Problem: Students Victimized

Sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are serious problems on college and university campuses. Students who are victimized by other students face unique challenges, such as close proximity to perpetrators and difficulty with anonymity.

Nineteen percent of undergraduate women reported experiencing completed or attempted sexual assault since entering college. Most of these assaults were committed by someone the victim knew, and these perpetrators are often serial offenders. Rape frequently devastates the victim and derails her education and her future.

Many college rapists target victims who are drugged, drunk, passed out, or otherwise incapacitated – creating a situation in which victims may be less likely to report and where prosecutors may be less likely to prosecute. Only 2% of incapacitated rape victims reported the assault to law enforcement.

Women between 18-24 years of age are at the greatest risk for intimate partner violence. Estimates of dating violence among college students range from 10% to 50%. This violence has serious consequences, including physical injury, depression, low self-esteem, and anxiety disorders.

Solution: Campus Grant Program

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) administers grant programs authorized by the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and subsequent legislation. These grant programs help reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable for their actions.

The Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program (Campus Program), first authorized in 1998, funds institutions of higher education to adopt comprehensive responses to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The OVW Campus Program strengthens:

- on-campus victim services
- advocacy
- security and investigation, improving both prosecution and prevention of these crimes

Campus Program grantees must:

- Provide prevention programs for all incoming students
- Train campus law enforcement or security staff
- Educate campus judicial or disciplinary boards on the unique dynamics of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking
- Create a coordinated community response to enhance victim assistance and safety while holding offenders accountable

Campus-based sexual violence prevention programs, like those funded by VAWA, have been found to increase active bystander behavior – students intervening to stop or prevent a sexual assault.

In Fiscal Year 2013, the Campus Program funded 28 projects totaling over $7 million. Since 1999, OVW has funded approximately 388 projects totaling more than $139 million to address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campuses.
GRANTS TO REDUCE SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, AND STALKING ON CAMPUS PROGRAM

Eligible Applicants

- Institutions of higher education
- Consortia of higher education institutions in which each individual consortium member is also eligible to apply

Materials and Publications

- Campus Training Standards for Campus Security Personnel and Campus Disciplinary and Judicial Boards
  www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/campustrainingstandards-le.pdf
- Establishing A Mandatory Prevention and Education Program for all Incoming Students on Campus
- A Coordinated Community Response on Campus
  www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/standards-for-ccr.pdf

Campus Technical Assistance Providers

OVW’s Technical Assistance Program provides OVW grantees with training, expertise, and problem-solving strategies to meet the challenges of addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking on campus.

- Black Women’s Blueprint
  www.blackwomensblueprint.org
- California Coalition Against Sexual Assault
  www.calcasa.org
- Clery Center for Security On Campus
  www.clerycenter.org
- East Central University
  www.ecok.edu
- Green Dot, etc.
- Men Can Stop Rape
  www.mencanstoprape.org
- Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault
  www.mscasa.org

For additional information on OVW’s Campus Grant Program, visit www.justice.gov/ovw.

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2 Ibid.