



SAKI Webinar: Broadening Our Research Scope

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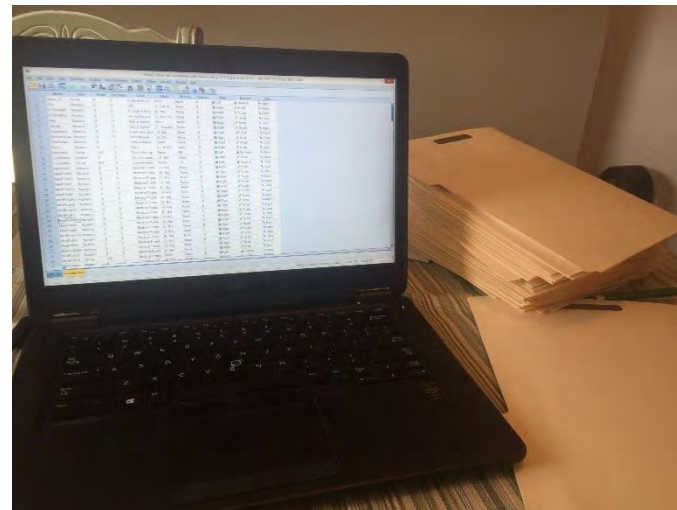
Study #1

Retrospective, collaborative study linking data from sexual assault examination forms with state crime laboratory data on sexual assault kit submissions and DNA analysis findings

(Valentine, Sekula, Cook, Campbell, Colbert, & Weedn, 2016).

The purpose of this presentation is to share results on demographic findings and rape crime factors of a retrospective study (cases from 2010 to 2014) of sexual assault victims ($N = 2,317$) in a Western state in the United States.

(Valentine, Miles & Mabey)

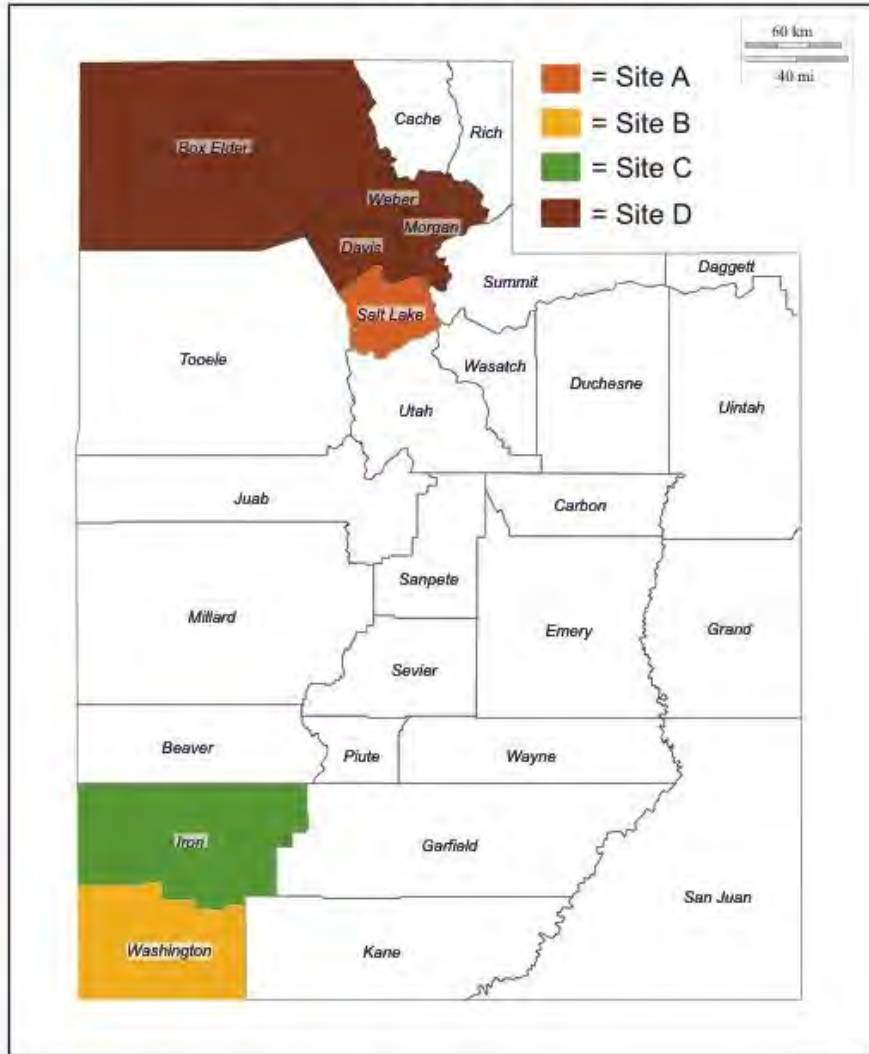


Literature review

- Study of 1,172 patients seen for forensic examination following sexual assault found that victims were more likely to be female, young (less than 25 years of age), and acquainted with the perpetrator (Avegno, Mills, & Mills, 2004).
- A similar study of 2,541 female victims seen for a forensic examination in Denmark were found to be primarily young (15-24 years) and to have known the perpetrator (Larsen, Hilden, & Lidegaard, 2014).

UTAH

Study Sites



Setting - Utah Sites

Sites	LE Agencies	University	SANE Program	SART
A: Salt Lake County	12	X	X	X
B: Washington County	10	X	X	X
C: Iron County	4	X	X	X
D: Davis, Box Elder, Weber, and Morgan	28	X	X	X

40% of Law Enforcement (LE) Agencies in Utah
65% of Population in Utah

Vulnerabilities and Prevention – a difficult balancing act



Victim descriptive data - Age

Age Range: 14-92 years

Age Median: 24 years

Age Mean: 27.6 years

Percentiles:

Q1, 25% 14 – 19 years

Q2, 50% 14 – 24 years

Q3, 75% 14 – 33 years

Victim descriptive data - Gender

95% Female, 5% Male

Changes to state form in 2016:

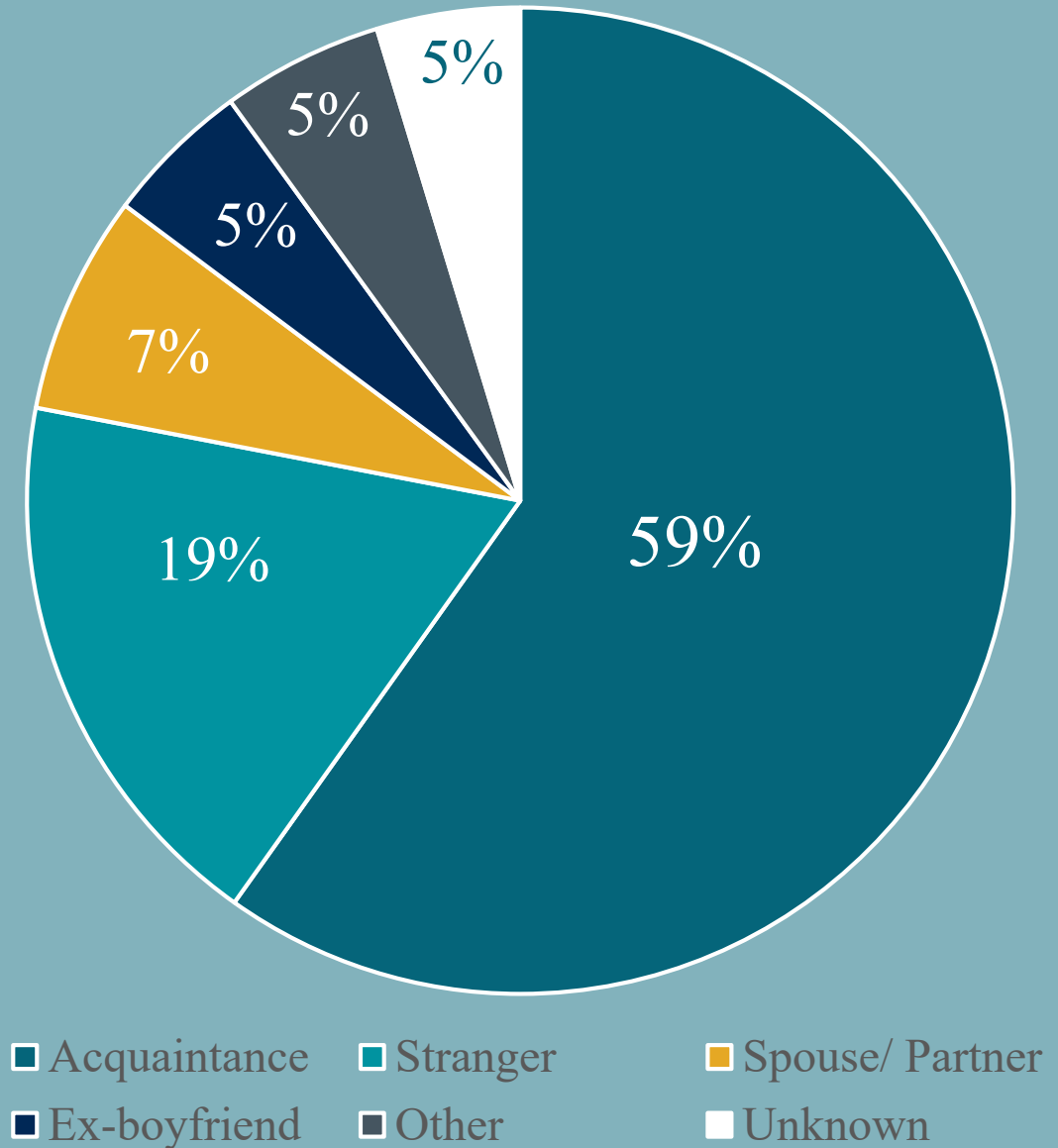
Sex Male Female Transgender: M to F Female Transgender: F to M Male Intersex

Victim descriptive data - Race

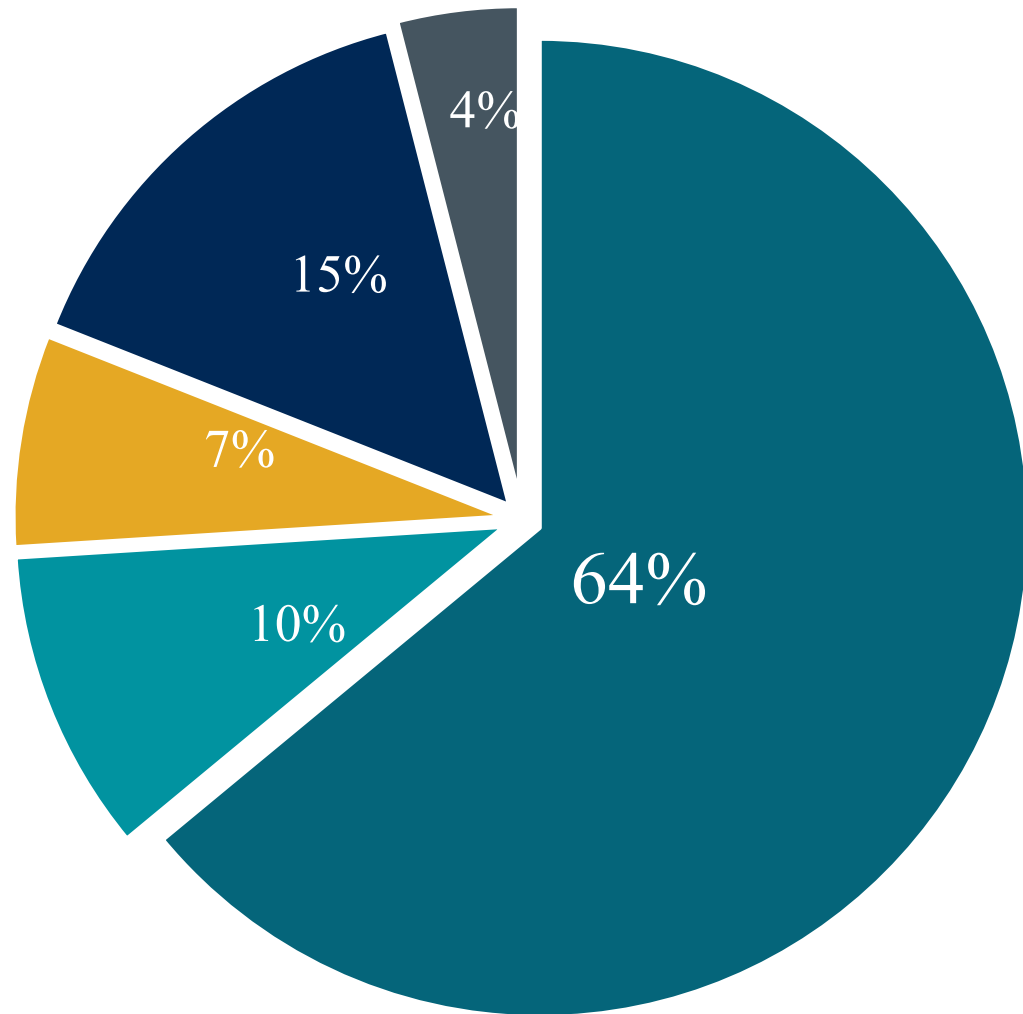
	Study (N=2,317)	Utah Census*
White	77.6%	91.2%
Black	3.3%	1.3%
Hispanic	12.3%	13.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.0%	3.5%
American Indian	2.9%	1.5%
Other	0.7%	
Unknown	1.2%	

*United States Census Bureau (2015)

Victim to Suspect Relationship



Location of Assault



■ House/Apartment ■ Outside ■ Car ■ Other ■ Unknown

Descriptive data on alcohol and drug use

- Suspected drug-facilitated assault: 17%
- Patient use of drugs prior to assault: 13%
- Patient use of alcohol prior to assault: 46%
- Suspect use of drugs prior to assault: 15% (41% unknown)
- Suspect use of alcohol prior to assault: 37% (39% unknown)
- Patient or suspect use of drugs or alcohol: 56%
(26% unknown)

Descriptive data on victim physical health

	Study (N = 2,317)	Utah data on under age 40 years	U.S. data (all ages)
Current medical problem	60%	<i>(data to be collected on 5/9/17)</i>	
Chronic medical problem	48%	<i>(data to be collected on 5/9/17)</i>	49.8% <i>(Ward, Schiller, & Goodman, 2014)</i>
<p>Medical problems by systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood • Cardiac • Ear • Endocrine • Eye • Gastrointestinal • Genitourinary • Gynecological • Immune • Musculoskeletal • Neurological • Oral • Renal • Respiratory • Skin 			

Descriptive data on victim mental health

	Study (N = 2,317)	Utah	U.S.
Self-disclosure mental illness or use of psychotropic medications	45%	22% (SAMHSA, 2014)	18% (NIMH, 2015) 18% (SAMHSA, 2014)

Divided into types of mental illness (ranked in order):

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Bipolar disorder
- PTSD
- ADHD
- Psychotic disorder
- Personality disorder
- Drug or alcohol addictions
- Eating disorders

Descriptive data on prior history of sexual assault ($N = 1,297$)

	Yes	No	Unknown
Over age 14 years	29%	41%	30%
Under age 14 years	24%	43%	33%

Ongoing study - Exploring relationship between prior history of sexual assault with physical and mental health problems.

Descriptive data on loss of consciousness

Patient lost consciousness/awareness? Yes No If yes _____

Yes: 49%

Ongoing study - Exploring sexual assault factors and victim demographic information on reported loss of consciousness or awareness during sexual assault.

Descriptive data on rape crime factors

Suspect Actions	Yes	No	Unknown
Verbal threat or coercion (began in 2014, <i>n</i> =153)	62%	20%	18%
Grabbed or held	61%	16%	23%
Physical blows	17%	61%	23%
Strangled	12%	66%	22%
Use of weapon	10%	69%	21%
Use of restraints	6%	73%	21%
Burned	2%	82%	17%
Condom used	7%	85%	8%

Descriptive data on rape crime factors

	Yes	No	Unknown
Multiple suspects	9%	87%	4%
Use of condom	7%	85%	8%
Ejaculation	30%	12%	58%

The importance of aggregate data



Study #2

Law Enforcement Trauma Informed Response Training in Adult Sexual Assault Cases

Pilot Study*, May 2014 – May 2015:

The purpose of this study was to understand the impact of trauma informed sexual assault response training in adult sexual assault cases with a specified law enforcement agency, West Valley City Police Department (WVC PD), $N = 64$ victims/cases.

*Approval by Brigham Young University IRB

Trauma-informed response training

Research questions:

- What is the impact of sexual assault trauma-informed response training on law enforcement officers and detectives?
- What are the experiences of adult sexual assault victims working with a law enforcement agency with training in sexual assault trauma-informed response?
- Does implementation of sexual assault trauma-informed response training with a law enforcement agency improve prosecution rates in adult sexual assault cases?

Trauma-informed response training

Changes in law enforcement agency policy:

- Submission of all sexual assault kits to crime lab
- Increased involvement of victim advocate(s)
- Screening of all known suspect cases with prosecutors
- Two-step interview process
- Trauma-informed victim interview

Trauma-informed response training

Setting:



West Valley City, Utah

Population - 134,495 (2014), 2nd largest city in Utah

Police Agency – 220+ police officers

Trauma-informed response training

The image shows a screenshot of the West Valley City Police website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a home icon and links for CHIEF'S OFFICE, INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT, COMMUNITY SERVICES, RESOURCES, and NEWSROOM. Below the navigation bar is the West Valley City Police logo, which includes a police officer badge and the text 'West Valley City POLICE'. To the right of the logo is a search bar with the text 'Search...' and a magnifying glass icon, along with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The main content area features a large, faded police badge in the background. Overlaid on the badge is the text 'West Valley City Police Officers' in a large, blue, sans-serif font. Below this text is the phrase 'PLEDGE TO START BY believing' in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a colorful speech bubble graphic with a rainbow border and a purple center. Inside the speech bubble, the word 'believing' is written in a white, cursive font, and the website address 'startbybelieving.org' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. At the bottom of the page, there is a line of text that reads 'A program of End Violence Against Women International'.

West Valley City Police Officers
PLEDGE TO START BY *believing*
startbybelieving.org

A program of End Violence Against Women International

Trauma-informed response training

Trainings:

- All day training on neurobiology of sexual assault trauma and trauma-informed care with detectives and command staff with Donna Kelly, Julie Valentine and Justin Boardman.
- Two additional trainings with Dr. Rebecca Campbell and Dr. David Lisak, community-wide presentations.

Trauma-informed response training

Interview format:

Development of Trauma Informed Victim Interview Guide Sheet by Donna Kelly, Utah Prosecution Council Special Resource Prosecutor, and Justin Boardman, Special Victims Unit Prosecutor.

Trauma-informed response training

Trauma Informed Victim Interview (TIVI) Guidelines

Officer Preparation

- Review all available reports and evidence, or if not yet available, talk with first responders and dispatchers
- Approach interview in a compassionate, empathetic and non-biased way

PHASE ONE – GOAL: SET TONE and RULES (Recording Optional)

- Introductions and explanation of roles of police and advocates
- Explain purpose of the interview: to gather as much information as victim is able to give about what happened
- Notify that interview will be recorded
- Emphasize the importance of giving ALL of the information and telling the WHOLE truth – “Don’t leave anything out.”
- Ask victim not to guess about anything – “It’s OK to say ‘I don’t know.’”
- Review support person rules (If support person will be present)
- Attend to person’s needs and answer any questions about process
- Acknowledge that the interview may be difficult or painful at times

Trauma-informed response training

PHASE TWO – GOAL: CRIME SCENARIO NARRATIVE (Recorded)

“Tell me everything you are able to remember about what happened.”

- Do NOT interrupt victim narratives
- Use open ended questions
- Use silence as a tool
- Ask sensory and “feelings” questions
- Avoid questions that request information in a sequential format
- Follow up on narratives using “headline” style questions -- “I want to talk about everything that happened in the car.”
- If hard questions are necessary, explain why you are asking them

PHASE THREE – GOAL: CLOSURE and CASE PLAN (Recorded)

- Express thanks for what person has done so far
- Ask if support person has any questions (if appropriate)
- Encourage victim to focus on their life and healing
- Explain next steps in process, but never make promises about outcomes
- Give contact info and best way to communicate

Trauma-informed response training

What did we measure?

- Law officers' attitudes and beliefs about adult sexual assault cases before and after the training year
- Victims' satisfaction with how they were treated and the TIVI process
- Prosecution outcomes:
 - Percentage of adult sexual assault cases screened with prosecutors
 - Percentage of adult sexual assault cases with charges filed
 - Percentage of prosecuted adult sexual assault cases
 - Percentage of successfully prosecuted adult sexual assault cases

Trauma-informed response training

Law enforcement pre-training and post-training surveys

- Consent form
- Likert scale
- Open comments

LE surveys – 31 pre-training and 29 post-training

Question 1:

Pre-Training Survey:

1. I believe adult sexual assault cases are difficult to investigate.
Strongly Disagree – 0 responses; 0%
Somewhat Disagree – 8 responses; 26%
Neither agree or disagree – 6 responses; 19%
Somewhat agree – 10 responses; 32%
Strongly agree – 7 responses; 23%

Post-training Survey:

1. I believe adult sexual assault cases are difficult to investigate.
Strongly Disagree – 3 responses; 10%
Somewhat Disagree – 2 responses; 7%
Neither agree or disagree – 4 responses; 14%
Somewhat agree – 13 responses; 45%
Strongly agree – 7 responses; 24%

Slight shift towards agreement that adult sexual assault cases are difficult to investigate.

LE surveys – 31 pre-training and 29 post-training

Question 2:

Pre-training Survey:

2. I find working with adult sexual assault victims to be challenging.

Strongly Disagree – 0 responses; 0%

Somewhat Disagree – 1 response; 3%

Neither agree or disagree – 9 responses; 29%

Somewhat agree – 17 responses; 55%

Strongly agree – 4 responses; 13%

Post-training Survey:

2. I find working with adult sexual assault victims to be challenging.

Strongly Disagree – 2 responses; 7%

Somewhat Disagree – 2 response; 7%

Neither agree or disagree – 9 responses; 29%

Somewhat agree – 13 responses; 45%

Strongly agree – 3 responses; 10%

Minor shift to disagreement that working with adult sexual assault victims is challenging.

LE surveys – 31 pre-training and 29 post-training

Question 3:

Pre-training Survey:

3. I believe many reported adult rapes are false reports.

Strongly Disagree – 1 response; 3%

Somewhat Disagree – 9 responses; 29%

Neither agree or disagree – 13 responses; 42%

Somewhat agree – 6 responses; 19%

Strongly agree – 2 responses; 7%

Post-training Survey:

3. I believe many reported adult rapes are false reports.

Strongly Disagree – 5 response; 17%

Somewhat Disagree – 8 responses; 28%

Neither agree or disagree – 12 responses; 41%

Somewhat agree – 3 responses; 10%

Strongly agree – 1 responses; 3%

Shift towards disagreement with the statement that many reported adult rapes are false reports (26% of agreement in pre-training survey to 13% of agreement to statement in post-training survey.)

LE surveys – 31 pre-training and 29 post-training

Question 4:

Pre-training Survey:

4. I feel confident in my abilities to manage or investigate adult sexual assault cases.

Strongly Disagree – 0 responses; 0%

Somewhat Disagree – 6 responses; 19%

Neither agree or disagree – 4 responses; 13%

Somewhat agree – 15 responses; 48%

Strongly agree – 6 responses; 19%

Post-training Survey:

4. I feel confident in my abilities to manage or investigate adult sexual assault cases.

Strongly Disagree – 0 responses; 0%

Somewhat Disagree – 2 responses; 7%

Neither agree or disagree – 1 responses; 3%

Somewhat agree – 11 responses; 38%

Strongly agree – 15 responses; 52%

Large shift towards agreement that officers feel confident in their abilities to manage or investigate adult sexual assault cases.

LE surveys – 31 pre-training and 29 post-training

Question 5:

Pre-training Survey:

5. I have a good understanding of trauma informed care with adult sexual assault victims.

- Strongly Disagree – 5 responses; 16%
- Somewhat Disagree – 10 responses; 32%
- Neither agree or disagree – 7 responses; 23%
- Somewhat agree – 9 responses; 29%
- Strongly agree – 0 responses; 0%

Post-training Survey:

5. I have a good understanding of trauma informed care with adult sexual assault victims.

- Strongly Disagree – 2 responses; 7%
- Somewhat Disagree – 2 responses; 7%
- Neither agree or disagree – 2 responses; 7%
- Somewhat agree – 14 responses; 48%
- Strongly agree – 9 responses; 31%

Large shift towards agreement that police officers feel that they have a good understanding of trauma informed care with adult sexual assault victims.

LE surveys – 31 pre-training and 29 post-training

Question 6:

Pre-training Survey:

6. I have a good understanding of the neurobiology of adult sexual assault trauma.

Strongly Disagree – 11 responses; 36%

Somewhat Disagree – 11 responses; 36%

Neither agree or disagree – 8 responses; 26%

Somewhat agree – 1 response; 3%

Strongly agree – 0 responses; 0%

Post-training Survey:

6. I have a good understanding of the neurobiology of adult sexual assault trauma.

Strongly Disagree – 2 responses; 7%

Somewhat Disagree – 5 responses; 17%

Neither agree or disagree – 1 responses; 3%

Somewhat agree – 15 response; 52%

Strongly agree – 6 responses; 21%

Large shift towards agreement that police officers report a good understanding of the neurobiology of adult sexual assault trauma.

LE surveys – 29 post-training

Question 7:

Only on Post-training Survey:

7. Trauma informed response training on adult sexual assault cases has helped me in working with sexual assault victims and investigating sexual assault cases.

Strongly Disagree – 1 response; 3%

Somewhat Disagree – 2 responses; 7%

Neither agree or disagree – 4 responses; 14%

Somewhat agree – 8 response; 28%

Strongly agree – 14 responses; 48%

76% express agreement that this training has helped in working with adult sexual assault victims and investigating these cases.

LE surveys – 31 pre-training and 29 post-training

Themes identified from Police Officer Pre-training Survey comments:

Most common theme was expressing difficulties and frustrations in the investigation and/or prosecution of these cases.

Other themes:

High percentage of false reporting in adult sexual assault cases.

Request for special victims' unit to handle sexual assault cases.

Themes identified from Police Officer Post-training Survey comments:

The training helps by giving real protocols for conducting interviews.

Improved understanding of the “mind set” of victims after experiencing a traumatic event.

The training and new approach to interviews is excellent.

Provide the training at least yearly.

Victim surveys

$N = 34$ out of 43 victim interviews

- After trauma informed victim interview
- Scripted statement read by advocate
- Completely anonymous
- Mailed directly to researcher



Victim surveys

Question 1 - The first West Valley City police officer I met when I reported my assault respected me.

Strongly Disagree – 0 responses; 0%

Somewhat Disagree – 3 responses; 9%

Neither agree or disagree – 0 responses; 0%

Somewhat agree – 2 responses; 6%

Strongly agree – 29 responses; 85%

Victim surveys

Question 2 - I feel respected by my assigned detective with West Valley City Police Department.

Strongly Disagree – 1 response; 3%

Somewhat Disagree – 0 responses; 0%

Neither agree or disagree – 0 responses; 0%

Somewhat agree – 2 responses; 6%

Strongly agree – 31 responses; 91%

Victim surveys

Question 3. I am treated kindly by my assigned detective with West Valley City Police Department.

Strongly Disagree – 1 response; 3%

Somewhat Disagree – 0 responses; 0%

Neither agree or disagree – 0 responses; 0%

Somewhat agree – 0 responses; 0%

Strongly agree – 33 responses; 97%

Victim surveys

Question 4 - I trust my assigned detective with West Valley City Police Department.

Strongly Disagree – 1 response; 3%

Somewhat Disagree – 0 responses; 0%

Neither agree or disagree – 2 responses; 6%

Somewhat agree – 3 responses; 9%

Strongly agree – 28 responses; 82%

Victim surveys

Question 5 - I have been given the time to tell West Valley City Police Department what happened to me.

Strongly Disagree – 1 response; 3%

Somewhat Disagree – 0 responses; 0%

Neither agree or disagree – 0 responses; 0%

Somewhat agree – 0 responses; 0%

Strongly agree – 33 responses; 97%

Victim surveys

Victim Quotes:

“They made me feel safe.”

“It is a very hard thing to go through and it’s nice to be able to trust all of them and to be treated without prejudices.”

“This situation was really hard to explain, remember dates, and the officer did very well in making me feel comfortable and safe to tell my story.”

“They want to help get you through this horrid experience. So caring and understandable!”

“The officers understand me, help me, listen, and I can tell they support me. To be a victim is hard.”

Descriptive findings

- Sexual Assault Kits Collected: 49%
- Trauma-Informed Victim Interview Completed: 63%
- Domestic Violence Cases: 36%

How did we compare outcomes?

National Institute of Justice Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Toolkit for Salt Lake County (Valentine, Shaw, Lark & Campbell, 2016):

2003 to 2011:

94% of rape cases not prosecuted,
6% **PROSECUTED**

- KSL (NBC Station, Salt Lake City, UT)
5.5% **PROSECUTED** (October 2014)
(Headrick & Mashburn, 2014)



Study Findings

Measurable Outcomes	NIJ SANE TOOLKIT Salt Lake County, 2013	WVC PD Study, 2014-2015 N=64 cases
Screening of Cases with Prosecution	33%	66%
Charges filed	9%	32%
Prosecuted	6%	22%
Successfully Prosecuted*	6%	21%

*Successfully prosecuted is trial with conviction or plea bargain

Study Findings

Interesting associations:

If a sexual assault kit was collected, this was not associated with successful prosecution.

If a Trauma-informed victim interview was completed, this was associated with successful prosecution.

If a case was a domestic violence assault, this was associated with successful prosecution.

What we learned . . .

- Increase trainings to all officers
- Review videotaped interviews quarterly to provide feedback
- Meet with detectives quarterly to provide feedback and discuss progress, challenges, etc.
- Meet with victim advocates quarterly for debriefing
- Provide information on debriefing and support
- Expand to additional agencies

IT WORKS!!

Relaunch of study began on April 27th . . .

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