

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: Utah and Cache County Victims

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The Purpose of Our Research

The purpose of our research is to find in what ways the criminal justice system may deter crime trends; along with the effectiveness of treatment plans and resources provided to victims. We plan to survey victims of crime in order to find out their overall satisfaction with the police, the court system, the victim advocate services, and to find out if they have knowledge of ongoing victim services.

Hypothesis

Prior to the beginning of this project, our group believed that extended resources and services within the criminal justice system would make a difference in the criminal justice process.

What is Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Domestic Violence

Violence against a current or former spouse, against an adult the person lives or lived with, or against a person sharing a child in common. Which places an individual with whom there is a past or present intimate relationship, in fear.

Sexual Assault

The term sexual assault refers to unwanted sexual contact, sexual coercion, attempted rape, and completed rape. This includes:

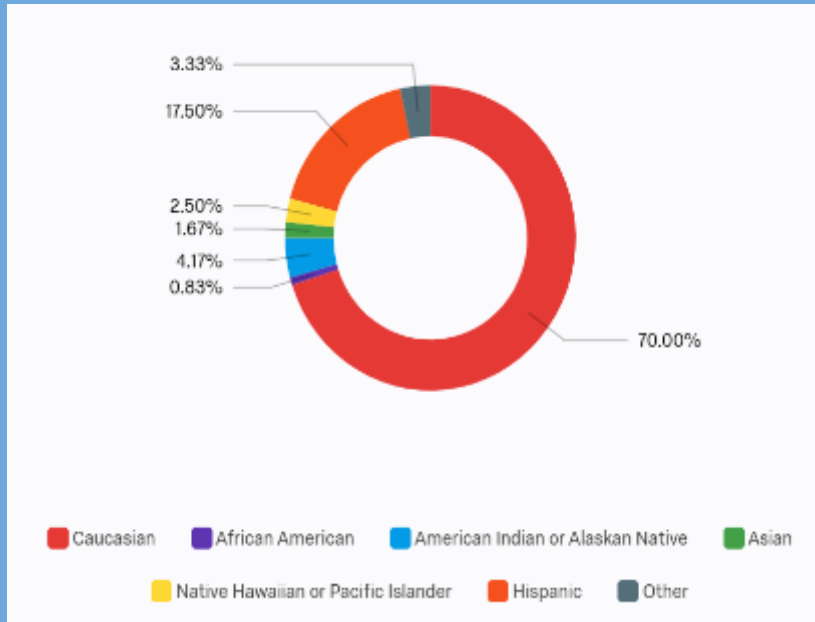
Someone fondled, kissed, or rubbed up against the private areas of the victim's body, or removed some of the victim's clothes without consent.

Someone had oral sex with the victim or made the victim have oral sex with them without consent

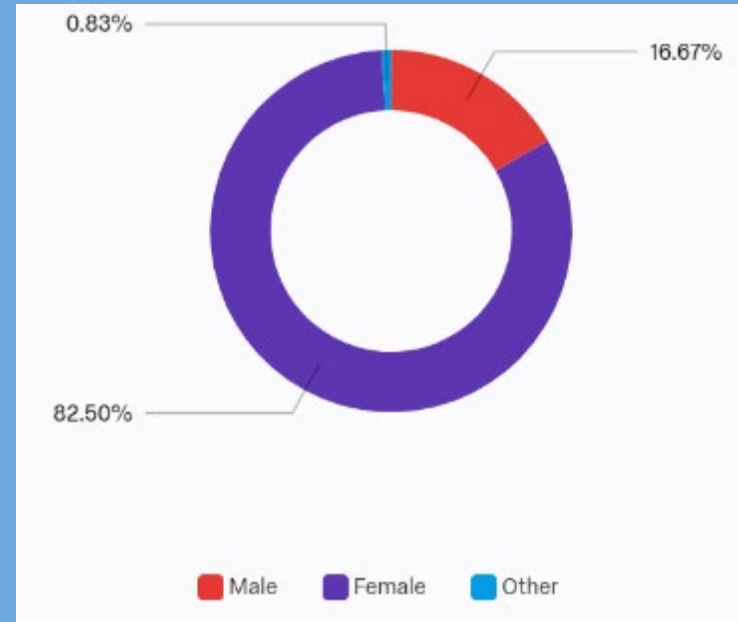
Penetration of the victim's body known as rape

Survey Statistics

Race



Gender



Survey Statistics

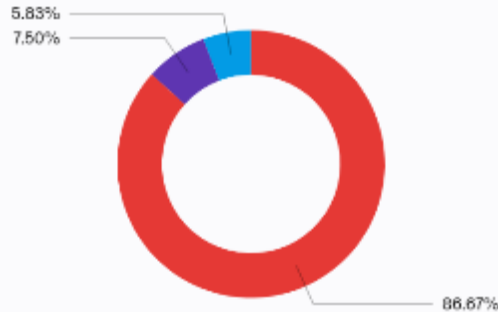
Education

Employed (currently)

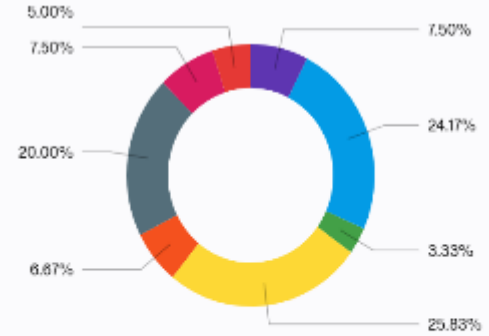


Yes No

Residency



Yes No Legal resident status illegal resident



None Some High School High School Diploma G.E.D. (General Education Diploma)
Some College Associates degree Bachelor degree Advanced degree Other

Research Design and How Data was Collected

The data in this research project was collected via voluntary anonymous survey. We completed this by using victim advocacy agencies throughout Utah to send the survey out to known victims of crime. We guaranteed anonymity by having the victim advocates send out the survey link, thus never allowing us to view who the survey was being sent to. We instructed the victims advocates to only send the survey to those victims who were 18 years of age or older. Our survey was not designed for children under the age of 18.

Literature Review

We have done a literature review on four related and relevant studies.

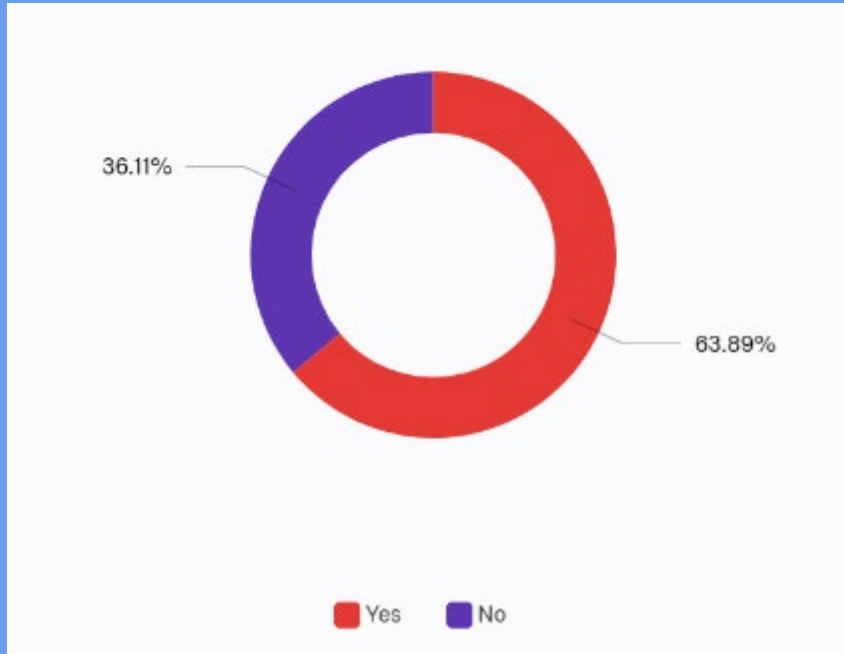
- *Let's Focus on Victim Justice, Not Criminal Justice.*
- *Exploring the Social and Individual Differences Among Victims, Offenders, Victim-Offenders, and Total Abstainers*
- *Offenders as victims of crime?: an investigation into the relationship between criminal behaviour and victimization.*
- *Mental Health Needs of Crime Victims: Epidemiology.*

Survey Questions

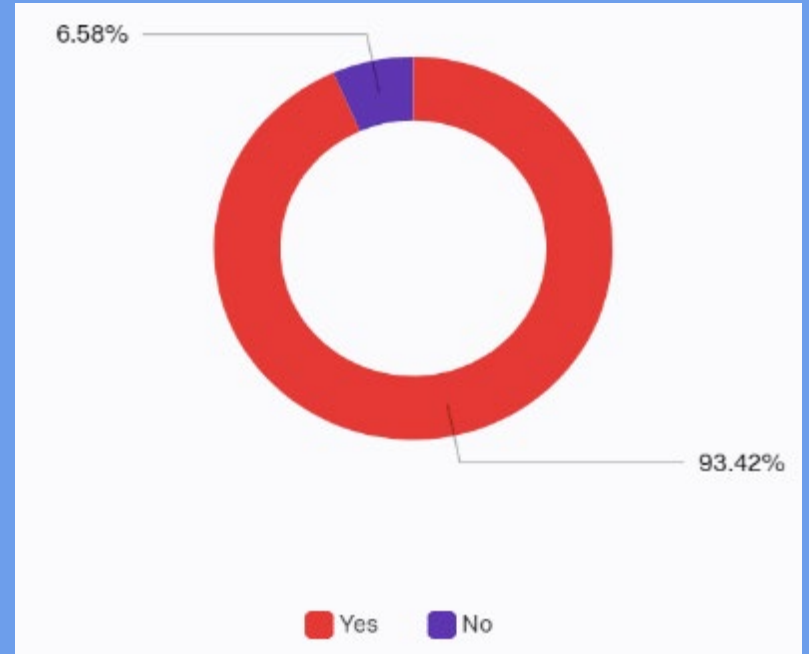
We surveyed adults (18+) of any age range; that have fallen victim within the last five years. Our questions focused on an individual's history of domestic violence, and/or sexual assault. Then our survey asked questions about a victim's experience throughout the criminal justice system. We also asked questions about the resources they used/didn't use. Our survey ended with demographic questions.

Survey Results

Sexual Assault victims Who reported the crime.

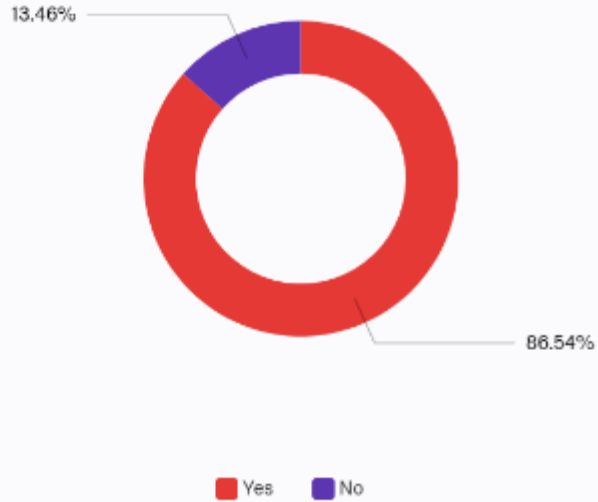


Domestic Violence victims who reported the crime.

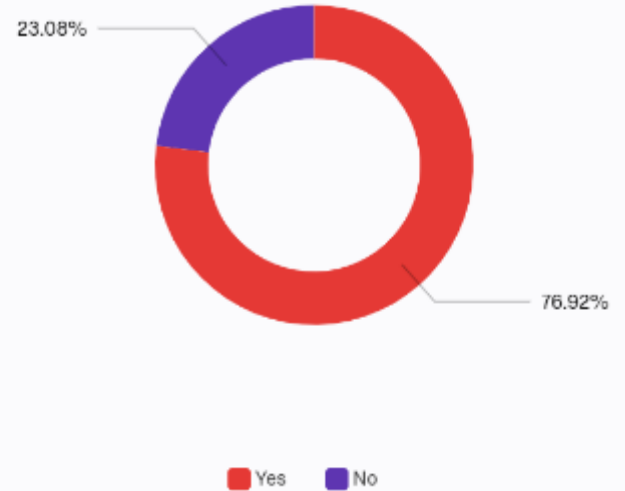


Survey Results

Q32 - Did your Victim Advocate help facilitate your extended care?

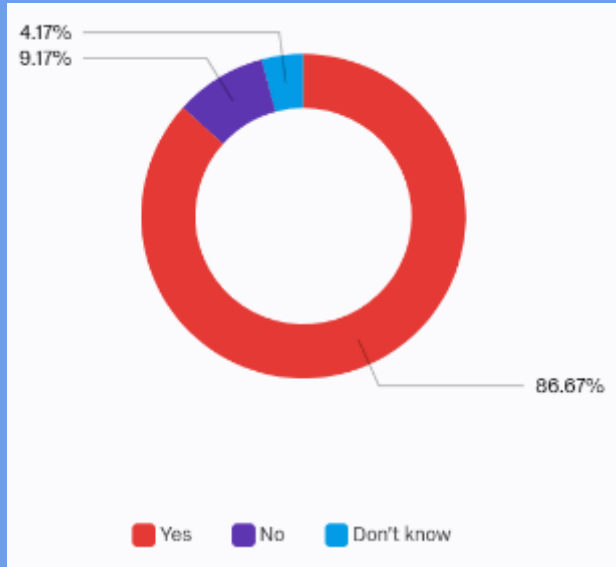


Q33 - Did your Victim Advocate help finance the costs of your extended care?



Survey Results

Had a victim advocate assigned to case



Q27 - How would you rate your overall experience with the police?

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#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
3	Don't know	3.00	6.00	4.50	1.50	2.25	2
2	No	1.00	6.00	3.00	2.16	4.67	3
1	Yes	1.00	10.00	8.37	2.55	6.50	75

Q28 - How would you rate your overall experience with the Court process?

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#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Yes	1.00	10.00	7.38	2.87	7.14	66
2	No	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	2
3	Don't know	2.00	5.00	3.50	1.50	2.25	2

Sample Size Confidence Interval and Level

We received a sample population of 350 individuals

We received 123 surveys back

Our confidence Interval is 7.13

Find Confidence Interval

Confidence Level: 95% 99%

Sample Size:

Population:

Percentage:

Confidence Interval:

Response Rate and Improvements of it

We got 123 responses from the 350 it was sent out to = 35% response rate.

We believe if we had not run into a time crunch due to the IRB; then we would have been able to gather more information.

Final Conclusions

- Victims of domestic violence were more likely to report than that of sexual assault.
- Victims assigned an advocate reported higher satisfaction with the criminal justice system.
- Our data supports that the victim advocacy sources are helping victims through the entire court process and post court process
- We we pleasantly surprised to see that 86.67% of our respondents had victim advocates that were already helping them through the process.

Problems Encountered

- Time Constraints brought on by the IRB approval process did not allow our survey to be active for as long as desired.
- It was challenging for our advocates to contact known victims of domestic violence and sexual assault because contact information had changed over the years.
- We had some issues with Qualtrics skewing the data. We were able to work through them for accurate data.

Victim Resources

Additional Resources for victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault: Utah Office for Victims of Crime 801-238- 2360 <https://justice.utah.gov/Crime/> Utah

Domestic Violence Coalition 1-800-897-5465 <https://www.udvc.org/> Domestic Violence Services 801-538-4171

<https://dcfs.utah.gov/services/domestic-violence-services/> Utah Crime Victims Legal Clinic 801-746-1204 <http://www.utahvictimsclinic.org/>

Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault 801-746-0404 <https://www.ucasa.org/> Utah Office For Victims of Crime 801-238-2360 <https://Justice.utah.gove/crime/>

If it is an emergency please call 9-1-1

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- Bensen, B. (2014). Let's Focus on Victim Justice, Not Criminal Justice. [online] Available at: <http://eds.a.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.uvu.edu/eds/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=27&sid=8527344a-24d8-4a11-82f9-f30f799cbb27%40sdc-v-sessmgr01> [Accessed 11 Jul. 2019].
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