

VAWA Forensic Compliance Project

Information Regarding Reporting Rates: Victims seeking medical attention

Massachusetts is a state with “mandatory reporting” for all sexual assaults:

Chapter 112: Section 12A1/2. Reporting treatment of victim of rape or sexual assault; penalty

Section 12A1/2. Every physician attending, treating, or examining a victim of rape or sexual assault, or, whenever any such case is treated in a hospital, sanatorium or other institution, the manager, superintendent or other person in charge thereof, shall report such case at once to the criminal history systems board and to the police of the town where the rape or sexual assault occurred but shall not include the victim’s name, address, or any other identifying information. The report shall describe the general area where the attack occurred.

Data indicates that between the years of 2001 – 2004, “73% of victims....indicated that they reported their crime to police”.

Source: *Understanding Sexual Victimization: Using Medical Provider Data to Describe the Nature and Context of Sexual Crime in Massachusetts.* Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety, Research and Policy Analysis Division, December 2006.

“All rapes, 39% of attempted rapes, and 17% of sexual assaults against females resulted in injured victims. Most injured rape, attempted rape, and sexual assault victims did not receive treatment for their injuries (1992-2000).”

“Most rapes and sexual assaults against females were not reported to the police. Thirty-six percent of rapes, 34% of attempted rapes, and 26% of sexual assaults were reported to police (1992 – 2000).”

“Fifty-nine percent of the victims of completed rape whose victimizations were reported to the police were treated for their injuries, compared to 17% of rape victims with unreported victimizations.”

“Forty five percent of injured female victims of a reported attempted rape compared to 22% of injured victims of an unreported attempted rape received medical treatment (1992 – 2000).”

Source: Rennison, Callie M. *Rape and Sexual Assault: Reporting to Police and Medical Attention, 1992- 2000.* U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, August 2002.