



# Sexual Violence Crime in New Mexico

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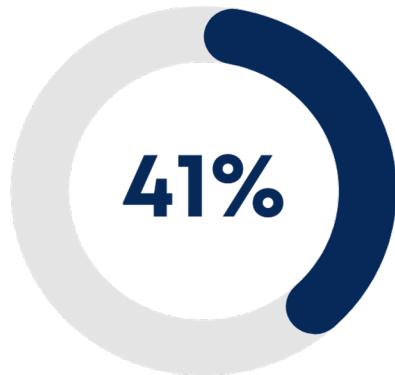
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# The Crime of Sexual Violence in NM

## NM is 7th in the country in rates of sexual violence:

- 11,500 victims of sexual assault in 2020<sup>i</sup>
- 6,000+ victims-survivors accessed services in 2020 at SASPs
- 20,000 Hotline calls to sexual assault service programs
  - a 20-25% increase from the previous year

41% of reported assaults involve children under the age of 18

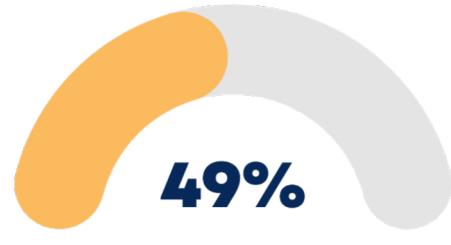


of reported  
assaults involve  
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i. National Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence Survey

# Is there **JUSTICE** for Victims of Sex Crimes?



*In 2019, 49% (298/608) of sexual crime cases were dismissed in district court*



*34% of sexual crime cases (205/608) obtained a guilty plea/conviction*



*In some judicial districts, dismissal rates of sexual crimes are as high as 91%*

- As reports of sexual crime to law enforcement decrease, the number of survivors seeking services continues to increase.
- 83% of survivors of a sexual crime do not report to law enforcement (the national average is 75%)

# Is there Economic **REPARATION** for Victims?

Rape is the **most costly** of all crimes to its victims, costing approximately \$122,461 per victim<sup>i</sup>.

## The cost is even greater for child victims:

- A child victim will lose **\$241,600** in income over their lifetime
- Studies show strong correlations between child sexual violence and negative health outcomes over the victim's lifespan (such as substance abuse<sup>ii</sup>), leading researchers to recommend identifying and treating **ALL** survivors of child sexual abuse<sup>iii</sup>

i. C., DeGue, S., Florence, C., & Lokey, C. N. (2017).

ii. Dube, Anda, Whitfield, Brown, et. al, (2005).

iii. Dube, Anda, Whitfield, Brown, et. al, (2005).

iv. Ellis, Atkeson, & Calhoun, 1981

v. Peterson, C., DeGue, S., Florence, C., & Lokey, C. N. (2017).

Lifetime economic burden of rape among U.S. adults.

## Who pays for sexual violence? **The victim:**

- An adult victim will pay **\$122,461** in medical costs, lost wages, property loss, etc.
- 50% of victims quit or are forced to leave their jobs in the year after the assault<sup>iv</sup>
- $\frac{1}{3}$  of the costs of rape are paid by the government sources, including health care, social services, and criminal justice systems<sup>v</sup>



# What is JUSTICE & REPARATION for sexual violence crime victims?

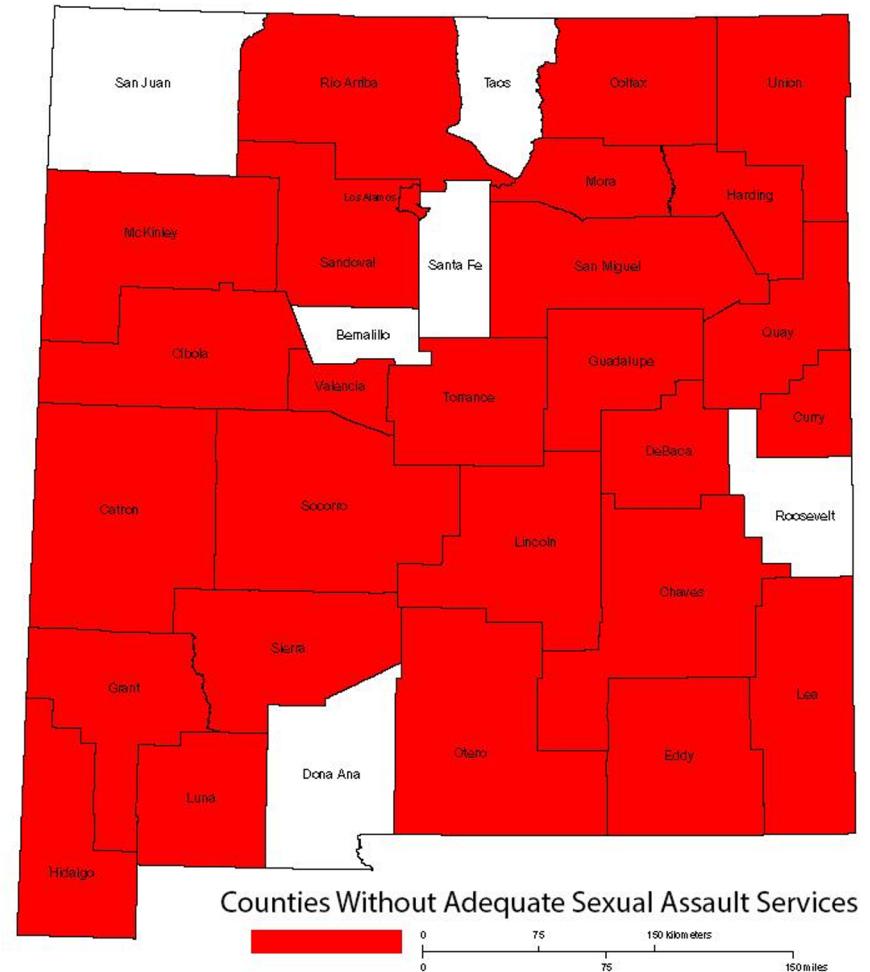
1. Commitment to fill gaps in services, rural areas & prevention
2. Prioritize sexual violence victims in legislation crime packages
3. Including training when increasing law enforcement budgets

# 1. Commitment to Filling Gaps

- Service gaps in southeastern NM, which has the highest rates of reported rape
- Survivors in crisis face a **12 MONTH WAIT** for counseling services due to programs inability to provide competitive salaries for mental health clinicians
- No designated sexual assault service provider east of Las Cruces

Should a victim of sexual assault  
be forced to travel for  
hours to receive crisis  
services?

Should that victim have to wait  
for crucial and time sensitive  
services?



# 1. Commitment to Filling Gaps

- No increased state funding to SANEs since 2003
- Current funding levels do not reflect this specialized medical care
- Inadequate funding in rural areas to pay for training & travel for SANE nurses
- No funding in most programs for the SANE nurse to serve as expert in court proceedings (can be up to 2+years)



## 2. Prioritize Sexual Violence Victims in Legislation Crime Packages:

**The 13 SASPs, 11 CACs, and 11 SANE programs** urge legislators to include the following in their victim of crime packages:

- a) **Affirmative Consent** - Yes Means Yes
- b) **End the legal system's repeated trauma of child sexual abuse victims**
- c) **\$5 million** for Sexual Assault Service Providers, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners programs, Child Advocacy Centers, and Statewide SA Hotline

*The investment in serving one survivor of sexual assault has a ripple effect in preventing & ending the crime of sexual violence in NM.*

# a)Affirmative Consent

**Affirmative consent** promotes healthy relationships and prevents sexual assault through respect and communication

- HB142 (Thomson) in 2021 regular session - strong bipartisan vote
- Requires every student be educated (within the 1 unit of required health education) about affirmative consent before sexual contact
- Defines affirmative consent as a conscious, voluntary agreement from all parties involved
- Provides invaluable skills for life by empowering the student to communicate, problem solve, and act if someone does not ask their permission before sexual contact
- Increases student safety by clarifying that consent is dynamic and teaches students the ability to say no in a situation where they do not feel safe

**Sexual assault victimization was reduced by half when young people had comprehensive sex education before college that included training on affirmative consent.**

*Sexual Citizens, A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus, Hirsch & Kahn, (2020)*

# b) End the Repeated Trauma of Child Sexual Abuse Victims

Child victims must cope not only with the emotional consequences of criminal acts but also with the **potentially traumatizing effects of legal involvement**

- Few innovative techniques are used to help the children testify
  - *Testifying in criminal court: emotional effects on child sexual assault victims.*<sup>i</sup>
- The purpose of pre trial interviews and testimony in court is to provide trustworthy evidence
  - Sufficient intelligence, understanding, and ability to observe, recall, and communicate events
  - Ability to comprehend the seriousness of the oath
  - All Age Appropriate
  - *The Child Witness in the Courtroom*<sup>ii</sup>

i. Goodman GS, Taub EP, Jones DP, England P, Port LK, Rudy L, Prado L., (1992).

ii. Robert H. Pantell and Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health, (2017)

# c) \$5 Million Recurring General Fund Appropriation

- \$2 million for **SASPS** to increase services, address gaps in service areas across the state focusing on rural & underserved areas, and end the wait lists for services.
- \$1 million to sustain **SANE programs** to address geographic gaps in services
- \$1.3 million to sustain additional/satellite **Children's Advocacy Centers** in underserved and rural areas
- \$500,000 for the operation of the **Statewide Sexual Assault Hotline**.
- \$200,000 to support **Indigenous Research & Coordination of Tribal Services**
- Training for Law Enforcement & Prosecution Mentorship Project