



A SUMMARY OF VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE, A PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS COUNSELING AND MENTAL HEALTH CENTER



Note: In this document, the term “interpersonal violence” is used to encompass relationship violence, sexual violence and/or stalking.

The tragic facts are that an estimated 30% of women and 6% of men report being a victim of attempted or completed sexual assault by the time they finish college.¹ In one study, one in 20 (4.7%) women reported being raped in college since the beginning of the year – a period of approximately 7 months – and nearly three quarters of those rapes (72%) happened with the victims were so intoxicated they were unable to consent or refuse.² Over a lifetime, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men in the United States have experienced rape, 80% of which occurs before age 25.³

Stalking is more common on college campuses than the population at large and has been found to affect 12% of students on campus.⁴ Researchers found that 10-15% of students reported having experienced online harassment from strangers, an acquaintance or significant other.⁵ Finally, 75% of the 16-24 year old population in Texas report that they have either personally experienced dating violence or know someone who has. Within the same age group, 60% of women and 40% of men have personally experienced dating violence, either as “victims” or “abusers.”⁶

Because these are not just statistics but college students with hopes and dreams forced to deal with devastating trauma, many universities recognized the need for comprehensive victim services and preventative education as early as the 1970s. It was this sense of need that led the University of Texas to establish in 2001 an on-campus program to combat interpersonal violence affecting UT students and international student spouses. In the 13 years since the professional staff was hired for UT’s Voices Against Violence (VAV) Program, the UT campus has been transformed in the following ways:

BEFORE VAV	AFTER VAV
<p>Limited centralized, coordinated direct services for students victimized by interpersonal violence. The Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC) estimated seeing only 10 cases of sexual assault in 2000. CMHC’s Crisis Line reported about the same number.</p>	<p>From September 2001 through May, 2014, VAV staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided individual and/or group counseling and advocacy services for students reporting 919 incidences of interpersonal violence between September 2001 and May 2014. • Trained and/or consulted with CMHC staff who served students reporting another 748 incidents. • Responded in UHS when a patient presented in crisis regarding these issues. • Consulted with other UT departments such as Student Judicial Services, Housing and Food Services, University Health Services, the Dean of Students Office, the International Student Services Office, Intercollegiate Athletics and the University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). <p><i>Note: As of Oct. 1, 2013, campus & community partner data was no longer collected.</i></p>

<p>No emergency financial assistance for survivors.</p>	<p>VAV established a Survivors Emergency Fund in 2001 to provide emergency financial assistance to student victims/survivors of sexual violence, relationship violence, and/or stalking, towards the aim of increasing that student's safety, coping, and independence. This fund is supported entirely through donations and contributions from individuals and/or organizations. From 2007 through May, 2014, \$12,014 has been distributed to survivors for a wide range of emergency needs such as medical and legal costs, apartment deposits, replacement of home locks and other basic needs.</p>
<p>No advocacy services for students victimized by interpersonal violence.</p>	<p>The VAV Programming and Counseling Specialist and the VAV Counseling Specialist arrange for survivors to move to safer housing, help them obtain academic relief when necessary, assist them with safety and financial planning, limited emergency financial assistance and contact community agencies able to provide additional assistance with legal appointments and hearings.</p>
<p>Limited campus outreach through training, workshops, interviews, informational sessions, campus events, freshman orientation and VAV student organization meetings</p>	<p>Between September 2001 and May 2014, the total number of individuals who have participated in VAV outreach was 174,381, including approximately 86,960 incoming freshmen attending orientation sessions where they watched a Campus Issues play depicting interpersonal violence. Starting in 2012, 1,817 transfer students were also reached through orientation sessions. Orientation advisors developed the play and were trained by VAV staff on interpersonal violence issues.</p>
<p>No peer education program.</p>	<p>VAV Student Coordinators, VAV Student Organization & other student organization allies have created a presence on campus through tabling on the West Mall and planning, promoting, and participating in special events such as Relationship Violence Prevention Month, and Sexual Assault Prevention Month, including Take Back the Night.</p>

<p>No interactive theatre program.</p>	<p>The VAV Theatre for Dialogue Specialist teaches a two semester, for-credit course giving students a powerful interactive tool with which to engage in dialogue with fellow students about intervention, prevention, and risk reduction in the area of interpersonal violence. Since Spring 2003, this Theatre for Dialogue Troupe presented performances to numerous campus and local community groups as well as three national conferences. In 2011, a new interactive theatre program was added called Get Sexy. Get Consent. In the spring of 2014, a third form of interactive theatre was created called “I like, LIKE You”. All of these interactive theater performances have reached 15,972 individuals through May, 2014.</p>
<p>No nationally recognized self-defense program.</p>	<p>UTPD is teaching highly successful Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) classes to UT female students, faculty, and staff. The program was established on the UT campus through the Dept. of Justice grant and is now fully funded through UTPD.</p>
<p>Limited public awareness campaigns to alert the UT campus to the prevalence and seriousness of interpersonal violence.</p>	<p>Regular media interviews with VAV staff have resulted in numerous published articles and radio and television broadcasts, including a CBS Early News featured report and a featured article in the American Psychological Association <u>Monitor</u>. Informational videos were created about the Theatre for Dialogue program and are available on the VAV website and YouTube. VAV information has been distributed on wallet-sized cards and postcards which have been widely circulated around campus. A campus-wide “No One’s Asking For It” campaign was created in collaboration with student leaders.</p>

Updated 8/5/14

¹ Krebs, C.P., Lindquist, C.H., Warner, T.D., Fisher, B.S., & Martin, S.L. (2007). The Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study. National Institute of Justice.

² Mohler-Kuo, M., Dowdall, G., Koss, M., & Wechsler, H. (2004). Correlates of Rape While Intoxicated in a National Sample of College Women. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 65, 37-45.

³ Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

⁴ Brownstein, A. (2000). In the Campus Shadows, Women are Stalkers as Well as the Stalked”. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, XLVII(15), 40-42.

⁵ Finn, J. (2004). “A Survey of Online Harassment at a University Campus”. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 29, (4), 468-483.

⁶ Texas Council on Family Violence Statewide Dating Violence Survey, 2006.