20,314 victims of sexual violence report to SARC centres

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About 20,090 victims of sexual related violence have so far reported to the different Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in the country.  
  
Of the figure, the number of cases for 2019 increased by 5,670. The number of SARCs centers in 2020 also increased to 32 across 18 states with over 70 per cent of clients being children under the age of 18.  
  
Also, the sexual assault registry established by the Federal Government has so far uploaded 573 cases into the database.  
  
Of the number, 78 convictions have been recorded with 320 cases pending in court and 173 are still under investigation.  
  
The Director General, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Dr. Fatima Waziri-Azi made this known yesterday in Abuja during the public presentation of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Annual Report.  
  
She said, “As of today: 573 cases have been uploaded onto the Database (78 convictions, 320 cases pending in court, 173 cases under investigation). Only 80 service providers have been profiled and registered on the NSOD. Kano and Edo State are synchronized to the database and Adamawa, Delta and Edo State have indicated interest.”  
  
“The VAPP Act categorically provides in section 42 that “the body vested with the enforcement of the Act which is NAPTIP, shall appoint a person as the Coordinator of the prevention of domestic violence who shall submit annual report to the Federal Government on the implementation of the Act, a copy of which shall be deposited with the National Bureau for Statistics. Which is why we are here to give life to section 42.  
  
According to the report, “Since the establishment of Mirabel Centre as the first SARC in Lagos in July 2013, the SARCs have assisted over 14,644 survivors of sexual assault, as of December 2020, across Nigeria (ROLAC, 2021). This number represents an increase of 5,670 from the year 2019. SARCs are examined in more detail under state efforts in chapter five of the report.”  
  
Offences recognised by the VAPP act include, rape, physical injury, coercion, willfully placing a person in fear of physical injury, offensive conduct, prohibition of female circumcision or genital mutilation, frustrating investigations, willfully making false statements and forced ejection from home.  
  
Also included are depriving a person of his/her liberty damage to property with intent to cause distress, forced financial dependence or economic abuse, forced isolation or separation from family and friends, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse, harmful widowhood practices, abandonment of spouse, children and other dependents without sustenance, stalking and intimidation.  
  
Included are, spousal/partner battery, harmful traditional practices, harmful substance attack, administering substance with intent, political violence, violence by state actors, incest and indecent exposure.