



Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas

DVACK Newsletter March 2016

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Safe Homes, Safe Streets—Advocacy at the Capitol

Advocates from across the state united in Topeka for a week of advocacy and action. The week launched February 8 with a two-day prevention summit titled, “Engaging Communities to Prevent Sexual and Domestic Violence.” We End Violence director, Jeffrey Bucholtz, and Anti-Violence Educator/Prevention Consultant, Tyler Osterhaus, presented on prevention strategies and understanding and challenging the dominant cultural narratives that facilitate interpersonal violence. Trainers used media to deconstruct cultural norms and myths, as well as to recreate anti-violence messages. Ghazala Perveen, Director of Science and Surveillance at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, presented data regarding the effects of adverse childhood experiences among Kansas adults. Her team found that adults who were abused, neglected, or exposed to family dysfunction during childhood, were more likely to smoke and binge drink, as well as suffer from asthma, COPD, poor physical and mental health, and depression. The data mirrors findings in other states, further indicating that adverse childhood experiences are a public health issue. After two days of prevention training, advocates filled the state capitol with awareness booths, legislative meetings, and a press conference to honor those in Kansas who died at the hands of domestic and sexual violence. The week concluded with a Board of Directors and Program Council meeting.

Together We Can...

Make our culture a safer place for survivors of violence to share their stories and heal.

Identify healthier ways of experiencing, expressing, and teaching gender and sexuality.

Change the cultural myths and norms that make all forms of discrimination, violence and violation so prevalent in our society.

Encourage men to see their role in preventing violence committed by other men, without forgetting that men too are victims, and that violence has no gender.

Build alliances that will empower more people to speak out.

-We End Violence, Mission



We End Violence Dir. Jeff Bucholtz presenting on utilizing popular culture as a space to engage, educate, & reflect on sexual violence and masculinities.



Advocates pose with DVACK’s display, featuring “Love Shouldn’t Hurt” as its theme and highlighting characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships.



54 Silent Witnesses—those killed by domestic and sexual violence—stood in the statehouse with their stories displayed for legislators and community members to read. These Silent Witnesses are a reminder that our work is not done until violence in the family and community stops, so we can finally say we live in a safe home and on a safe street.

Rosa, 41

Rosa was shot multiple times by her ex-husband at her workplace. A co-worker, Charles, 48, was also murdered during the attack. Rosa had been divorced for three years, but she had recently filed for a protection order, noting that her ex-husband was stalking her at work – following her there and asking co-workers about her work schedule. Rosa’s ex-husband had history of violence against her. He had been arrested three times for protection order violations in 2008. After his rampage, Rosa’s ex-husband committed suicide.

October 8, 2009
Saline County

Two of our own Silent Witnesses, Rosa and Valerie, share their stories. These women and other victims live among us and die at our hands, our laws, our ignorance.

Valerie, 38

Valerie was separating from her husband and had returned home to pick up some belongings. While at their home her husband stabbed Valerie 19 times, killing her. He stabbed Valerie’s sister over a dozen times. Valerie’s sister survived.

July 6, 2010
Saline County

Kathy Ray of the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence joined victims in approaching KS representatives to testify in favor of KS Senate Bill 393, which—if passed—will increase protection in custody cases for children and parents experiencing domestic violence. Kansas is the only state among the surrounding states that does not offer this protection. Of Kansas’ contested custody cases, 20-55% document evidence of domestic violence.



Gaining custody is a way for abusers to maintain contact and control over the victim, which might be why abusers are more likely to fight for sole custody, and 75% of the time, sole custody is granted to them. When kids’ exposure to domestic violence impacts them about the same as if they are experiencing abuse directly, passing Bill 393 would be a needed step toward safety.



Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program Coordinator, Sheila Beeson, presents the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Proclamation to Saline County Commissioners.

DVACK celebrated Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month last month with awareness booths, school presentations, and local government meetings. Commissioners of Saline and Dickinson Counties signed proclamations recognizing the awareness month and urging residents to work toward ending teen dating violence. We all must work together to empower young people to develop healthier relationships, assist victims in accessing the information and supportive services they need, create better and more resources for young people, institute effective intervention and prevention policies in schools, and engage in discussion with family members and peers to promote awareness and prevention of the quiet epidemic of teen dating violence. Though dating abuse affects 1 in 3 youth, 81% of parents believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don’t know if it’s an issue. Education on teen dating violence is vital in ensuring everyone has the right to a safe and healthy relationship free from abuse.



DVACK Parent/Child Advocate, Vivian Clifton, joins Dickinson County Commissioners to proclaim February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Photo by Kathy Hageman of *The Abilene Reflector-Chronicle*.

Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Rape in Kansas 2014

Each year the Kansas Bureau of Investigation facilitates the data entry of the Kansas Standard Offense Reports and the Kansas Standard Arrest Reports relating to crimes of domestic violence, stalking, and rape. The report is based on 2014 statistical data as submitted by Kansas law enforcement agencies. The report is intended to assist agencies in strengthening the criminal justice system which holds offenders accountable for their actions and provides resources to help respond to these crimes. Listed below are statistics from the report DVACK has highlighted.

Domestic Violence

- In 2014, **22,887** incidents of domestic violence were reported to the police, resulting in **12,450** arrests
- In only about **54%** of reported incidents was the offender arrested
- **16** homicides were domestic violence related, making up **16.5%** of total homicides in the state
- In **60%** of the homicide cases, the perpetrator used a firearm to murder the victim
- The average victim is a **white female 20-29** years of age
- The average offender is a **white male 20-29** years of age
- Domestic violence incidents are most likely to occur **Saturday** and **Sunday** between **8:00 P.M. and 2:00 A.M.**
- Most offenders use their hands, fists or feet to injure their victims
- Police intervened in **636** domestic violence incidents in Saline County and made **390** arrests
- **7,861** Protection From Abuse Orders were filed, **239** of which were in Saline County—Saline County had **115** PFA violations
- The most common statutes perpetrators violated were Battery, Criminal Damage to Property, Violating a Protection Order, Terroristic/Criminal Threat, and Disorderly Conduct

Stalking

- In 2014, police recorded **816** stalking offenses
- **4,669** Protection From Stalking Orders were filed in Kansas, **170** of which were in Saline County
- The average stalking victim is a **white female 20-24** years of age
- The average suspect is a **white male 30-34** years of age
- **49%** of victims were stalked by a current or former intimate partner
- Stalking offenses usually occurred at a home, on a **Wednesday**, and between **8:00 A.M and 10:00 A.M.**

Rape

- In 2014, **1,053** rapes were reported to law enforcement
- In only about **20%** of reported rapes was the offender arrested
- **80.3%** of rape offenders were known to the victim
- The average victim is a **white (87%) female (98%) less than 25 years of age (66%)**
- The rapist is most often a **white (69%) male (93%) between the ages of 15 and 29 (47%)**
- Rape most frequently occurred during the **weekend** between the hours of **midnight and 2:00 A.M.**
- Saline County law enforcement reported **42** rapes and only **4** arrests
- **20.8%** of victims were raped by a current or former intimate partner
- Only **9%** of victims reported that their rapist was a stranger
- **75.6%** of rapes occurred at a residence
- Weapons were used in at least **80%** of the rapes
- Majority of rapists used their personal body parts as weapons against the victim

Domestic Violence & Rape Kansas Time Clock



**1 Domestic Violence Murder Occurred
Every 22.8 Days**

**1 Domestic Violence Incident Occurred
Every 23 Minutes**

**1 Domestic Violence Arrest was made
Every 43 Minutes, 12 Seconds**

**1 Rape Occurred Every 8 Hours,
12 Minutes**

*This is an annual ratio of crime
to fixed time intervals.*