

**National Sexual Violence Resource Center  
National Needs Assessment on the Response to Sexual Assault  
2005**

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), through a grant awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, has developed the following survey to understand how Local, State, Territory and Tribal Communities respond to victims of sexual violence. Our goal is to develop a national SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) Toolkit that is practical, relevant, and innovative.

The multidisciplinary response to sexual violence varies greatly in communities. The term “SART” (Sexual Assault Response Team) simply refers to an intervention model for sexual violence that includes a core group of disciplines working together, formally or informally. Generally, these key responders include advocates, law enforcement officers, forensic examiners (e.g.; SANE/SAFE/FNE), crime lab personnel, and prosecutors.

This survey is entirely voluntary. Your responses will be confidential. Any personally identifiable information collected or obtained will only be used or revealed for research or statistical purposes. Published survey results will only include aggregate facts - not your identity or agency name.

The survey should take 30 minutes or less to complete. Thank you in advance for your time!

**Mail Completed Survey:**  
**National Sexual Violence Resource Center**  
**123 N. Enola Drive**  
**Enola, PA 17025**  
**or**  
**Fax: 717-909-0714 (no cover sheet necessary)**

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*For more information or for hard copies, contact:*  
*Debbie Rollo, SART Resource Coordinator*  
*877-739-3895 ext. # 110*  
[drollo@nsvrc.org](mailto:drollo@nsvrc.org)

*Survey available online: [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)*

**Survey results will be available by January 2006 at:**  
[www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)

## Background Information

### **1. Name of your Agency/Organization:**

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### **2. Type of agency/organization**

**(✓ One only. Please list the answer that best describes your agency)**

- Correctional Agency (probation, parole and correctional facilities)
- Courts (Judges, Court Administrators)
- Disability Organization
- Domestic Violence organization
- Dual Coalition serving domestic violence and sexual assault
- Dual Agency serving domestic violence and sexual assault
- Forensic Examiner Program
- Faith-Based Organization
- Healthcare Organization
- High School
- Institution of Higher Education
- Law Enforcement
- Legal Services
- Military
- Mental Health Facility
- Organization serving individuals with disabilities
- Organization serving elder persons
- Prosecuting Agency
- Rape Crisis/Recovery Agency
- Sexual Assault Coalition (State, Territory, Tribal)
- Social Service Organization
- Tribal Governmental Agency
- Victim-Witness agency (prosecutor-based)
- Other (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. Position/Title at the Agency/Organization: (Please check one)**

- Administrator
- Attorney
- Attorney General
- Counselor
- Clergy
- Corrections officer
- Crime lab specialist
- Educator
- Grant Administrator
- Healthcare professional
- Law enforcement officer

- Legal advocate
- Paralegal
- Probation officer
- Program coordinator (training coordinator, victim services coordinator)
- Prosecutor
- SART Coordinator
- Sexual assault forensic examiner (SANE, SAFE, FNE)
- Social worker
- Spiritual leader
- Trainer
- Victim Advocate
- Victim-Witness specialist (Prosecutor based)
- Volunteer coordinator
- Other (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Geographical area[s] you serve:**

City Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 County Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/Territory Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tribal Community Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 U.S. Territory Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other areas served: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Description of the geographical area served by your agency:**

(✓ All that apply)

- Urban/large city
- Rural
- Suburban/metropolitan area
- Campus
- Military base/installation

**(SART) Team Background**

**6. How long have you had a (SART) Team Approach to Sexual Violence?**

- Less than one year
- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6-9 years
- Over 10 years (Please include the year started): \_\_\_\_\_

**7. What is the Name of Your (SART) Team?**

- SART (Sexual Assault **Response** Team)
- SART (Sexual Assault **Resource** Team)
- Other (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**8. How frequently do you hold (SART) Team Meetings?**

- Meetings never held
- No longer hold meetings
- Meetings scheduled as issues arise
- Semi-annually meetings
- Quarterly meetings
- Monthly meetings
- Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**9. How often does your (SART) Team Review Cases?**

- No team review of cases
- Review cases as issues arise
- Review cases regularly (Describe how often): \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Do you have a (SART) Team Administrator /Coordinator's Position?**

- No administrator/coordinator (**Please skip to question # 13**)
- Yes, part-time volunteer administrator/coordinator position
- Yes, full-time volunteer administrator/coordinator position
- Yes, part-time paid administrator/coordinator position
- Yes, full-time paid administrator/coordinator position

**11. Where is your SART Team Administrator/Coordinator's office located?**

- Attorney General's office
- Healthcare office
- Law enforcement department
- Community-based victim advocacy agency
- Government-based victim advocacy agency
- Prosecuting office, other than Attorney General's office
- Other (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_

**12. Do You Rotate the (SART) Team Administrator's/Coordinator's Position?**

- Position permanent
- Position rotates (How frequently): \_\_\_\_\_

**13. Is Your (SART) Team Incorporated?**

- Yes, incorporated
- Not incorporated

**14. How is Your (SART) Team Funded?**

(✓ All that apply)

- Local funds (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- State funds specifically for (SART) Team
- State funds that are not specific for (SART) Team
- Federal Funds (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

- Corporate/Foundation Grants (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- Fundraising activities (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- No funding for (SART) Team
- Other (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**15. Describe the setting of your (SART) Team training:**

(✓ All that apply)

- Local training
- Regional training
- National training
- Combination of local, regional and national training
- Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**16. Describe the frequency of your (SART) Team training:**

- Annual training
- Semi-annual training
- Quarterly training
- Monthly training
- Other (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**17. What materials have been developed to support your (SART) Team?**

(✓ All that apply)

- No specific guidelines
- Guidelines for the response to female victims
- Guidelines for the response to male victims
- Guidelines for the response to individuals with disabilities
- Guidelines for the response to multicultural populations
- Guidelines for older individuals
- Guidelines for the response to same sex sexual assault
- Guidelines for the response to immigrant populations
- Guidelines for Institutions of Higher Education
- Guidelines for faith communities' response to sexual assault
- Protocols to dispatch team members for forensic exams
- Protocols for advocates
- Protocols for forensic examinations
- Protocols for medical examination and treatment
- Protocols for law enforcement
- Protocols for prosecution of sex crimes
- Protocols for working with victims in tribal communities
- Protocols for military communities
- Protocols for probation and parole
- No specific protocols
- Other (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

## (SART) Team Collaboration

### **18. Describe your Interagency (SART) Team Communication**

(✓ All that apply)

- Written interagency agreements with all (SART) Team agencies
- Written interagency agreements with some (SART) Team agencies
- Online communication (website, listserv, blackboard technology, etc)
- Informal (verbal) agreements with (SART) Team agencies
- Adherence to confidential communications during case reviews and team meetings
- Other (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

### **19. Describe the core agencies on your SART Team**

- Advocacy
- Dispatch
- Law Enforcement
- Forensic Examiners
- Prosecution
- Crime Lab
- Other (Please identify) \_\_\_\_\_

### **20. Describe the agencies and individuals your (SART) Team collaborates with:**

(✓ All that apply)

- Alternative medicine professionals
- Campuses
- Hospital chaplain
- Firefighter's chaplain
- Law enforcement chaplain
- Attorneys
- Community Advocacy
- Crime lab
- Educators
- Faith-based personnel
- Federal Governmental Agencies (please list): \_\_\_\_\_
- Forensic scientists
- Governmental advocates (Prosecution-based victim/witness assistants)
- Healthcare professionals
- Hospitals
- Indian health services
- Law Enforcement
- Legislators
- Mental health professionals
- Judges
- Military personnel
- Multicultural groups in the community (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_
- Organizations for individuals with disabilities

- Prevention educators
- Probation and parole
- Prosecution
- Public health agencies
- Shelters (including youth)
- Substance abuse agencies
- Survivors
- Sex Offender Treatment Providers
- State/territory/tribal government agencies (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_
- Tribal agencies
- Other (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

**21. List all Individuals/Groups/Organizations you want to collaborate with (But Have Not)**

(✓ All that apply)

- Alternative medicine professionals
- Campuses
- Hospital chaplain
- Law enforcement chaplain
- Attorneys
- Community Advocacy
- Crime lab
- Educators
- Faith-based personnel
- Federal Governmental Agencies (please list): \_\_\_\_\_
- Forensic scientists
- Governmental advocates
- Healthcare professionals
- Hospitals
- Indian health services
- Law Enforcement
- Legislators
- Mental health professionals
- Judges
- Military
- Multicultural groups in the community (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_
- Organizations for individuals w/ disabilities
- Prevention educators
- Probation and parole
- Prosecution
- Public health agencies
- Shelters (including youth)
- Substance abuse agencies
- Survivors
- Sex Offender Treatment Providers
- State/territory/tribal government agencies (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_
- Tribal agencies
- Other (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_

**22. List your (SART) Team’s Community Awareness/Public Education Services**

**(✓ All that apply)**

- Bilingual educational materials
- Billboard messages
- Community and school-based rape prevention education
- Magazine/newspaper ads
- Peer education programs in schools and colleges
- Printed materials on prevention of sexual violence
- Printed materials on responding to sexual violence
- Public Service Announcements
- Survivor handbooks published
- Training of other responders
- Other (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

(SART) Team Components

*Please complete the following questions even if they are outside of your discipline*

**23. Advocacy Response: Services and Policies**

**(✓ All that apply)**

- Advocacy support during initial law enforcement report
- Advocacy support during detective interview(s)
- Advocacy support during prosecutor interviews
- Advocacy support during forensic evidence collection
- Advocacy support during medical examination and treatment
- Advocacy support for protection orders
- Advocacy support during campus judicial hearings
- Advocacy support with crime victim’s compensation claims
- Advocacy support throughout criminal justice process
- Advocacy support for anonymous law enforcement reports
- Civil legal services (Please explain): \_\_\_\_\_
- Community prevention education provided by advocates
- Counseling services without charge
- Counseling services on a sliding fee scale
- Childcare services during counseling sessions
- Courtroom orientation
- Financial assistance for safety or practical needs. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- Hotline (24/7) – crisis intervention
- Hotline (limited hours)
- Multicultural services
- Multilingual services
- Safety planning
- Services for physical health needs

- Services for victims' families and friends
- Relocation assistance (moving; school transfers)
- Shelter/transitional housing assistance
- Transportation services
- Translation services
- Victim satisfaction surveys
- Other services (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_

**24. Describe your Advocacy Facility**

(✓ Any or all that apply)

- Facility accessible for individuals with physical disabilities
- Facility is a rape crisis center
- Facility is a domestic violence and rape crisis center
- Facility houses community advocates and forensic examiners together
- Facility houses community advocates and law enforcement
- Facility houses community advocates, forensic examiners and law enforcement together
- Other (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**25. Advocacy Staffing**

(✓ all that apply)

- 24/7 volunteer crisis intervention
- 24/7 staff crisis intervention
- State certified advocates
- Other (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**26. Team Forensic Exam Response: Services and Policies**

(✓ All that apply)

- 24/7 forensic nurse examiners
- 24/7 forensic physician examiners
- 24/7 physician assistant examiners
- 24/7 forensic healthcare examiners
- 24/7 medical examination and treatment
- Examiners arrive at exam site in less than an hour
- Anonymous forensic exams provided (law enforcement reports not required)
- Anonymous toxicology testing provided
- Childcare provided during forensic exam
- Community prevention education provided by forensic examiners
- Crisis intervention services
- Emergency contraception provided as standard of care
- Emergency contraception referrals
- Forensic exams paid in full, regardless of whether victims file law enforcement reports
- Follow-up medical care
- Multicultural services (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_
- Multilingual services (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_
- New clothing provided at exam site
- Used clothing provided at exam site

- Referrals available for alternative medicine/services (Please list) \_\_\_\_\_
- Services easily accessible for victims with physical disabilities
- Shower facilities available
- Testing and medication for sexually transmitted infections provided as a standard of care
- Testing and medication for HIV, as indicated
- Testing and medication for hepatitis B provided as standard of care
- Written discharge instructions provided
- Other Services (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**27. Forensic Exam Facility**

(✓ All that apply)

- Exams performed at one designated hospital
- Exams performed at all regional hospitals
- Exams performed at a community-based health facility
- Exams performed at a community-based advocacy center
- Exams performed at a campus-based health facility
- Exams performed at a military facility
- Exams are performed at an Indian health care facility
- Exams performed in hospital emergency department
- Exams performed in a hospital location other than emergency department
- Exams performed at mobile sites
- Facility is easily accessible for individuals with disabilities
- Other (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**28. Describe funding source(s) for forensic exams if you provide forensic exams WITHOUT law enforcement reports**

- Corporate/foundation funds. Please list \_\_\_\_\_
- Federal funds .Please list: \_\_\_\_\_
- Local funds. Please list: \_\_\_\_\_
- State funds. Please list: \_\_\_\_\_
- Victim/patient's private health insurance \_\_\_\_\_
- Other. Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

**29. Describe funding sources for forensic exams if exams performed WITH law enforcement reports**

- Corporate/foundation funds. Please list \_\_\_\_\_
- Federal funds .Please list: \_\_\_\_\_
- Local funds. Please list: \_\_\_\_\_
- State funds. Please list: \_\_\_\_\_
- Victim/patient's private health insurance \_\_\_\_\_
- Other. Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

**30. Please explain how HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) has affected your response to sexual violence:**

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**31. Law Enforcement Response: Services and Policies**

**Services and Policies:**

(✓ All that apply)

- 24/7 law enforcement response for sexual violence
- 24/7 on-call crime lab technicians
- Community prevention education provided by law enforcement
- Coordinated team interviews with advocates and forensic examiners
- Enforcement of no contact (protection) orders
- Multicultural services (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_
- Multilingual services
- Ongoing contact with victims during investigation
- Private interview area
- Prompt response to victims' calls and concerns
- Safety needs addressed
- Specialized law enforcement sex crimes unit for adult victims
- Victim notification of offender's release
- Videotaped interviews
- Victims' rights information provided
- Other (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

**32. Prosecution Response: Services and Policies**

(✓ All that apply)

- 24/7 prosecution response
- Assistance with school transfers, when indicated
- Child care assistance for victims during court hearings, interviews and trials
- Community prevention education provided by prosecutors
- Contact with victims made early on
- Evidence-based prosecution available (prosecution without victim testimony)
- Legal strategies to protect victims' identity and personal background information
- Motions enforced to protect victim during court process
- Multilingual services
- Notification of offender release
- Offender risk assessment considered as part of sentencing process
- Respond promptly to victims' calls and concerns
- Speedy trials
- Safety needs addressed throughout criminal justice process
- Specialized sex crimes unit for adult victims
- Victim impact statements encouraged

- Victim testimony by closed circuit TV, when indicated
- Victims' wishes considered in plea agreements
- Victim-Witness Advocate provides court accompaniment
- Other (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_

**33. Probation and Parole**

**Services and policies**

(✓ All that apply)

- Community prevention education provided by probation/parole officers
- Coordinated parole hearings for victims with multiple defendants
- Dedicated probation and parole staff to supervise sex offenders
- Post conviction assistance to address victims' needs
- Victim notification of offender release and condition of release
- Victim notification of offender's probation/parole violations
- Other (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_

(SART) Team Quality Assurance Measures

**34. Please describe any Tracking Systems your (SART) Team uses:**

(✓ All that apply)

- Case management and data collection system(s)
- Court docket management system
- Forensic exam kit tracking
- Incident reports tracked
- Probation conditions/violations tracked
- Recidivism rates tracked
- Sentencing tracked
- Sexual assault convictions tracked
- Sexual assault protection orders tracked
- Warrants tracked
- Other (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**35. If your (SART) Team has been evaluated, what were the results?**

(If your SART Team has NOT been evaluated, skip to #37)

Victims' Perception of Safety

- Increased  Decreased  No change  Unsure

Number of Law Enforcement Reports

- Increased  Decreased  No change  Unsure

Number of Cases Prosecuted

- Increased  Decreased  No change  Unsure

Reliability of Evidence Collection

- Increased  Decreased  No change  Unsure

Services to Underserved Populations

- Increased  Decreased  No change

Sexual Assault Training

- Increased  Decreased  No Change  Unsure

Mental Health Services

- Increased  Decreased  No change  Unsure

Services for Individuals with Disabilities

- Increased  Decreased  No change  Unsure

**36. Other Findings from SART Evaluation**

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**Sex Offender Accountability Development Efforts**

**37. Describe Your Sex Offender Services /Activities**

(✓ All that apply)

- Sex Offender Registration website (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_
- Services extend through probation and parole
- Specialized law enforcement sex crimes unit for adult sex offenders
- Specialized law enforcement sex crimes unit for juvenile sex offenders
- Specialized prosecution sex crimes unit for adult sex offenders
- Specialized prosecution sex crimes unit for juvenile sex offenders
- Other (Please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

**38. List (SART) Team Sex Offender Materials developed**

(✓ All that apply)

- Materials on sex offender management
- Sex offender evaluation instruments
- Needs assessment instruments
- Quality assurance measurements
- Other (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

What you would like Addressed in the Toolkit?

**39. Topics you would like included in the Toolkit**

(✓ All that apply)

- Address confidentiality for victims
- Alcohol and consent
- Alternative criminal dispositions for sexual assault
- Anonymous reporting for sexual assault
- Background checks for volunteer advocates

- Civil legal remedies
- Closed circuit TV
- Collaboration strategies
- Conducting community needs assessments
- Confidentiality rights of victims
- Conflict Resolution
- Consent defense
- Crawford decision and sexual assault
- Cross-training with SART team members
- Cultivating corporate sponsorship
- Delayed reporting
- Dispelling Rape myths
- Drug facilitated sexual assault
- Emergency contraception following sexual assault
- Evidence-based prosecution for sexual assault
- Expert witnesses
- False allegations
- Hearsay
- HIPAA
- HIV testing following sexual assault
- HIV prophylactics following sexual assault
- Immigration issues
- Impact of privileged communication on collaboration
- Insurance benefits for forensic exams
- Integration of domestic violence and sexual assault
- John Doe warrants
- Judicial education resources
- Maintaining SARTs during employee turnovers
- Mandatory reporting of sexual assault
- Male advocacy
- Marital rape
- Meeting victim's practical needs
- Outreach to underserved/unserved populations
- Polygraphs for victims
- Prevention of sexual violence
- Program sustainability
- Prosecutorial discretion
- Protective orders and sexual assault
- Rape shield laws
- Recantation
- Restorative justice
- Re-victimization issues
- Role-definitions for SART team members
- Sexual assault adjudication on college campuses
- Statute of limitations for SA
- Statutory rape

- System for legal referrals
- Telemedicine
- Trauma and victimization
- Vicarious trauma
- Victims with outstanding warrants
- Videotaped interviews
- Other (Please list): \_\_\_\_\_

**40. Organizational materials you would like included in the Toolkit**

**(✓ All that apply)**

- Community mobilization materials
- Conflict resolution materials
- Funding and sustainability materials
- Information on writing grant proposals
- Leadership and team-building materials
- Materials on building/sustaining collaborative (SART) Team relationships
- Meeting facilitation techniques
- Nonprofit management materials
- Steps for SART implementation, development and sustainability
- Strategic planning guidelines
- Successful SART models
- Tips on working with the media
- Cultivating corporate sponsorships
- Technological issues
- Other (please list: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Written Feedback**

**41. Describe any programs and policies that need to change because they are no longer effective or because they impede a victim-centered response to sexual violence:**

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**42. Identify two most pressing challenges your organization/agency faces in collaborating w/ other organizations/agencies in response to sexual violence:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**43. Resources you need to more effectively meet the needs of underserved/unserved communities in your area:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**44. What national efforts would help SART initiatives locally?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You for Your Feedback!**

**Addendum**

**Resource Collections**

**May we contact you for copies of?**

**(✓ All that apply)**

- SART protocols/guidelines
- Training materials
- Needs assessment instrument
- Evaluation instruments
- Confidentiality guidelines
- Victims' rights guidelines
- Interagency agreements
- Other useful resources (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe any innovative practices, legislation, or publications developed in your State, Tribe or U.S. Territory that you would like considered for inclusion in the toolkit:**

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**The information you provide will be only used for follow-up purposes. It will not be shared in published survey results:**

**(Please Print)**

**Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You!**

National Sexual Violence Resource Center  
123 N Enola Drive  
Enola, PA 17025  
Phone: 877-739-3895  
Fax: 717-909-0715