
ENHANCING VICTIM SERVICES THROUGHOUT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

2019-2020 MIDYEAR PROJECT REPORT

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**SUPPORTED BY A VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) GRANT ADMINISTERED THROUGH
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INTRODUCTION

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, has a long and successful history of responding to campus sexual and dating violence, and has received national recognition for related programs and research. As a direct result of the “Enhancing Victim Services Throughout Rutgers University” grant provided by the Victim Of Crime Act (VOCA) through the NJ Attorney General’s Office, Rutgers has been able to expand victim service support and education to address sexual and dating violence as well as enhance the awareness of Rutgers’ university-wide response to these issues.

Since the inception of this project in 2017, the University has been able to expand and refine the “Rutgers Model” for addressing campus sexual and dating violence. The following mid-year report highlights the ways in which we have been able to achieve these goals.

PROJECT GOALS



Continue to enhance the work on each of the Rutgers campuses to address sexual and dating violence



Continue to strengthen a coordinated, university-wide message about the Rutgers response to sexual and dating violence



Victim Services

September 2019 - February 2020

272

Clients received services
September 2019 -
February 2020

1

New Position!
University-Wide
Faculty and Staff
Training Coordinator

212

New clients have received
services September 2019 -
February 2020

UNIVERSITY - WIDE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Stand-alone Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) Offices on each of the four Rutgers campuses continue to provide a range of support services to victims, as well as education and awareness-raising campaigns to the larger campus community. These offices meet regularly and often coordinate events and initiatives, enhancing the overall Rutgers Model.
- A part-time Media Specialist was hired and is primarily responsible for multimedia engagement, including production of social media content, podcast production, and efforts related to engaging with the Rutgers community around violence prevention as well as offers support to grant deliverables.
- We began to develop a podcast focused on creating a more safe and inclusive campus environment.
- A faculty and staff training coordinator was hired to begin offering trainings for faculty and staff around issues of sexual, dating, and domestic violence.
- A highlight of the previous grant year was the creation of a video designed to educate faculty and staff about their responsibilities as mandated reporters as well as how they can best support students. Due to the success of the video, it was translated into Spanish.

SELECTED CAMPUS PROGRAMS

Each campus organized various awareness events for the "Turn the Campus Purple" campaign which recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month, honors survivors of violence, and provides violence prevention training and education, all while using the signature color for domestic violence—purple.

Other campus & community programs included:

Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences

RBHS VPVA premiered new a video series, RBHS Reacts. In this series, VPVA staff interview students from various campuses and schools, asking them questions on the topic of the month (such as how stalking is portrayed in the media).

Camden

The Healthy Relationships Series was designed to provide students with a space to consider their own choices when engaging in emotional, sexual, and intimate relationships. The series encourages students to discuss different aspects of healthy relationships. Infusing innovative programming methods participants learn practical information that will assist them in communication skills within their intimate partner relationships.

Newark

The WeSpeak Upstander Training Program trains participants on how to be an engaged "upstander" rather than a passive bystander of interpersonal violence. They are taught about the causes and dynamics of violence, how violence perpetuates itself, myths and facts about rape culture, and sexual consent. The objective is to increase efficacy in safely and effectively intervening in violent or potentially violent situations among peers.

New Brunswick

Rutgers CARES (Community Action, Respect, Engagement, and Service) is a workshop that trains students to sensitively respond to and support peers who have disclosed being a victim/survivor of interpersonal violence and how to confidently direct them to appropriate campus resources. A student who completes this training is designated a VPVA ally.

SELECTED CAMPUS EVENTS

- Turn the Campus Purple: A week-long domestic violence awareness campaign that was held across all campuses in October.
- Take Back the Night: An annual event that includes a student march around campus to reaffirm the university's support for victims/survivors of violence and its stance against interpersonal and sexual violence.
- The Clothesline Project (TCP): A visual display of shirts made by those that have experienced violence firsthand or made by members of the Rutgers community in honor of those who have experienced violence.





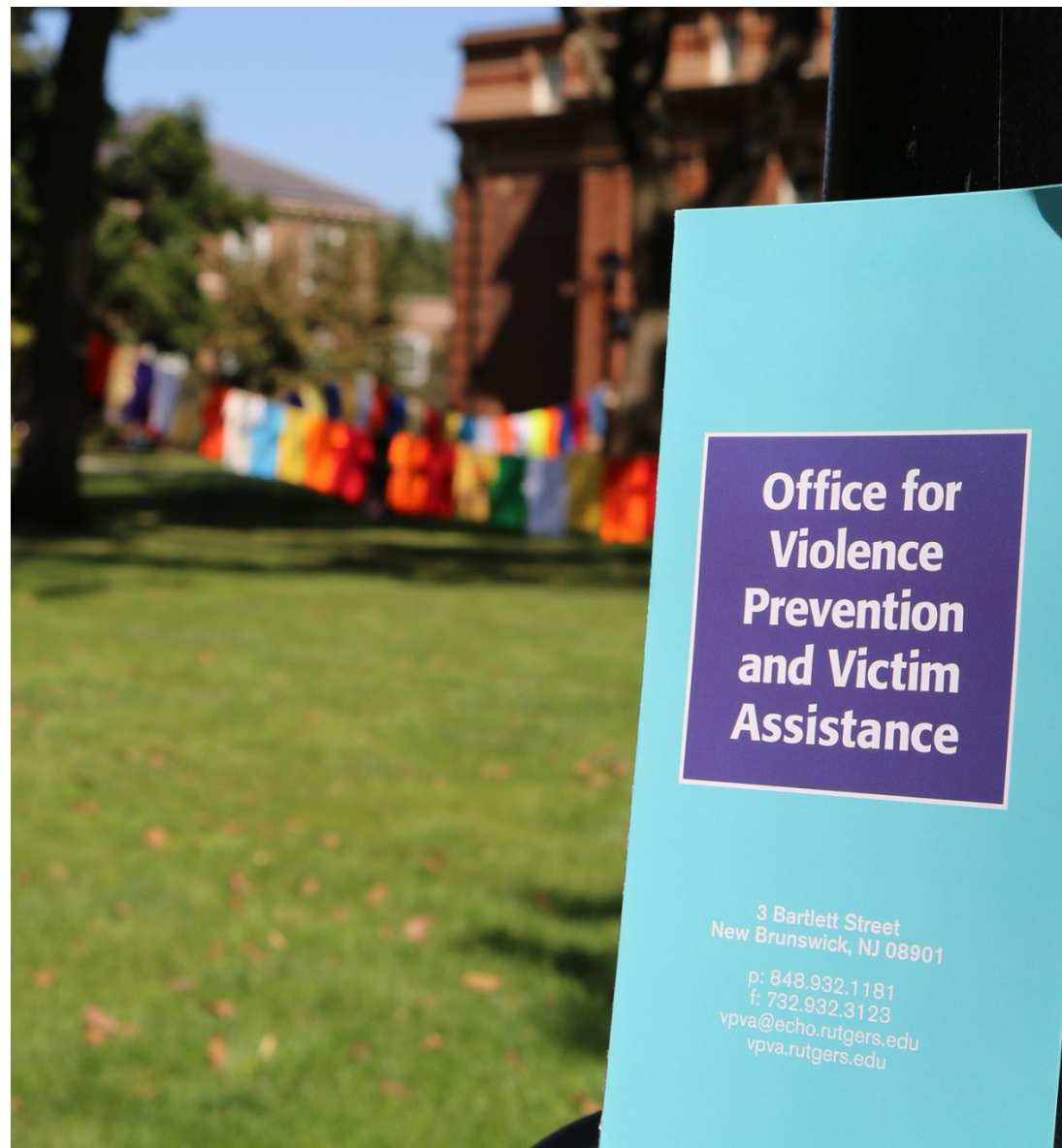
Emotional abuse x

They threaten to hurt themselves if I leave

Be in the kNOW. Making threats of self-harm is emotional abuse.

@run_vpva

A crisis text-based
warmline run by



Office for
Violence
Prevention
and Victim
Assistance

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New Brunswick, NJ 08901

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EVALUATION

Ongoing evaluation and assessment of all project related activities was conducted by the Center on Violence Against Women and Children. Findings are continuously shared with the campuses as feedback loops to help them improve their services and programs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Between September 2019 and February 2020, 1171 evaluation surveys have been collected from students in 35 programs across Rutgers University. Of the individuals who completed a survey, 90% said that they were “a great deal” satisfied with the knowledge they gained from the program.
- During the Fall 2019 semester, 25 satisfaction surveys were collected from students who received services from the New Brunswick VPVA Office. The results were strongly positive:
- Students indicated very high levels of satisfaction with both the provision of services and their overall experience with VPVA staff.
- All participants strongly agreed that they would use VPVA’s services again if they needed a similar service in the future. The quote below highlights some of the comments.

“

“Everyone here is fantastic!”
“The services are life- saving,” and
“I love the services I receive.”

”

ASSESSMENTS PLANNED

- Two in-depth program evaluations for Camden VPVA's Healthy Relationship Series and New Brunswick VPVA's Rutgers CARES program.
- The evaluation team has worked with the Camden and New Brunswick VPVA offices to create logic models for each program
- After developing the logic models, the evaluation team will host a series of focus groups with students who have participated in Rutgers CARES and the Healthy Relationship Series within the past 12 months.
 - The information collected from students during the focus groups will then be used to help develop a tool and method for administering on-going evaluations of each program starting in Fall 2020
- Evaluation surveys will be administered after educational programs will throughout the semester.





2020 MID YEAR REPORT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project team thanks the many members of the Rutgers University community who contributed to the Enhancing Victim Services project. This report and the project as a whole are the result of the enthusiastic support and participation of administrators, faculty, staff, and students across Rutgers. This report is dedicated to all those who are survivors of sexual and dating violence. We hope our efforts can help contribute to creating campus communities that are free of all forms of violence.

2019-2020 AG-VOCA ADVISORY BOARD

The AG-VOCA Advisory Board was created including representatives from all campuses.

Those members include:

Harry Agnostak, Associate Vice President for Human Resources

Kerry Camerer, Director VPVA RBHS

Nancy Cantor, Ph.D., Chancellor, Rutgers-Newark campus*

Kenneth Cop, Chief of University Police & Executive Director of Police Services, Rutgers University

Mary Beth Daisey, M.Ed., Associate Chancellor of Student Affairs, Rutgers-Camden campus

Timothy Fournier, Ed.D., MBA, Senior Vice President for University Ethics & Compliance, Rutgers University

Phoebe A. Haddon, J.D., LL.M., Chancellor, Rutgers-Camden campus*

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Rutgers-New Brunswick campus

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Kaylin Padovano, Faculty and Staff Training Coordinator

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Susan Hamilton, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Title IX Coordinator, RBHS