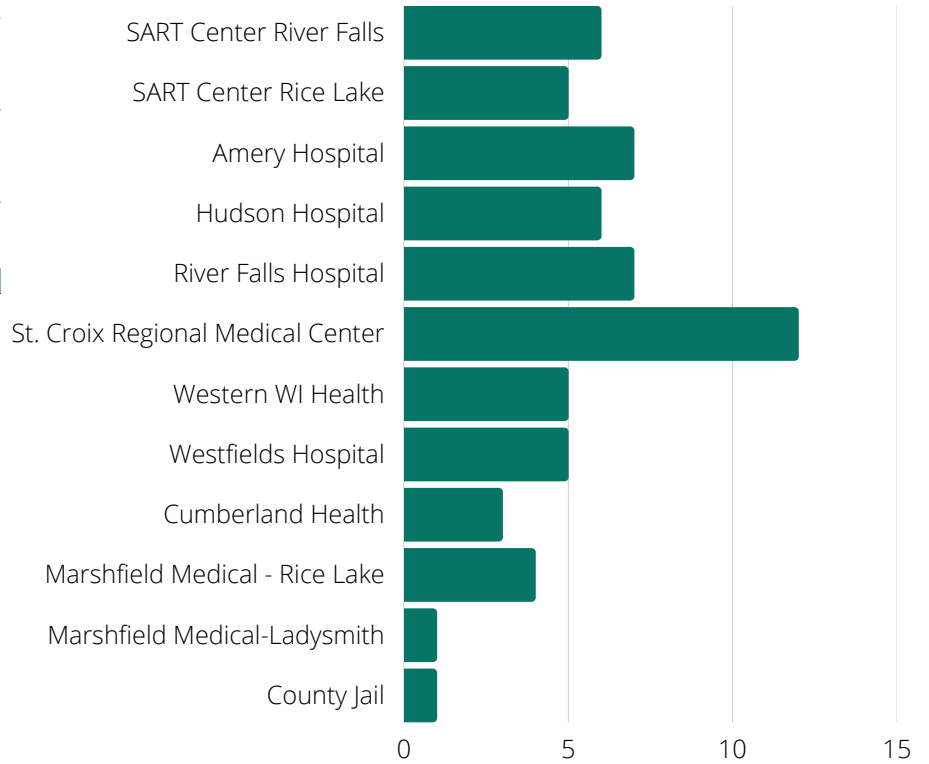
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Ethnicity

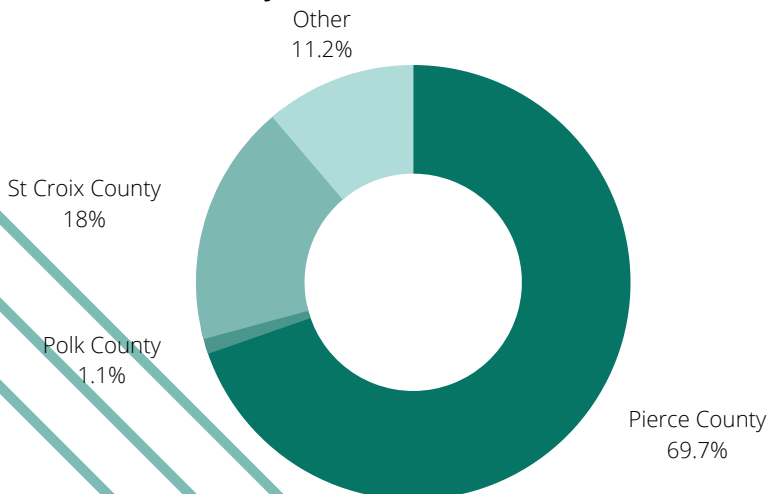


Location of Examination

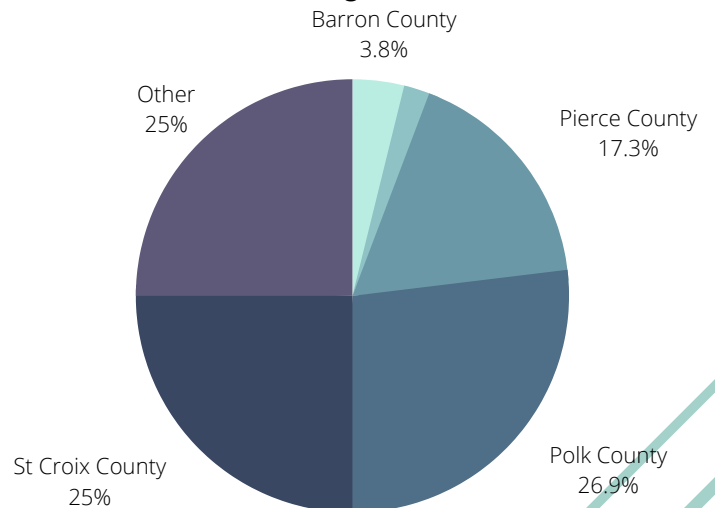


Law Enforcement Involvement

Advocacy Cases



Nursing Cases



Board of Directors

TOM GUNDERSON, CHAIR
CVTC – RIVER FALLS CAMPUS

PETER G. POTTS-SHUFELT, MSN,RN,CEN| -VICE CHAIR

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VICTIM WITNESS – ST. CROIX COUNTY

ADAM GINGERY, TREASURER
CFO-MARSHFIELD CLINIC

ANN GUSTAFSON, CO-FOUNDER
ST. CROIX COUNTY

DESIREE WIESEN-MARTIN
PROFESSOR - UWRF

ELIZABETH RICE
DIRECTOR OF LCO WOMEN'S
EMERGENCY SHELTER MEMBER

LAURA DOEBEREINER, CSW
BARRON COUNTY MEMBER

LINCOLN KELLER, LSW
PIERCE COUNTY MEMBER

DR. BRADLEY NEVINS, PH.D., L.P.
ALLIED MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALTY
GROUP MEMBER

CHRIS LOOS, RETIRED
HAMMOND POLICE DEPT.

CHRIS FITZGERALD, SHERIFF
BARRON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CHELSEA ZIMMERMAN
VOLT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

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Staff

MELISSA VESPERMAN ~ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FORENSIC
NURSE COORDINATOR

WENDY DERNOVSEK ~ OPERATIONAL MANAGER

MELANIE CAREY~ FORENSIC NURSE SUPERVISOR

ANNELISE HUGHES ~ ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH
COORDINATOR

Forensic Nurses

AMY HAYS

MELISSA VESPERMAN

ALLISON MORK

JODI SIMMONS

SARAH POLT

ROSE SMITH

MOLLY BUNE

TERESA HAWKE

PARKER BANDOLI

ASHLEY PRICE

DAWN QUADERER

MARY SLISZ-CHUCKA

MELANIE CAREY

EVYN ENGELHARDT

TONYA STEINES

ANNIE WEST

CHELSEA COLLINS



Donors and Partners

Foundation Donors:

- Otto Bremer
- Fred B. and Katherine C. Andersen Foundation
- United Way-St. Croix Valley
- Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
- WM H. Phipps Foundation
- Weekes Family Foundation

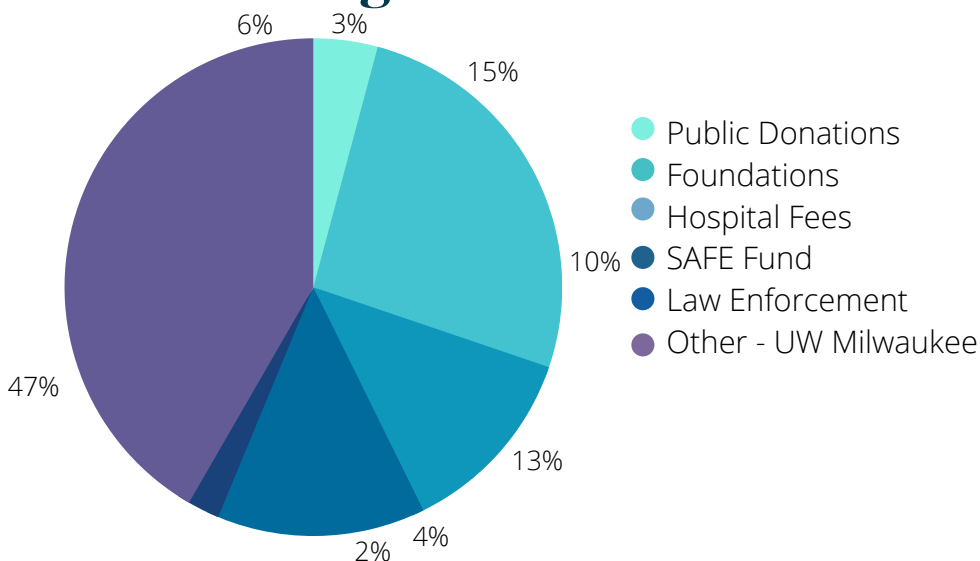
Community Donors:

- Hudson Hospital Foundation
- Pierce-Pepin Cooperative
- Polk-Burnett Cooperative
- New Richmond Area Community Foundation
- Westfields Foundation
- Allina Health
- St. Croix Electric Cooperative
- N. Hudson Pepper Festival

Medical Partners:

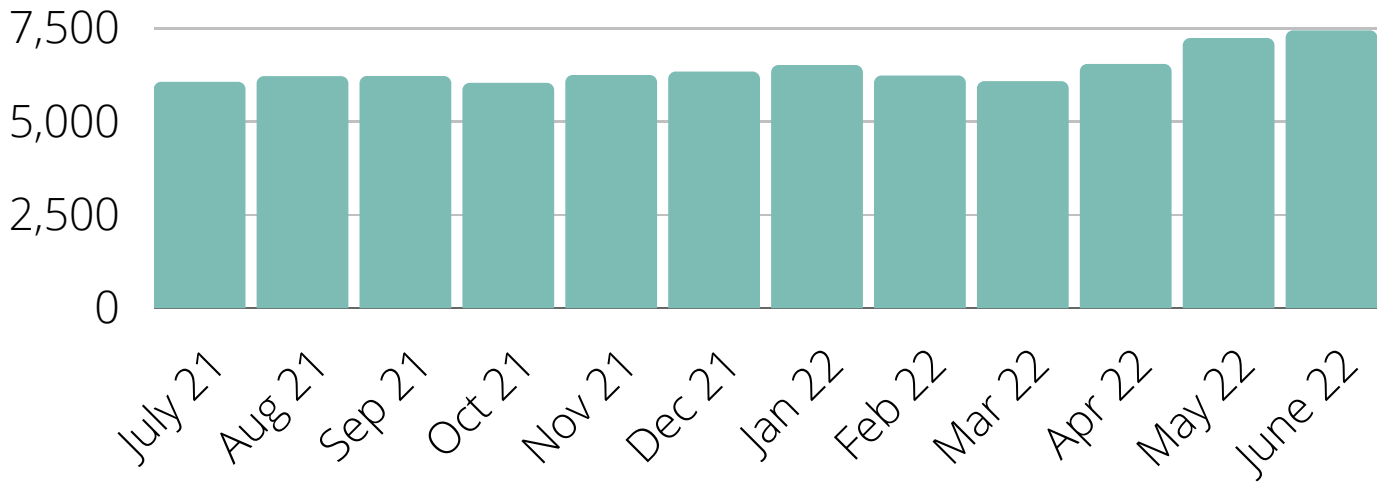
- Amery Hospital
- Cumberland HealthCare
- Hudson Hospital
- Marshfield Medical Center-Rice Lake
- Mayo Clinic Health System- Northland
- Osceola Medical Center
- River Falls Area Hospital
- St. Croix Regional Medical Center
- Western WI Health
- Westfields
- Marshfield Medical Center-Ladysmith

Funding Sources

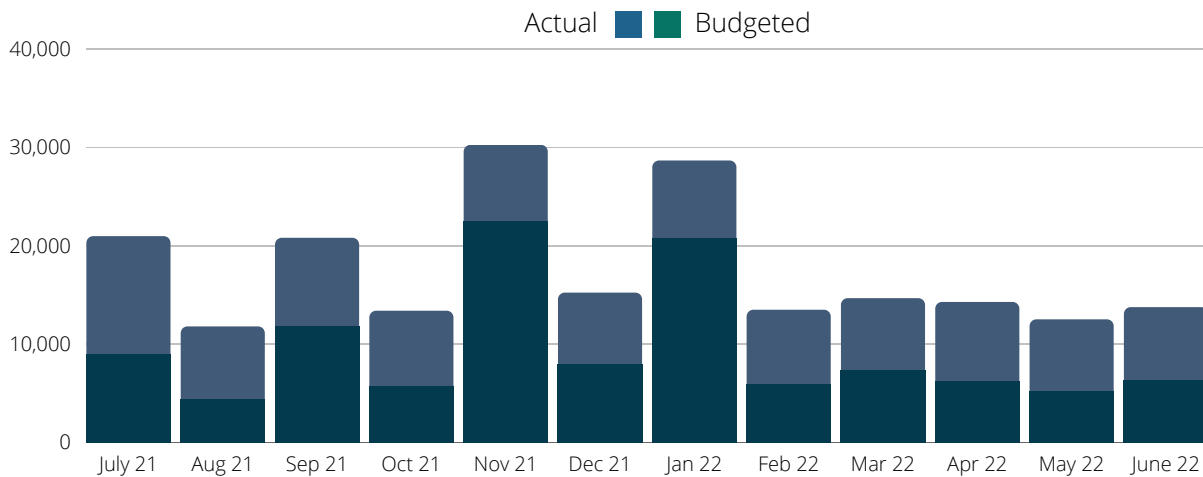


Finances

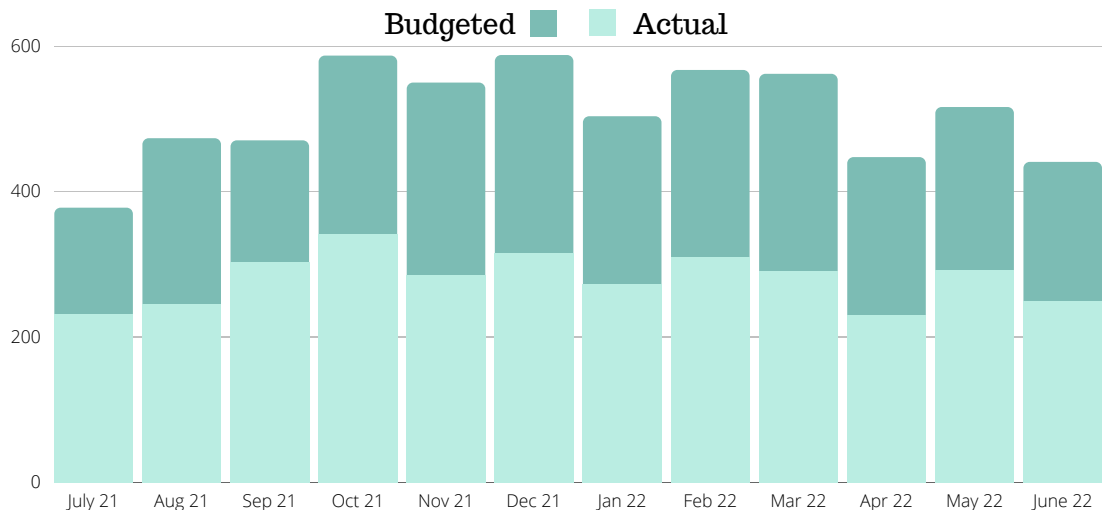
Expense Per Visit



Cost Per Exam: Budgeted vs. Actual



Cash on Hand: Budgeted vs. Actual



UW Milwaukee: 'Tracking Our Truth'

St. Croix Valley SART has concluded our grant partnership with the University of Milwaukee College of Nursing, for the project Tracking Our Truth. While recognizing that interpersonal violence against women is higher among American Indian Women than any other racially defined group, we were able to focus efforts on outreach, community-based exam options and partnerships with the St. Croix Chippewa Tribe and the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe. This grant allowed us more options to provide to American Indians of sexual assault and strangulation through culturally-supportive advocacy focused medical care at non-system based locations. As a result of this grant and outreach we were able to see, to date, 8 patients at our community-based exam site in Rice Lake, WI and our American Indian patient population doubled. We participated in training 8 new forensic nurses and approximately 40 advocates working near or with tribes. Tracking our Truth was an amazing benefit and opportunity to support and empower survivors in their healing journey allowing them to make the best choice for them in each moment.



Education

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St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team is invited to present at multiple schools in Pierce and St. Croix counties teaching to middle and high school students on the importance of healthy relationships, consent, coercion, and all forms of abuse. We believe this proactive and preventative approach allows students to process and identify the concept and actions of interpersonal violence in a safe learning environment.

Preventive education is known to be an important and effective tool in reducing the volume of sexual violence in our local communities.

St. Croix Valley SART had the wonderful opportunity to work with the following school in fiscal year 2021-2022:

- High Schools:
 - Amery High School - Freshman Health Classes
 - Baldwin Woodville High School - Health Classes
 - Ellsworth High School - Healthy Relationships Classes
 - Elmwood High School - Health Classes
 - Glenwood City High School - Health Class
 - Hudson High School - Peer Helpers
 - Plum City High School - Health Class
 - Prescott High School - Freshman Health Classes
 - Renaissance Academy - All school presentations for grades 9-12
 - River Falls High School - All school presentations for grades 9-12
- Middle Schools:
 - Baldwin-Woodville: Viking Middle School - Health Classes
 - New Richmond Middle School - All students in 8th grade
 - River Falls: Meyer Middle School - 8th grade Health Classes

**Total number of students
reached:**

3,170

**Total number of school
presentations**

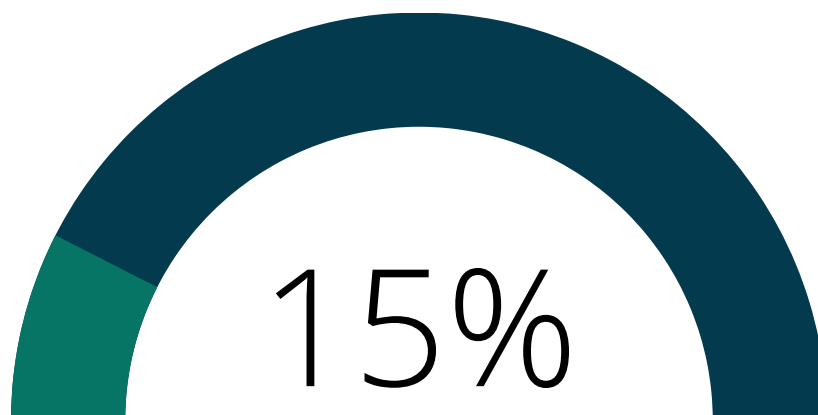
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Nursing

All survivors that seek medical forensic care with St. Croix Valley SART are screened for non-fatal strangulation. Non-fatal strangulation is a form of asphyxia produced by continuous application of pressure to the throat. In the context of domestic abuse and sexual assault, it is a tool used by one person to threaten, frighten, and subjugate another person. It is an act of abusive power and control. Research shows that it is a high-risk marker for intimate partner femicide. Strangulation can cause to name a few, loss of consciousness, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, brain damage, hoarse voice, motor and speech disorders and long-term physical effects include cardiac arrest, stroke, miscarriage, incontinence, speech disorders, seizures, paralysis, and other forms of long-term brain injury. For the fiscal year of 2021-2022, 11 patients (15%) were strangled and evaluated for health concerns and consequences. This also involved extensive discharge education and instructions to make the patient aware of the danger of returning to such a relationship and the potential long term health consequences. Strangulation is, in fact, one of the best predictors for the subsequent homicide of victims of domestic violence. One study showed that “the odds of becoming an attempted homicide increased by about seven-fold for women who had been strangled by their partner” (Journal of Emergency Medicine, 2008). Victims may have no visible injuries whatsoever, yet because of underlying brain damage due to the lack of oxygen during the strangulation assault, they may have serious internal injuries or die days, even weeks later.

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

11 patients received a strangulation forensic exam



Advocacy

11



Advocacy does not start or stop with an sexual assault nursing exam. Many advocacy interactions occur without an exam or after the exam is completed. Advocacy supports a survivor through their healing journey by connecting to resources, listening and support, responding to crisis calls, and supporting the survivor through the legal process if they choose to report to law enforcement.

For the FY 2021-2022, St. Croix Valley SART Advocacy had a total of **630** Advocacy ONLY interactions (meaning no nurse exam was completed for this survivor) for **52** survivors. Advocacy provided a total of **815** interactions for all survivors who sought out services from St. Croix Valley SART.

This averages to 12 interactions per survivor. Interactions include: text check-ins, phone conversations, in-person meetings, etc. Depending on the type of case, the average number of interactions is significantly greater based upon the needs of that population.

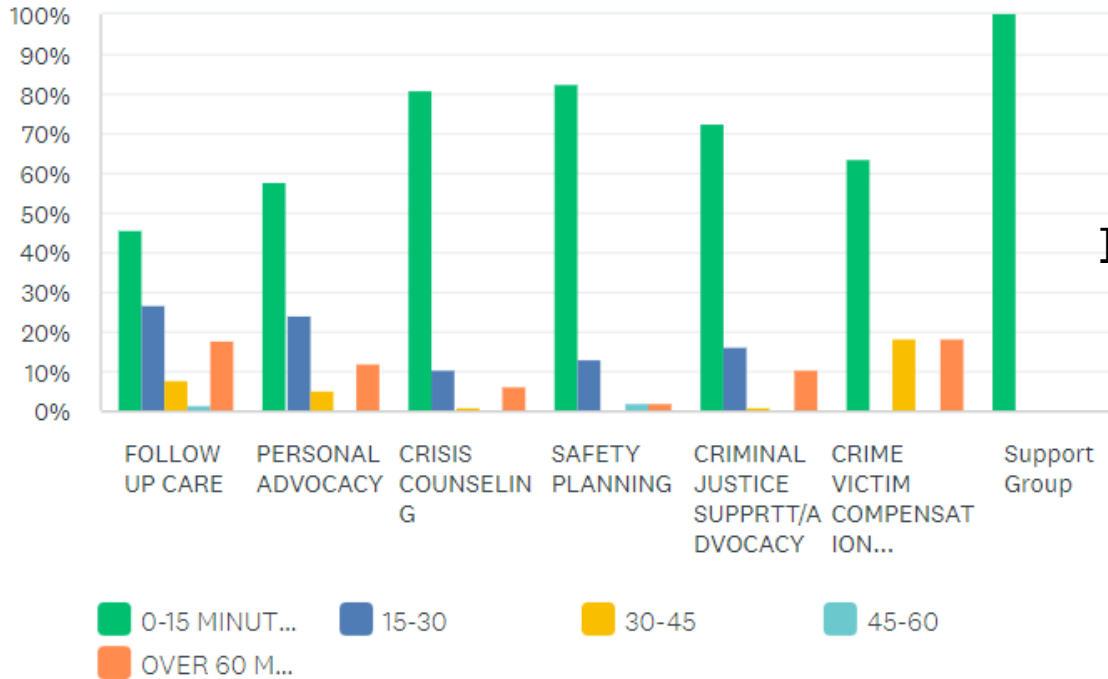
	New Advocacy Survivor	On-going Advocacy Survivor Interactions
Child/Adolescent Sexual Abuse	43	369
Adult Sexual Assault	39	352
Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault	25	149
Elder Abuse	4	40
Sex/Human Trafficking	4	9
Teen Dating Abuse	22	274
Strangulation	2	29
Stalking/Harassment	8	34

Advocacy

12

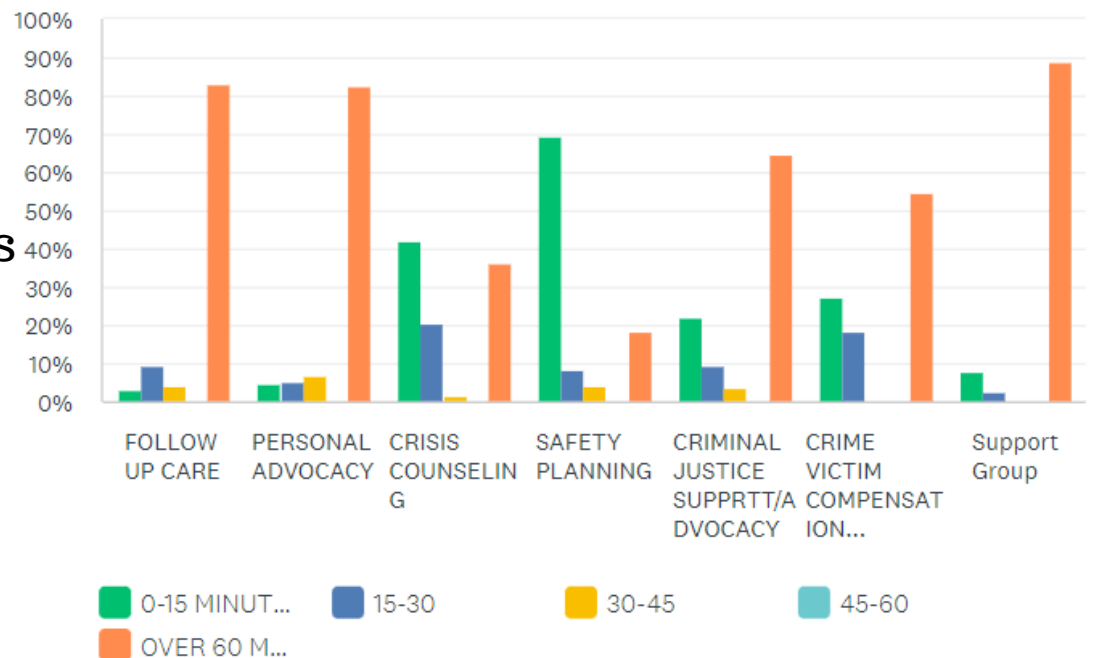


PHONE



Phone Services

IN-PERSON



In-Person Services

Events and Fundraisers



St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team hosts an array of events throughout the year including:

Meat Raffle at Jonesy's local Bar and Grill in Hudson:

Thanks to Jonesy's Local for hosting our Meat Raffle! This community event was a wonderful opportunity to fundraise for survivors.



Annual Clay Shoot Fundraiser:

Our annual Clay Shoot is typically held in late Spring or Summer. The event consists of a clay shoot competition, Raffle, Silent Auction, and Dinner/Awards.



Milwaukee burger night:

Milwaukee Burger Company hosted a fundraiser night where 10% of all sales were donated to St. Croix Valley SART.



Give Big:

GiveBIG is a online fundraiser event over the course of 24hrs where donors can give to multiple non-profits in the St. Croix Valley area.

Toy Drive:

Our Annual Toy Drive is one of our most participated in events. Community members donate toys for kiddos who are at risk and going through complex court cases, experiencing interpersonal violence. Jonesy's Local Bar and Grill volunteered to be one of the drop-off locations for this event!

Help us unite all nonprofits in the St. Croix Valley for a powerful day of giving on April 26

Support St. Croix Valley SART during giveBIG St. Croix Valley as we raise money to support our Advocacy and Nursing Programs at www.givebigscv.org/organizations/St-Croix-Valley-Sart




Community Night at THE BURGER FEZ

Please join us this Monday February 1st from 3pm-9pm at Milwaukee Burger Company in Hudson, WI. 10% of all sales will be donated to St. Croix Valley SART!




Join us for a night of great food for a good cause!

**Thank you to all our supporters,
sponsors, and volunteers.**

**We could not operate or serve
our community without your
dedication and support!**

