



ANNUAL REPORT

ST. CROIX VALLEY SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM

1200 Hosford St. Suite 203
Hudson, WI 54016

715-425-6443

www.stcroixvalleysart.org

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Executive Summary

FY 2025-2026 Overview

This past year has been one of continued growth, stronger connections, and an increasing sense of what is possible for St. Croix Valley SART. As awareness of our services continues to grow, so do the opportunities to expand our reach, strengthen our work, and respond to the needs of the communities we serve.

One of the most encouraging areas of growth this year has been the increased involvement of our committees and volunteers. We have seen people step forward with their time, ideas, connections, and energy, particularly in our fundraising efforts. This support has allowed us to think differently about how we build sustainability and ensure SART remains strong for years to come.

Our partnerships continue to be an essential part of our success. Relationships with healthcare organizations, schools, community agencies, donors, volunteers, and other partners allow us to reach more people and provide better, more coordinated services. We are grateful for those who continue to believe in our mission and recognize the importance of working together to support individuals impacted by violence and strengthen our communities.

Sustainability and longevity remain at the forefront as we plan for the future. Growth brings both opportunity and responsibility, and we are committed to making thoughtful decisions that allow us to expand while maintaining the quality, compassion, and responsiveness that are central to our work.

As we look ahead, SART is approaching new and significant opportunities to serve our communities in ways we have not before. There is much to be excited about, and we are moving forward with a strong team, an engaged Board of Directors, dedicated volunteers, and community partners who continue to stand alongside us.

We are proud of the progress we have made this year and incredibly grateful to everyone who continues to be part of SART. Together, we are building an organization prepared not only for what comes next, but for the many years beyond it.

101

**FORENSIC
EXAMS**

19

**PEDIATRIC
FORENSIC EXAMS**

18

**STRANGULATION
EXAMS**

9

**HUMAN TRAFFICING
EXAMS**

197

**VIOLENCE PREVENTION
EDUCATION
PRESENTATIONS**

The scope of sexual violence

According to the CDC sexual violence is a significant problem in the United States.

Sexual violence is sexual activity when consent is not obtained or freely given. It impacts every community and affects both sexes and people of all sexual orientations and ages. Anyone can experience or perpetrate sexual violence.

The perpetrator of sexual violence is usually someone the survivor knows.

Sexual violence has a profound impact on lifelong health, opportunity, and well-being.



1 in 3 Women



1 in 2 LGBTQ+



1 in 6 Men



1 in 4 Girls



1 in 20 Boys



About St. Croix Valley SART

St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team is a 501c3 non-profit; providing medical exams, forensic evidence collection, outreach and violence prevention education for survivors of all ages of interpersonal violence, strangulation, human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Barron, Burnett, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pierce, Polk, Rusk, and St. Croix counties in Wisconsin, and Goodhue County in Minnesota. We are staffed by an Executive Director, Operational Manager, Community Outreach & Prevention Education Coordinator, Forensic Nurse Coordinator, Forensic Nurse Supervisor, Forensic RNs, and countless volunteers.

History:

2001

SCV-SART starts providing medical forensic exams to survivors in Pierce & St. Croix Counties

2010

SCV-SART starts providing medical forensic exams to survivors in Polk County

2018

SCV-SART starts providing medical forensic exams to survivors in Barron County

2020

SCV-SART opens SART Center – Rice Lake. A second community based exam space.

2022

SART Center – River Falls moves to Hudson, WI

2025

SCV-SART starts providing medical forensic exams to survivors in Eau Claire County, Burnett County, and at UW-STOUT Student Health

1999

Task force forms to provide SANE care in Pierce & St. Croix counties

2006

SART Center opens in River Falls, WI

2017

SCV-SART opens Pediatric medical forensic care program

2019–2020

SCV-SART is asked to partner with UW-Milwaukee on “Tracking Our Truth” grant to provide services to Indigenous American Indians in Northern Wisconsin.

2021

SCV-SART starts providing medical forensic exams to survivors in Rusk County

2024

SCV-SART starts providing medical forensic exams to survivors in Goodhue County, MN through Hope Coalition as a third community based exam space.

MISSION

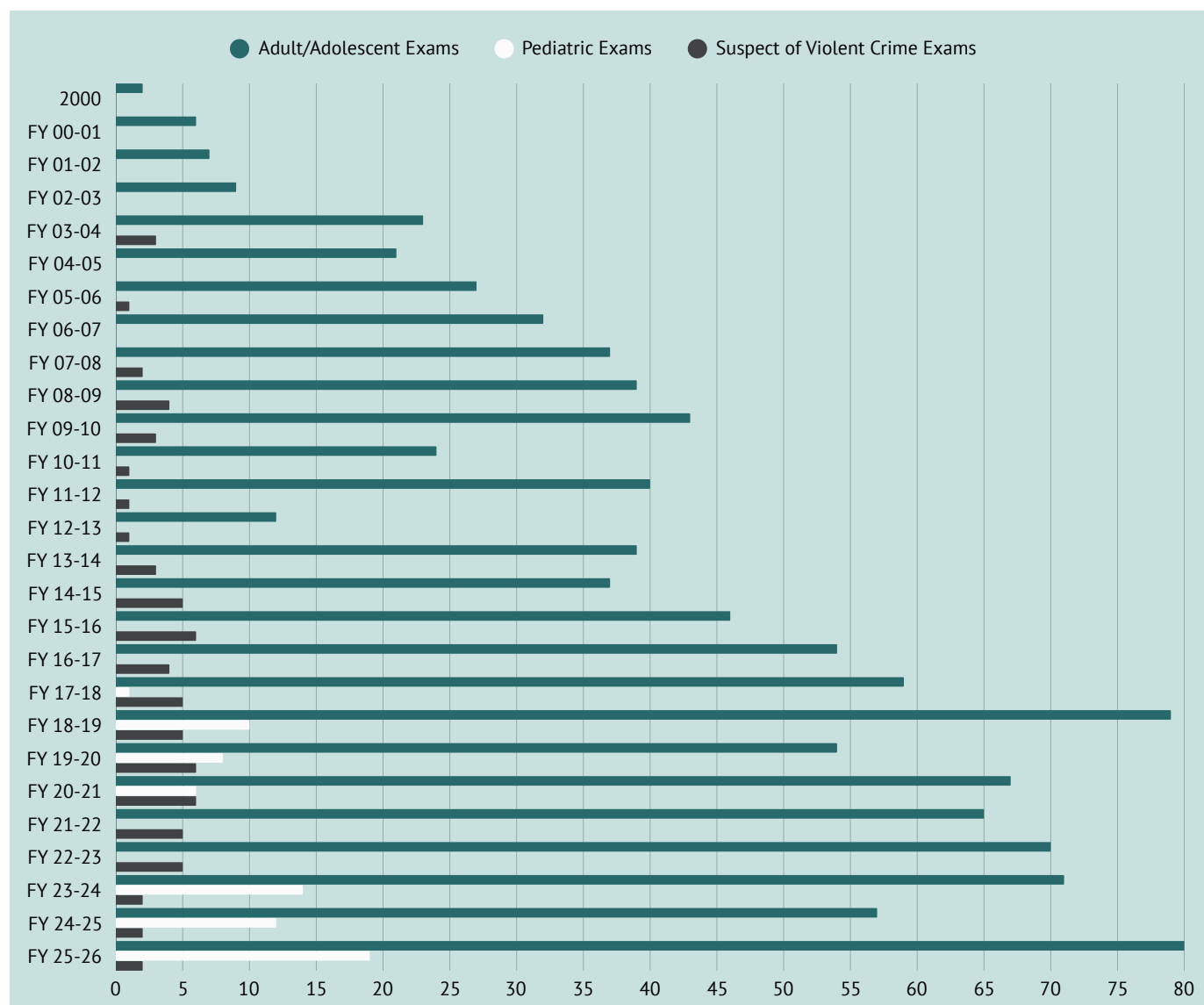
Our Mission is to improve community health and safety by providing comprehensive services and resources that respond to and prevent interpersonal violence. St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team works to end sexual violence through providing comprehensive support and medical services to Victim/Survivors 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.

St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team Exams provided over the years:

For 26 years, St. Croix Valley SART has been committed to providing compassionate, trauma-informed medical forensic care to survivors of sexual assault throughout our region. The chart below highlights the number and types of medical forensic exams provided each year, reflecting the growing need for these critical services.

During the 2025–2026 fiscal year, St. Croix Valley SART provided 101 medical forensic exams—the highest number in our organization's history and the first time we have surpassed 100 exams in a single year. This milestone reflects both the increasing demand for specialized forensic nursing care and our continued commitment to ensuring survivors have access to timely, expert medical services when they need them most.

Behind every number is a person who received compassionate care, evidence-based medical treatment, and support during one of the most difficult moments of their life.



BARRON COUNTY

Cumberland Health

1705 16th Avenue Cumberland, WI 54829

Marshfield Medical Center - Rice Lake

1700 West Stout St. Rice Lake, WI 54868

Mayo Clinic Health System – Northland

1222 E. Woodland Ave Barron, WI 54812



Community-Based Exam Site:

St. Croix Valley SART Inc.

33 Ann Street Rice Lake, WI 54868

BURNETT COUNTY

Burnett Medical Center

257 W St George Ave, Grantsburg, WI 54840

DUNN COUNTY

UW-STOUT Student Health

103 1st Ave W, Menomonie, WI 54751

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

Marshfield Medical Center - Eau Claire

2310 Craig Rd, Eau Claire, WI 54701

GOODHUE COUNTY



Community-Based Exam Site:

Hope Coalition 1926 Old W Main Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

POLK COUNTY

Amery Regional Medical Center

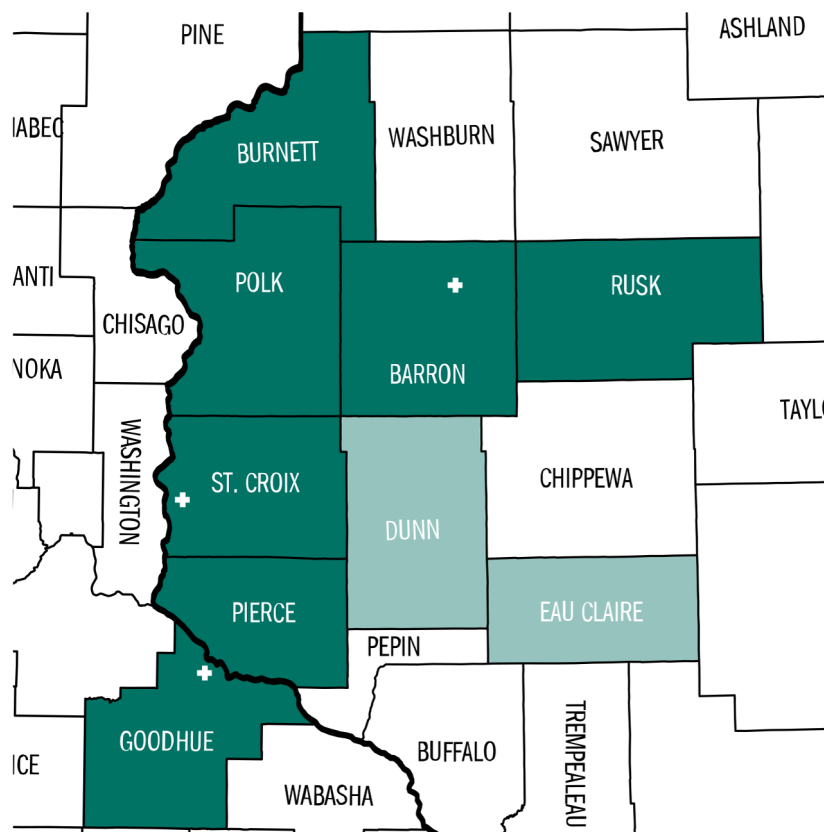
265 Griffin Street East Amery, WI 54001

Osceola Medical Center

2600 65th Ave Osceola, WI 54020

St. Croix Health

235 State St. St. Croix Falls, WI 54024



RUSK COUNTY

Marshfield Medical Center - Ladysmith

1200 Port Arthur Rd Ladysmith, WI 54848

ST. CROIX COUNTY

Hudson Hospital

405 Stageline Road Hudson, WI 54016

River Falls Area Hospital

1629 E Division Street River Falls, WI 54022

Western WI Health

1100 Bergslien Street Baldwin, WI 54002

Westfields Hospital

535 Hospital Road New Richmond, WI 54017



Community-Based Exam Site:

St. Croix Valley SART Inc. 1200 Hosford Street Suite 203
Hudson, WI 54016

Locations of Care

We partner with thirteen different local and rural hospitals to provide care for victims in their own communities. In addition, we have three non-hospital-based exam locations for a more private and calm forensic exam. These are located in Hudson, WI, Rice Lake, WI and Red Wing, MN.

Board of Directors

Laura Doebereiner, Chair
CSW Barron County

Kimberly Randall, MS LPC, Vice Chair
Owner-Randall Therapeutic Services LTD

Pam Bellrichard, Secretary and Founding Member
Victim Witness – St. Croix County

Jordan Hasenberg, Treasurer
Financial Planner Edlman Financial Engines

Jody Douglas, Board Member
Instructor, CVTC

Julie Dollahon, Board Member
Retired Pierce County

Holly Wood Webster, Board Member
ADA, Polk County

Ellen Thompson, Board Member
Director of Risk, Compliance, and Quality Western Wisconsin Health

Courtney Meyer, RN, Board Member
Marshfield Medical Center-Ladysmith

Ashley Olien, Board Member
Community Member, Advocate

Jessica Dodge, Board Member
St. Croix County Health & Human Services

Corinne Rizzo, Board Member
Washburn County Sheriff's Office

Alanna Jaszczak, CAPSW, Board Member
Washburn County Health & Human Services

Staff and Nurses

Melissa Vesperman

Executive Director & Forensic Nurse
Coordinator

Wendy Dernovsek

Operational Manager

Annelise Hughes-Thompson

Community Outreach & Prevention
Education Coordinator

Carolyn Kuether

Forensic Nurse Supervisor Staff



Forensic Nursing Staff

Alex Fox

Alyssa Henk

Annie West

Ashley Rannells

Billie Given

Carolyn Kuether

Chelsea Collins

Mary Silsz-Chucka

Melissa Vesperman

Michelle Koepp

Miriam Sward

Nicole Wagner

Nursing

St. Croix Valley SART nurses are dedicated to their community, learning, and providing victims of violence with the most compassionate and knowledgeable care possible. Our nurses come from a variety of backgrounds and locations. We are privileged enough to benefit from all of their varied experiences in care and it makes our staff not only well rounded but appreciative of caring for the whole patient. We have been very fortunate to be able to add to our talented nursing staff this year and are reaching all six areas of our coverage to allow for less patient wait time and more accessible care.

◆ Adolescent/Adult Exams

Our nurses provide medical, forensic and post assault care for all ages starting at 13. This may include a medical history and exam, evidence collection of DNA, toxicology, clothing, and documentation of injuries. We offer medications to prevent pregnancy, infection, and referrals to support services and medical follow-up. Through trauma informed care we give the control back to the survivor by encouraging their participation in the process and decisions being made. This begins the road to healing.

◆ Pediatric Exams

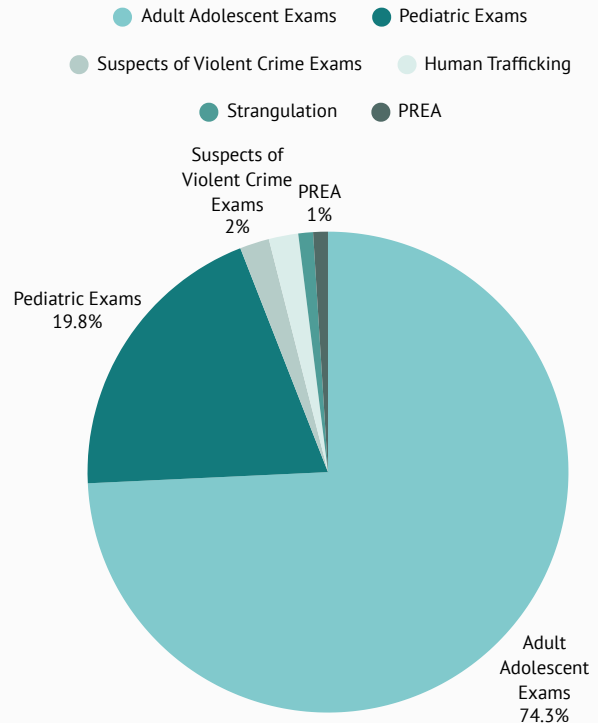
Children receive all the care and respect given to older patients. Their choices and comfort guide the exam, and family is involved in the process as much as possible. Our nurses have undergone special training, and two advocates are present during the exam to meet the needs of the child and their family. These exams are scheduled and done in the calm of our community-based exam sites in Hudson and Rice Lake.

◆ Strangulation Exams

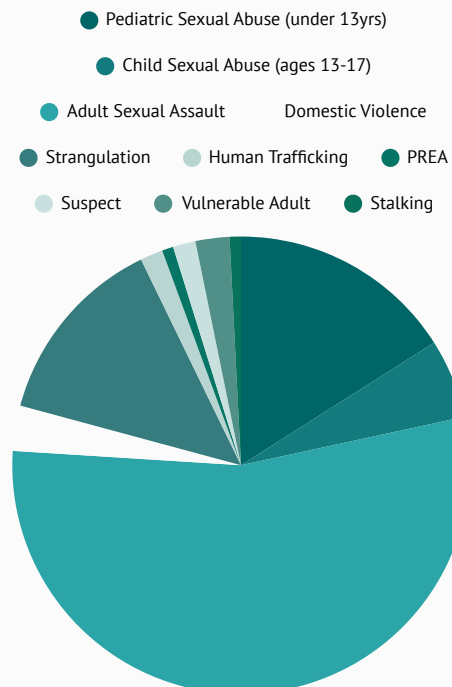
Every patient is assessed for strangulation. There has been a rise in strangulation with sexual assaults and domestic violence. Recent research is showing long term physical and cognitive negative effects of strangulation. It has also been shown to signal a higher risk for homicide in the future. If strangulation has been identified medical evaluation and care is provided in an Emergency Department and follow up support is provided.

◆ Suspects of Violent Crime Exams

Medical forensic exams are respectfully provided at the request of law enforcement for suspects of sexual assault and other violent crimes. We collect a medical history and forensic evidence based on a search warrant and/or the suspect's consent.



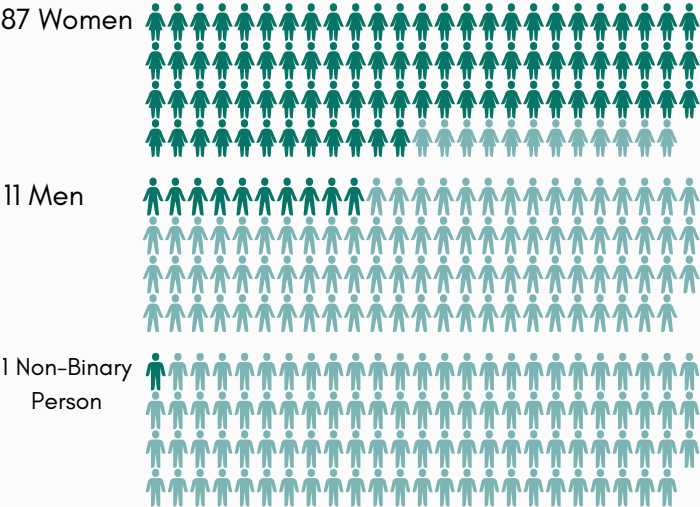
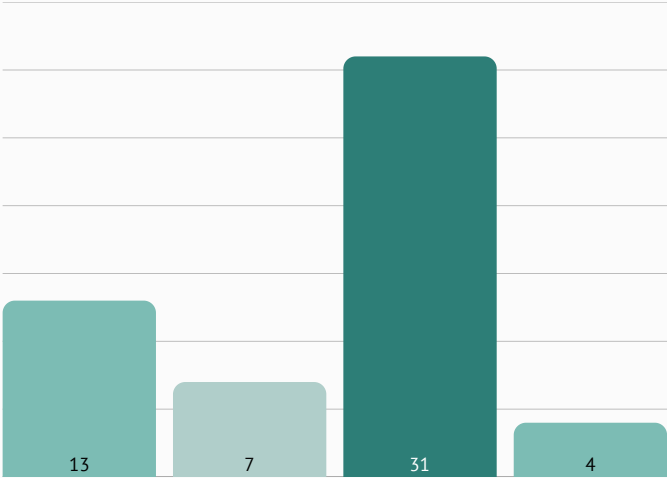
Victimizations Served



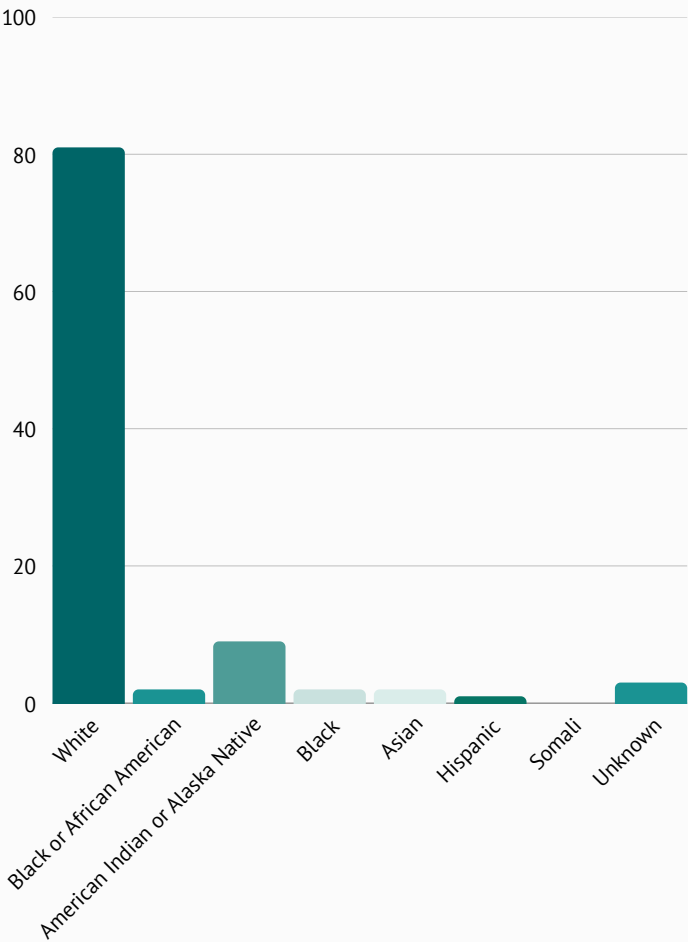
Nursing Demographics

2025-2026 demographics of victim/survivors served via forensic medical exams

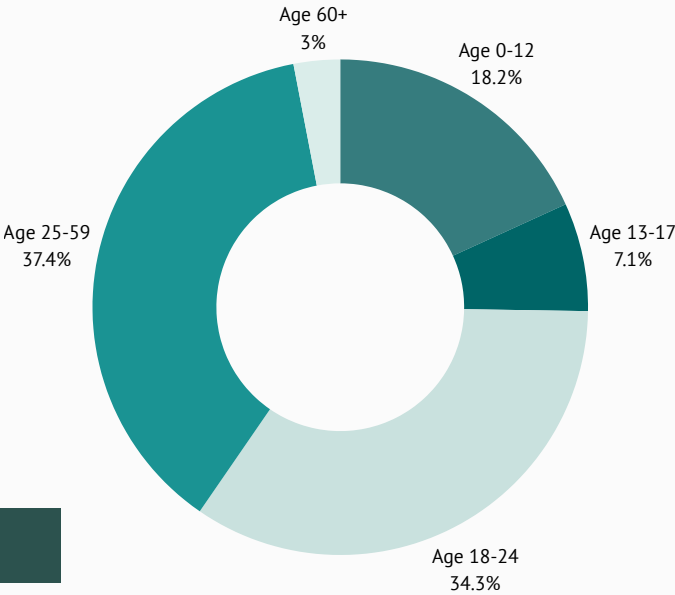
- Number of exams served a person with disability
- Number of exams served a survivor of human trafficking
- Number of exams that were drug facilitated sexual assault cases
- Number of exams served a survivor of domestic violence



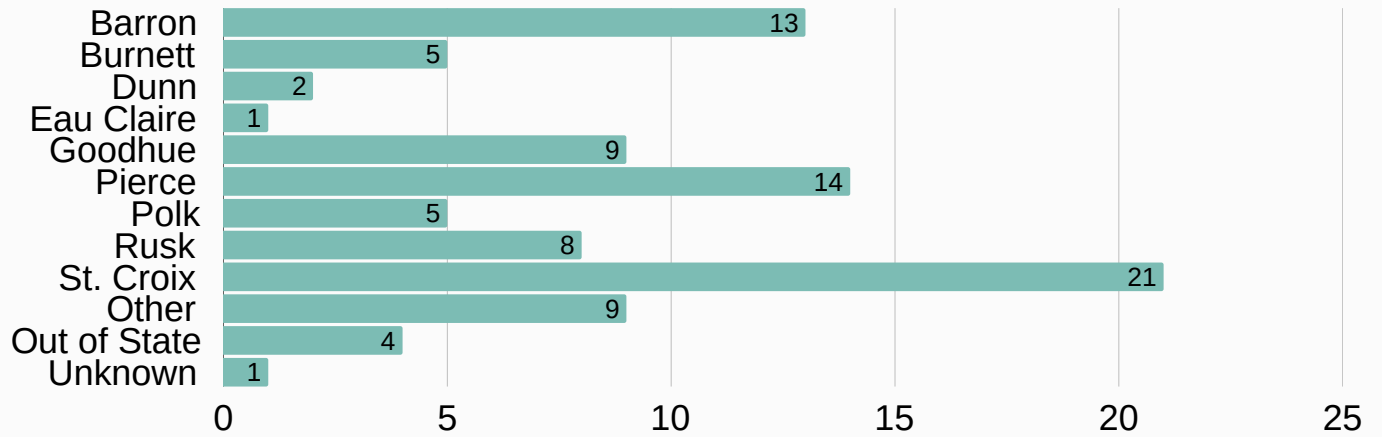
Race/Ethnicity



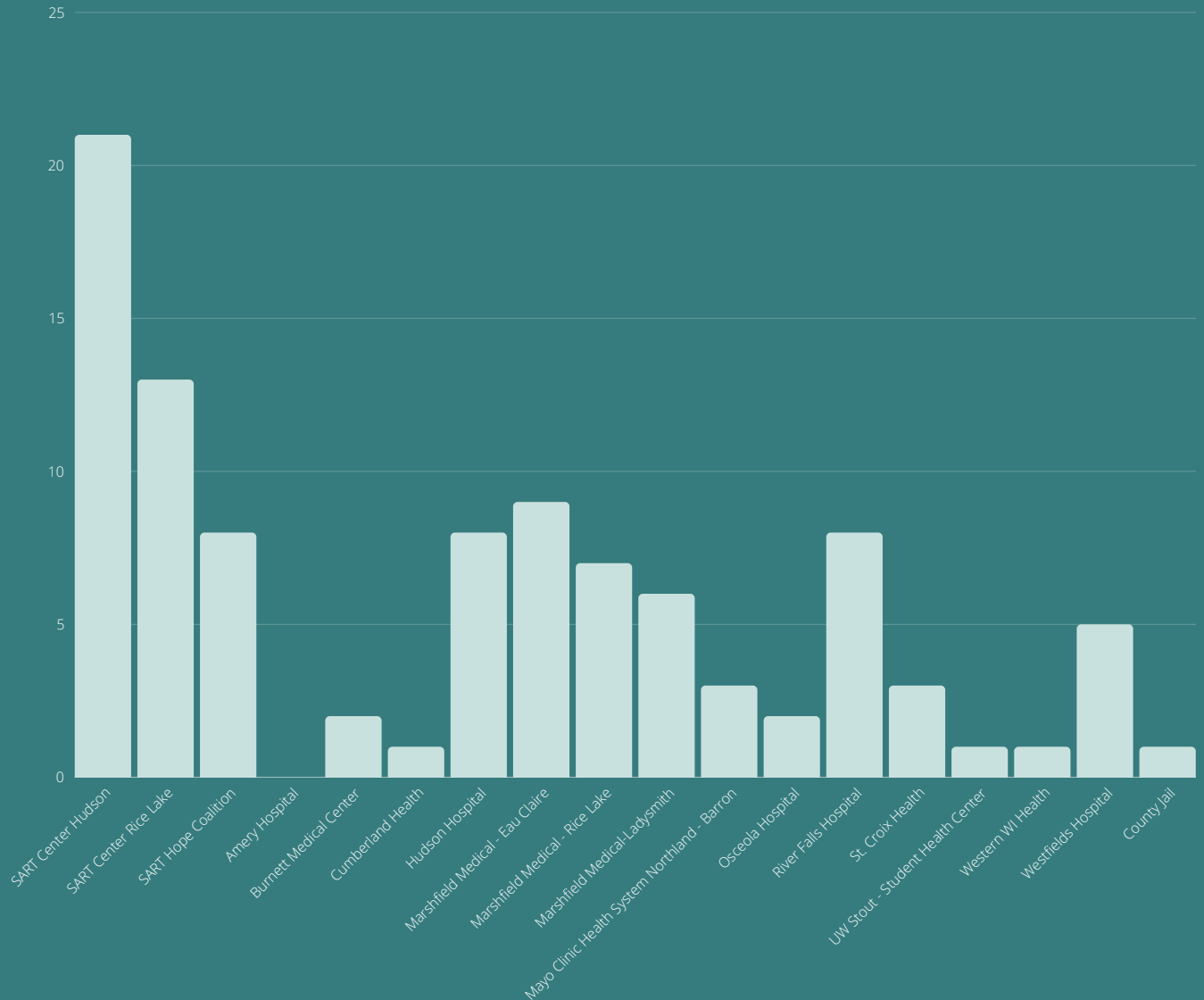
Ages of Victim/Survivors served



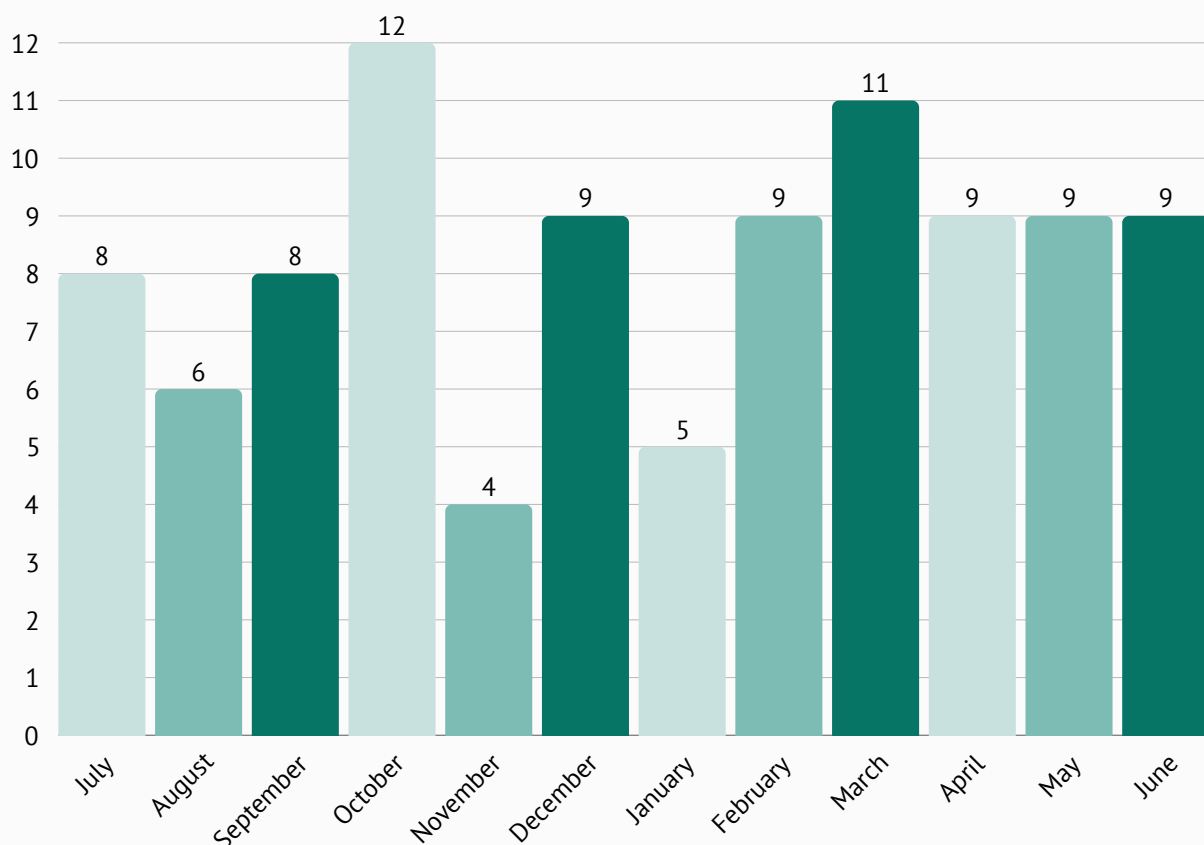
Victim/Survivors Served - County Residency



Locations of care - number of exams performed



Number of forensic exams per month



Cost Per Exam

In fiscal year 2025–2026 the average cost per exam was \$3,482.34.

Wisconsin's SAFE Fund increased its maximum reimbursement for sexual assault exams to \$1,621.22, covering approximately 47% of the actual cost of each exam. Minnesota increased its maximum reimbursement to \$1,530, covering approximately 44% of the actual cost. While these increases are important, public reimbursement continues to cover less than half of the true cost of providing specialized forensic healthcare.

At the same time, SART provided an increased number of sexual assault exams and reduced its cost per exam, demonstrating responsible stewardship of resources and the organization's commitment to maximizing every dollar invested in survivor services. Philanthropic support remains essential to bridging the gap between public reimbursement and the actual cost of providing 24/7/365, trauma-informed forensic healthcare—ensuring survivors in rural communities have access to the specialized care they need, when they need it.

St. Croix Valley SART Funding

As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team, Inc. is primarily funded through community and foundation grants, public donations, and fundraising.

Hospital/Non-Hospital Fees

St. Croix Valley SART provides care at 3 community based care locations and contracts with thirteen Emergency Department partners to provide care in eight counties in Western WI and one county in Minnesota.

Community/Foundation Grants

In FY 2025-2026, eleven community/foundation grants were received in the amount of \$140,200.00.

SAFE Fund

Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, the SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Exam) Fund provides a maximum forensic examination reimbursement to healthcare providers for sexual assaults occurring in Wisconsin. The current reimbursement rate of \$1,621.22 is 47% of the cost based on hospital program expenses and does not take into consideration St. Croix Valley SART's cost per exam.

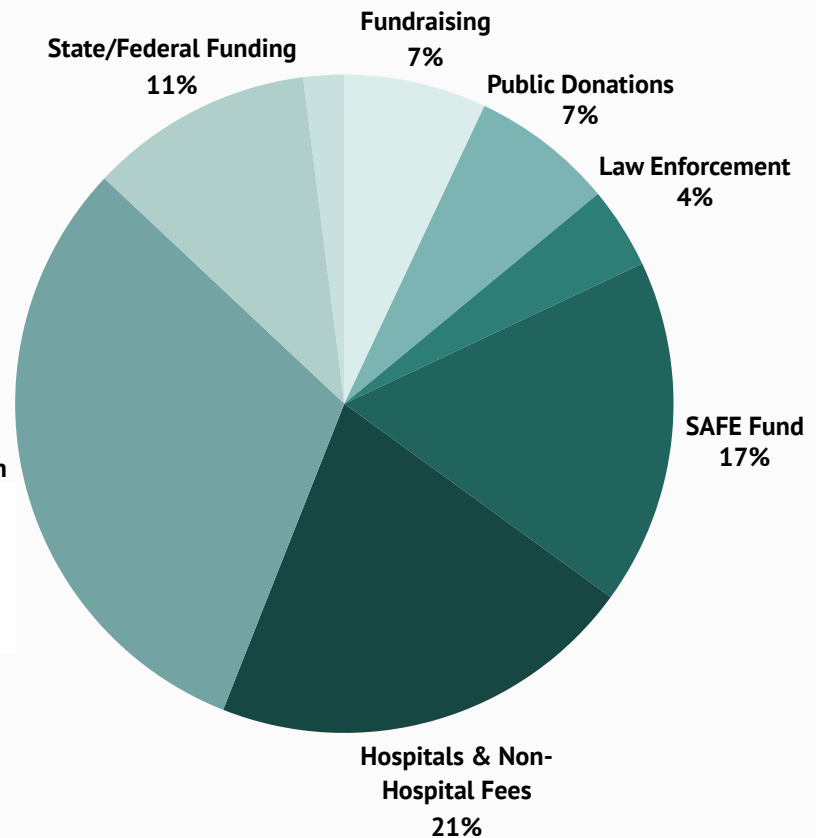
Fundraisers

In fiscal year 2025-2026, St. Croix Valley SART held two major fundraising events: an 2nd Annual Halloween Gala in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, and a golf scramble held at Pheasant Hills Golf Course in Hammond, Wisconsin. Both events were deemed a success.

Law Enforcement

When a victim-survivor reports the crime to law enforcement, a \$250 fee is charged to the reporting agency for on-going consultation, immediate access to records, and to provide factual and expert testimony.

In October 2025, in an effort to strengthen community partnerships and remove barriers, the Board of Directors also voted to end the long-standing practice of charging law enforcement for services when a victim-survivor was reporting the assault. A commitment to increase fundraising efforts was agreed upon to offset this budgeted annual income loss of \$8,000-\$10,000.



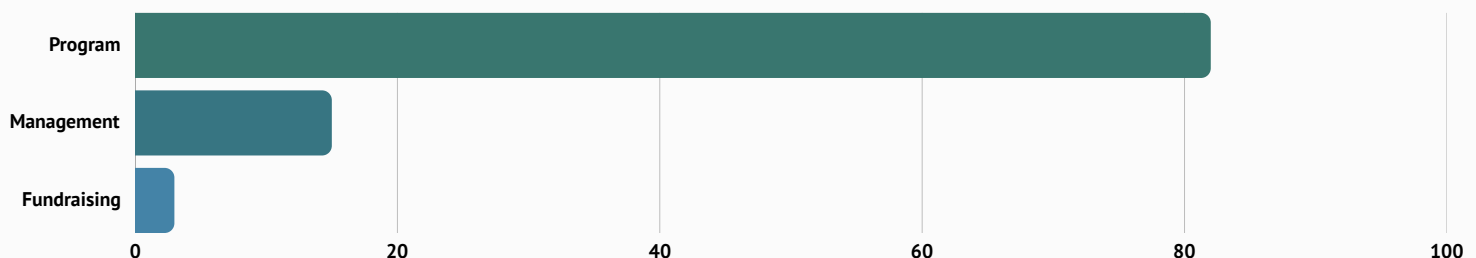
State of Minnesota

Fund provides a maximum forensic examination reimbursement of \$1,530.00 to healthcare providers for sexual assaults occurring in Minnesota.

Public Donations

Public donations are essential to sustaining SART's mission to provide trauma-informed forensic healthcare and violence prevention education. Community support helps bridge funding gaps, maintain 24/7/365 access to specialized care for survivors, support forensic nurse training, and educate students and community members about preventing interpersonal violence. Every contribution strengthens our ability to serve rural communities and build a safer future. We are grateful to everyone who makes this work possible.

Expenses



Foundations & Community Donors



UNITED WAY
St. Croix and
Red Cedar Valleys

**William H. Phipps
Foundation**

Fred C. & Katherine B.
Andersen Foundation

**HUGH J.
ANDERSEN**
FOUNDATION

**Weekes Family
Foundation**



POLK BURNETT
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
A Sustainable Energy Cooperative



PIERCE PEPIN
COOPERATIVE SERVICES
Live Better®



New Richmond Area
Community Foundation

RIVER FALLS
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Rice Lake Community
Health Foundation



NORTH HUDSON
PEPPER
Festival



RICE LAKE
CELEBRITY
CHARITY
Classic

MEDICAL PARTNERS

- Amery Hospital
- Burnett Medical Center
- Cumberland HealthCare
- Hudson Hospital
- Sanford Health Marshfield Medical Center
 - Eau Claire
 - Ladysmith
 - Rice Lake
- Mayo Clinic Health System Northland
- Osceola Medical Center
- River Falls Area Hospital
- St. Croix Health
- UW-STOUT Student Health
- Western WI Health
- Westfields Hospital

Fundraising & Outreach 2025-2026



Throughout the year, St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team hosts and participates in a variety of fundraising events that bring our community together in support of survivors. These events not only raise critical funds for forensic nursing care, survivor services, and prevention education, but also increase awareness of our mission and strengthen community partnerships.

01.

Halloween Gala Fundraiser:

On October 25, 2025, St. Croix Valley SART hosted its second annual Halloween Gala at the Rice Lake Elks Club. The evening brought together 130 supporters for dinner, dancing, Halloween-themed fun, and silent and live auctions. Thanks to the generosity of our community, the event raised more than \$28,000 to support survivor services, forensic nursing care, and prevention education.

02.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Throughout April, St. Croix Valley SART partnered with local businesses and community members to raise awareness during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Through our Sip & Support campaign, local coffee and beverage businesses helped spread awareness of sexual violence prevention and the services available to survivors.

Local businesses also participated in Denim Day by donating a portion of their sales to support survivors, while one business created and sold Sexual Assault Awareness Month T-shirts to help promote awareness throughout the community.

Thank you to the following businesses for supporting our mission:

- Caffeine Chaos & Crafts Etc. – Somerset, WI
- Dunkin' – Rice Lake, WI
- Joe To Go – Hudson, WI (10% of sales every Friday in April donated to SART)
- Marshfield Medical Center Café – Rice Lake, WI
- Marshfield Medical Center Café – Ladysmith, WI
- Twisted Oak Coffee House – Prescott, WI
- Surge Nutrition – Rice Lake, WI

We are grateful for these community partners who helped raise awareness, support survivors, and strengthen our mission throughout Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

03.

Swing Into Action Golf Scramble:

St. Croix Valley SART's Swing Into Action Golf Scramble was held at Pheasant Hills Golf Course, bringing together 96 golfers and 30 volunteers, community members, and staff for a day of golf, dinner, a silent auction, and a dessert auction. Thanks to the generosity of participants, sponsors, and donors, the event raised more than \$21,000 to support survivor services, forensic nursing care, and prevention education.

Community Events:

- National Night Out
 - Hammond
 - Hudson
 - Turtle Lake
- UWRF Involvement Fair
- St. Croix County Sextortion Community Education and Prevention Event
- Annual Toy Drive
- UWRF Health Society presentation
- Northwoods Tech College Health Fair
- Chippewa Valley Tech College
- Renaissance Academy
- New Richmond Middle School - Career Fair
- Hudson High School - Tech Safety Event
- UW Stout Health Fair
- Family Funday Sunday with BACA at Busted Knuckle in New Richmond, WI
- Hudson Pride

Community Trianings:

- Western Wisconsin Health Emergency Deapartment
- CVTC Police Academy
- Osceola Medical Center
- Barron County Foster Care Program
- Safe House Project
- Rice Lake Police Department
- Burnett Medical Center
- River Falls Emergency Department
- BACA - Bikers Against Child Abuse



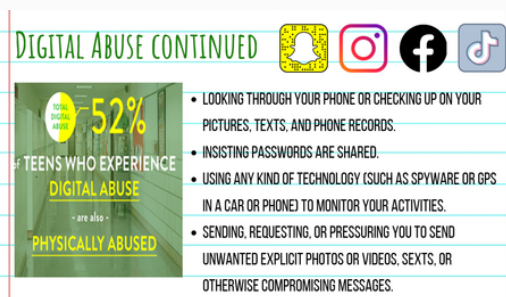
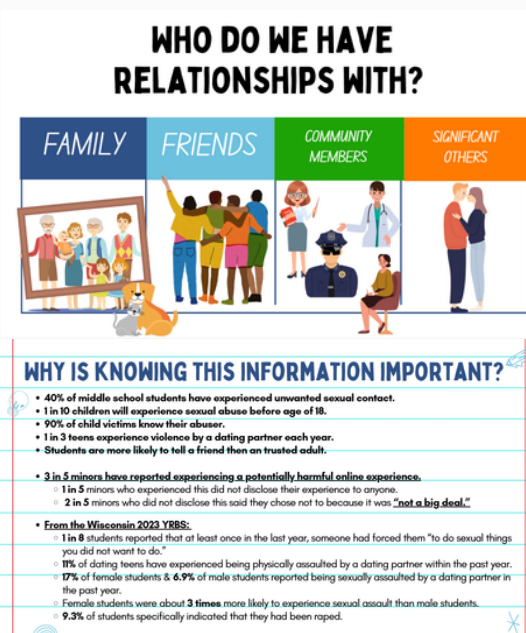
Violence Prevention Education Program

St. Croix Valley SART provides no-cost Violence Prevention Education and partners with schools and universities throughout Burnett, Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix counties to equip students with the knowledge and skills to build healthy, respectful relationships.

Our age-appropriate presentations cover topics including:

- Healthy relationships and personal boundaries
- Recognizing emotional, physical, sexual, and technology-facilitated abuse, including stalking
- Understanding consent, respectful communication, and healthy decision-making
- Wisconsin laws related to consent, sexting, and child sexual abuse material
- Challenging myths surrounding sexual assault and dating violence
- How to safely support a friend experiencing abuse or sexual violence
- Community resources and age-appropriate books, media, and tools for continued learning

By providing students with accurate information in a safe, supportive learning environment, we empower them to recognize unhealthy behaviors, practice respectful relationships, and seek help when needed. Prevention education is one of the most effective ways to reduce sexual and interpersonal violence, creating safer schools and stronger communities for future generations.



4,492

Total Number of Students Reached

197

Total Number of School Presentations

82

Total Number of Days Presenting to Schools

192.5

Total Number of Hours Spent Presenting

20

Total Number of Schools

100%

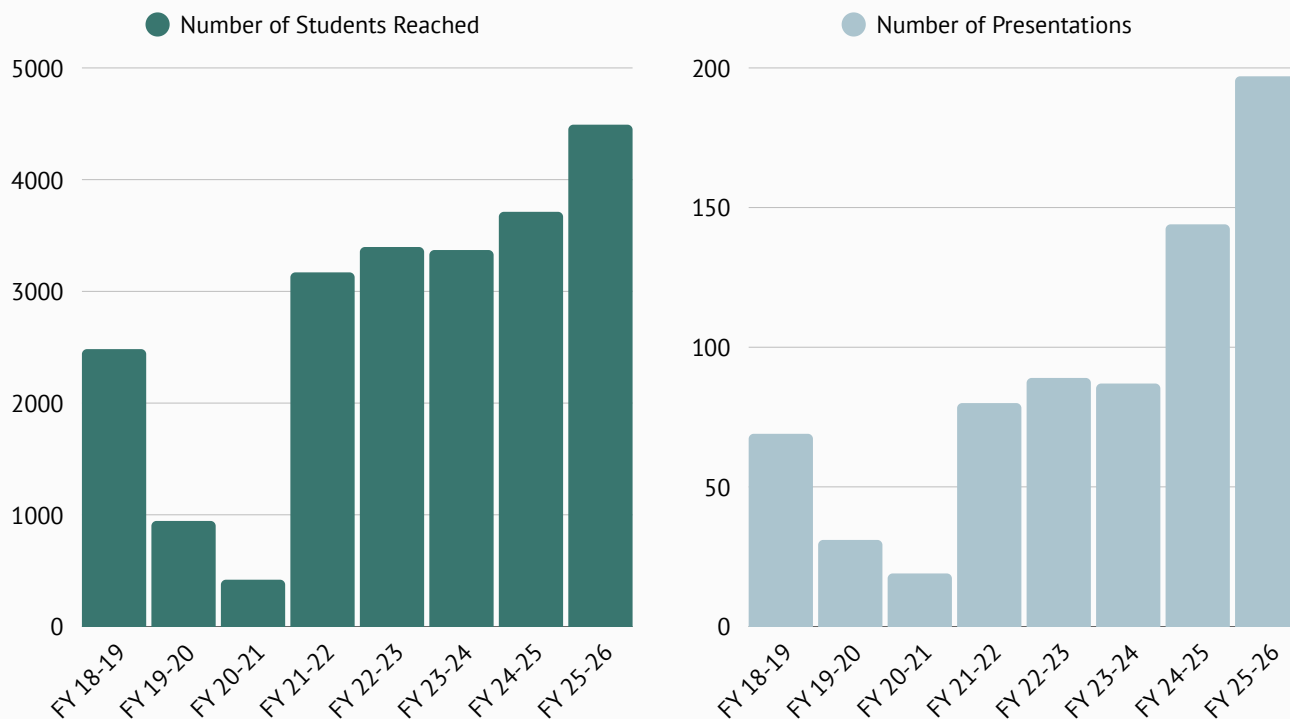
Total percentage of students approached after a presentation with further questions or comments

28.4%

Total percentage of presentations that resulted in a disclosure or survivor seeking services from a student

46.3%

Total percentage of presentations that had 2+ days of violence prevention education per student



St. Croix Valley SART had the opportunity to work with the following schools in fiscal year 2025-2026:

- **Colleges:**
 - University of Wisconsin - River Falls - Health Educators Class & Theta Chi Fraternity - Healthy Relationships & Consent
- **High Schools:**
 - Baldwin-Woodville High School - 9th Grade Health Classes
 - Ellsworth High School - 9th Grade Healthy Relationships Classes
 - Elmwood High School - 9th Grade Health Classes
 - Hudson High School - 10th Grade Health Classes & Peer Helpers Group
 - New Richmond High School - 9th Grade Health Classes
 - Prescott High School - 9th Grade Health Classes
 - Renaissance Academy - All school presentations for grades 9-12
 - River Falls High School - 9th Grade Health Classes
 - Spring Valley High School: 9th Grade Health Classes
 - St. Croix Ventral High School - 9th Grade Health Classes
 - Siren High School - all grades
- **Middle Schools:**
 - Baldwin-Woodville: Viking Middle School- 8th Grade Health Classes
 - Hudson Middle School - 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Health Classes
 - New Richmond Middle School - 6th & 7th Grade Health Classes and 8th Grade
 - Osceola Middle School - 8th Grade
 - Plum City Middle School - 8th Grade Health Classes
 - Prescott Middle School - 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Health Classes
 - River Falls: Meyer Middle School - 8th grade Health Classes
 - Siren Middle School: all grades
- **Elementary School:**
 - Siren Elementary grades 2-5

Conclusion

Each year, we are reminded of both the importance of this work and the incredible support that makes it possible. We remain committed to providing compassionate, specialized care to individuals impacted by violence while continuing our prevention education efforts throughout the communities we serve.

Sustaining this work is not without challenges, particularly as funding continues to change and become less predictable. We are incredibly thankful for the donors, partners, volunteers, board members, and community supporters who recognize the value of our mission and continue to invest in our future.

As we look ahead to new opportunities and continued growth, we do so with gratitude for how far we have come and confidence in what we can accomplish together. Thank you for believing in St. Croix Valley SART, supporting our mission, and helping ensure this important work continues.

Ways to continue your support for St. Croix Valley SART



SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

Please consider becoming a sustaining member. You can select from a monthly or yearly donation that will have a significant impact on the important work provided by St. Croix Valley SART

DONATIONS TO ST. CROIX VALLEY SART

Monetary donations can be made via cash, check, or Venmo. For more information or assistance please see our website at stcroixvalleysart.org (select donate), email us at info@stcroixvalleysart.org or call: 715-425-6443 and a staff member will be able to assist.



Endowment Fund

St. Croix Valley S.A.R.T. has partnered with the St. Croix Valley Foundation, a 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization, to accept donations on behalf of St. Croix Valley S.A.R.T., as well as to invest, manage, grow, and monitor our endowed fund. All donations designated for St. Croix Valley SART's Endowment Fund are fully tax-deductible and can be mailed to St. Croix Valley SART to be deposited on the donor's behalf.

Contact Information:

Phone: 715-425-6443

Address: 1200 Hosford St. Suite 203, Hudson, WI, 54016

Email: info@stcroixvalleysart.org

Website: www.stcroixvalleysart.org