



Butte County

Sexual Assault Response Team

S.A.R.T.

Butte County Sexual Assault Response Team Report 2019-2021

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the victims and survivors of sexual assault and child sexual abuse who had the courage to come forward. We dedicate our efforts to improving the healthcare and criminal justice response to all those who have suffered and to all the nameless victims of sexual assault whose stories remain untold.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Overview

The Butte County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is a multi-disciplinary collaborative team comprised of private and public agencies and a countywide program that serves sexual assault survivors. This team recognizes that no one agency can successfully address all aspects of sexual violence given the complexity of the crime's nature. Collaboration strengthens the response of individual agencies and unites them into a coordinated team approach. As a cohesive team, SART generates a stronger response and more effective outcome for the victim/survivor and the criminal justice system.

Background

The Department of Justice defines sexual assault as “any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by federal, tribal, or state law, including when the victim lacks capacity to consent”⁴.

The Centers of Disease Control reports sexual violence affects millions of people each year in the United States. Researchers know the numbers underestimate this problem because many cases are unreported. Survivors may be ashamed, embarrassed, or afraid to tell the police, friends, or family about the violence. Victims may also keep quiet because they have been threatened with further harm if they tell anyone or do not think anyone will help them. The data shows:

Sexual violence is common. Over half of women and almost 1 in 3 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetimes. One in four women and about 1 in 26 men have experienced completed or attempted rape. About 1 in 9 men were made to penetrate someone during his lifetime. Additionally, 1 in 3 women and about 1 in 9 men experienced sexual harassment in a public place.

Sexual violence starts early. More than 4 in 5 female rape survivors reported that they were first raped before age 25 and almost half were first raped as a minor (i.e., before age 18).

Sexual violence disproportionately affects some groups. Women and racial and ethnic minority groups experience a higher burden of sexual violence. For example, more than 2 in 5 non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native and non-Hispanic multiracial women were raped in their lifetime.

Sexual violence is costly. Recent estimates put the lifetime cost of rape at \$122,461 per survivor, including medical costs, lost productivity, criminal justice activities, and other costs.⁵

The physical and psychological effects of sexual violence can be pervasive and long lasting. Rape and sexual assault survivors often suffer from a wide range of physical and mental health problems that can follow them for life, including depression, chronic pain, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Sexual assault survivors are more likely than non-victims to attempt or consider suicide. Survivors of sexual assault are also more likely to abuse alcohol or other substances as a means of coping with the trauma. Sexual assault also carries with it significant economic costs, including direct medical and victim services costs, loss of productivity, decreased quality of life, law enforcement costs, and cost of medical resources⁶.

The Butte County SART represents a coordinated multi-disciplinary response system of intervention and care to assist sexual assault victim/survivors in regaining control over their lives and restoring their dignity. In addition to supporting victims of sexual assault and child sexual abuse, the Butte County SART strives to promote the apprehension and prosecution of the perpetrators through accurate evidence and data collection, utilizing a trauma informed, multidisciplinary approach.

Butte County SART System

Forensic medical examinations for evidence of adult and adolescent sexual assault are conducted by Registered Nurse (RN) Forensic Nurse Examiners at Enloe Health and Oroville Hospital. Enloe Health's forensic nurses provide pediatric child sexual abuse forensic medical examinations. Trained forensic nurses able to respond at two hospitals in Butte County allows for a more timely, comprehensive, and compassionate response to sexual violence. The current SART system 1) ensures that any person, regardless of insurance status or background, who is sexually assaulted or abused in Butte or neighboring counties has access to forensic medical exams by trained professionals; 2) provides sexual assault victim/survivors supportive advocate services in coordination with their medical care; and 3) assures the timely and expert collection of physical and biological evidence needed to bring perpetrators to justice.

Rapid DNA Service (RADS)

Butte County partners with the California Department of Justice Bureau of Forensic Services (DOJ BFS) crime labs to provide a Rapid DNA Service process to every patient who receives a forensic medical exam for evidence of sexual assault. In addition to the traditional forensic evidence kit, the forensic nurse examiner collects up to three of the most probative swabs, swabs considered most likely to contain suspect DNA based upon the history of the assault and the forensic medical exam. The RADS swabs are sent directly from the forensic examination room to the crime lab where they are processed and analyzed within 120 business days. If enough DNA is identified to generate a suspect profile, the information is uploaded into the combined DNA Index System (CODIS), a national database of DNA profiles of known offenders, all persons arrested for felonies, and unsolved crimes. The District Attorney and the investigating law enforcement agency are notified electronically in real-time of the results, including the crimes to which the DNA is linked, and the name of the suspect, if known.

Butte County SART Member Organizations

The Butte County SART includes: Enloe Health and Oroville Hospital; representatives from Butte County agencies including the District Attorney's Office, Victim Assistance Bureau, Public Health Department, and Butte County Sheriff; city Police Departments including Chico, Oroville, Gridley and Paradise; institutes of higher education, including California State University, Chico and Butte-Glenn

Community College; and victim advocacy agencies including, Catalyst and DeafSAFE. Butte County SART works in close partnership with The California Department of Justice, Bureau of Forensic Services Laboratories, in Chico and Redding and the Jan Bashinski DNA Laboratory in Richmond.

Enloe Health

Enloe Health is an independent, locally governed nonprofit health system that has served the North State communities since 1913, when Dr. Newton Thomas Enloe established Enloe Hospital on Flume Street in Chico. Today, Enloe is a robust health system with a 300-bed acute care, Level II Trauma Center, inpatient rehabilitation, and behavioral health campuses, and over a dozen ambulatory clinics, including more than forty-five medical services.

Enloe Health Medical Center's Emergency Department serves more than 75,000 patients each year. With a fully staffed forensic medical services department, Enloe is honored to care for people who have been victimized by sexual assault and violence.

Enloe forensic registered nurse examiners are available 24/7 to provide medical assessment and treatment and conduct forensic medical exams on behalf of any person who has been sexually assaulted or abused, regardless of the person's background and insurance status. These nurses not only support patients with trauma-informed medical care but also collect and preserve forensic evidence that helps bring justice for patients and their loved ones in a court of law.

Enloe Health's Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Coordinator, served as Chair of the Butte County SART in 2014 and from 2020-2022. Enloe Health is proud to have been a founding partner of the Butte County Sexual Assault Team since 2009.

Oroville Hospital

Oroville Hospital is dedicated to always providing the finest personalized healthcare to Oroville and the surrounding communities. At Oroville Hospital we take your healing seriously. Our healthcare professionals are committed to providing the finest medical care to Butte County and Northern California residents. All of us at Oroville Hospital are dedicated to meeting the most rigorous standards of excellence. The Oroville Hospital Sexual Assault Response Team provides medical and forensic response to victims of sexual assault, 14 years and older, who come into our Emergency Department, 24 hours a day. There are four specially trained registered nurses who serve as forensic nurse examiners. The forensic nurses respond to patients who come to the Oroville Hospital Emergency Department. The forensic nurse provides medical evaluation and treatment, collects evidence for forensic purposes, and will testify in court as necessary. Each forensic nurse strives to minimize the trauma experienced by sexual assault victims and provide care in a safe, friendly and compassionate environment. Oroville SART program has two forensic nurse team leaders.

Butte County District Attorney's Office

The Butte County District Attorney's Office seeks justice in all criminal cases, investigating crimes, carefully evaluating evidence, determining whether cases should be filed, and determining the severity of charges. The investigators and prosecutors at the DA's Office are tasked with maintaining public safety, deterring future criminal behavior, and protecting the rights of both victims and the accused. The mission of the Butte County District Attorney's Office is: "To do justice, as no one is above the law, nor beneath its protection." The Butte County District Attorney's Office works collaboratively with SART to ensure victims are heard, treated, and cared for through a trauma-informed model. Safeguarding the rights of victims and maintaining support for them through the process is a top priority of the DA's Office. By working to secure a conviction in criminal cases, prosecutors help provide closure and a sense of justice to victims of crime and their families.

Butte County District Attorney – Victim Assistance Bureau

The Butte County District Attorney – Victim Assistance Bureau offers adult and minor sexual assault victims services through the California Victim Compensation Board. These services include the payment of medical and mental health treatment, relocation costs, and residential security. If the perpetrator is charged in criminal court, advocacy services are also offered. These services include information about the criminal justice process, notification of criminal justice events, courtroom viewing in advance of testimony, court escorts and support, and assistance with victim impact statements and restitution.

Butte County Department of Public Health

The Butte County Department of Public Health (BCPHD) runs over fifty programs serving: children, mothers, families, adults, small businesses, animals, and the environment. Promoting healthy behaviors and resources, preventing illness and protecting the health of residents and visitors in Butte County is our daily commitment. As a nationally accredited health department, we are involved in a variety of community-based activities that engage residents in the planning, evaluation and implementation of health improvements in their communities. Butte County Public Health provides support to SART activities through partner collaboration, shared leadership duties, and forensic medical exam data compilation and review.

Butte County Sheriff's Office

The Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) is responsible for law enforcement, criminal investigation, and crime prevention in the unincorporated areas of the county. The Sheriff's Office provides around-the-clock first response law enforcement service to every region of the county. In addition to 24-hour policing, the department offers a full range of services as required by law such as coroner services, civil services, court security, and corrections. BCSO is comprised of 100 sworn personnel and serves a population of approximately 221,485 citizens. BCSO receives approximately 177,000 calls per year resulting in approximately 55,800 calls for service per year. The mission of the Butte County Sheriff's Office is to protect and serve the citizens of Butte County by providing vigorous, ethical, efficient law enforcement and to increase public awareness of personal safety and security measures. BCSO strives to minimize the trauma experienced by sexual assault victims, pursue expeditious apprehension and conviction of perpetrators, and protect the safety of victims and the community.

Chico Police Department

The Chico Police Department provides law enforcement services to a population of over 100,000 citizens – roughly half of the estimated 207,000 residents of Butte County. Additionally, Chico is a destination city for visitors who come to Chico to shop, recreate, or further their education. Accordingly, the actual day-to-day population may be even greater. Investigation of sexual assault related offenses is an agency focus. The Chico Police Department prides itself on being a survivor first organization dedicated to serving our community with courage, integrity, and respect. As reported in our most recent Chico Police Department annual report, CPD investigated 74 rapes in 2022 - down from 16% from the 88 rapes reported in 2021. Hundreds of other sexual assault related offenses were also investigated. The Chico Police Department is comprised of about 100 sworn officers, 65 non-sworn personnel, and volunteers who serve in a variety of essential capacities. The command structure is comprised of our chief, two captains, and 6 lieutenants. Currently, 4 detectives and 1 sergeant are dedicated to investigating sexual assaults and working with the prosecutor's offices to prepare cases that exceed the necessary *beyond a reasonable doubt* standard. As detective staffing is forecasted to increase in 2024, an

additional 2-4 detectives may also be assigned to sexual assault specialization and investigation. At a minimum, Chico Police Department detectives are trained and certified in sexual assault, and child sexual abuse investigations through the Robert Presley Institute of Criminal Investigations (ICI). Investigators and officers also receive other ongoing training, and regularly coordinate sexual assault responses with partnering Butte County SART members. Also, a team of 12 officers and 1 sergeant with additional CSI training, are always available for evidence collection and crime scene documentation. Finally, a program specialist is assigned to ensuring that Chico's 215 Registered Sex Offenders remain in compliance. As an agency central to the law enforcement response against sexual assault in our region, CPD will continue as a dedicated SART partner focused on protecting our community and fighting for survivor justice.

Oroville Police Department

The Oroville Police Department has served the City of Oroville for over 113 years and is responsible for maintaining public law and order, protecting citizens, and preventing and detecting crimes. Oroville Police officers operate in various divisions to ensure public safety, including patrolling the community, working traffic enforcement, and conducting criminal investigations. Officers also work collaboratively with Oroville City schools to monitor student safety and crime prevention in schools. The Oroville Police Department handles approximately 3,200 911 calls per year and over 41,000 calls for service a year while serving a daily population of over 40,000 people. The Oroville Police Department is comprised of 29 sworn police officers, 17 non-sworn municipal law enforcement officers, and 8 public safety dispatchers, 4 Administrative staff members all of whom operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year to make the City of Oroville a better and safer place to live, work, and visit.

Gridley Police Department

The Gridley Police Department is comprised of 14 full-time sworn, 7 part-time sworn, 4 full-time public safety dispatchers, 4 part-time public safety dispatchers, one community services officer (CSO) and an animal control officer and several community volunteer personnel. They are committed to providing the highest quality service to our quaint community of 7,000 and to those who visit. The Department receives approximately 3,000 911 calls per year and 16,000 calls for service. It is the mission of the Gridley Police Department to work in partnership with the community, to serve with integrity, honor and professionalism. Collaborative efforts to support victim rights and victim advocacy in Butte County is of the utmost importance.

Paradise Police Department

Mission Statement: The purpose of the Paradise Police Department is to serve the members of the community; to protect their lives, liberties, and property. With well-trained and professional personnel, we will strive to provide our town with a sense of safety, security, and trust. We will prepare for this responsibility by our commitment to training and community awareness.

We will serve our community with integrity, honesty, dedication, loyalty, and professionalism, while striving for excellence in all we do. We value our responsive relationship with our community.

By using our available resources, we vow to vigorously and professionally pursue those who commit crimes and be sensitive and empathetic to those who have been victimized. We will endeavor to improve the quality-of-life in our town.

Our people are the department's most valuable assets. We will promote pride and maintain an atmosphere of mutual cooperation, understanding, and teamwork. We recognize each member as an individual and treat each member with respect, dignity, and fairness.

We will prepare for the future to meet the changing needs of our Town. In all things, we will never compromise our core principles and values.

California State University, Chico WellCat Safe Place

WellCat Safe Place provides confidential advocacy services for students, staff, and faculty who are impacted by sexual assault, intimate partner abuse, sexual exploitation, stalking, and harassment. We offer advocacy support, prevention education, and linkage to services on and off campus. During the 18/19 through 20/21 academic years, we provided direct advocacy services to 515 students, staff, and faculty, impacted by harm. After returning to campus from the COVID-19 Pandemic, during the academic years 21/22, Safe Place provided direct advocacy services to 357 campus members. In the academic year of 2022-2023, Safe Place provided direct advocacy services to 313 campus members and prevention education based on affirmative consent, sexual assault, coercion, and bystander intervention to 2,762 campus members. WellCat Safe Place provides Title IX advocacy & navigation, criminal justice and legal advocacy, academic accommodations and advocacy, housing accommodations and accompaniment to court, hospital, police departments, and appropriate responses to various campus locations. We strive to create a culture of consent and healthy relationships that foster a campus environment free of interpersonal harm for all students, faculty, and staff at Chico State. All of our services are free, confidential, and voluntary.

California State University, Chico Title IX

The Chico State Title IX unit receives reports related to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) impacting campus community members. Title IX Office reporting data is tracked by academic/fiscal years, and it should be noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a significant decrease in IPV reports made to our office. During the 18/19 through 20/21 academic years, we received approximately 207 reports involving either sexual misconduct, dating or domestic violence, or stalking. During the 21/22 academic year, we received approximately 74 reports involving either sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, or stalking. We provide support measures to students impacted by IPV and conduct investigations when requested by those in our community. Supportive measure may include academic or workplace assistance, connecting individuals to counseling or other relevant emotional/mental health support, housing, and other basic need resources, issuing no contact directives, or facilitating reports to law enforcement, among others. Our office provides training related to the following topics: bystander intervention supporting individuals who make IPV disclosures, reporting obligations, and how to report IPV incidents, which includes mandatory annual student online training and focused annual training for Resident Advisors, Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, Athletics, and others. We have partnered with WellCat Safe Place, Chico State's Victim Advocate office, to teach about healthy relationships.

Butte-Glenn Community College SAFE Place

The mission of the Safe Place is to provide a free, confidential, and visible support for people harmed by sexual assault, intimate partner violence and, stalking. We are here to support you no matter your gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, ability, socioeconomic standing, etc. We meet people with belief and empathy and are client led in our services. Located on the Butte College main campus, Safe Place provides emotional support, case management services and referrals, coping strategies, legal advocacy, crisis intervention, support with the Title IX process and developing healthy relationship information.

Catalyst

Catalyst has had a long-standing commitment to supporting Butte County's Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), recognizing the intersection between domestic and sexual violence that many community members face. For over 45 years, Catalyst has had a primary mission to support survivors of intimate partner violence, and in many circumstances, this has included survivors who have experienced sexual assault within the context of their abusive relationship, as well as outside of their relationship. As of October 1, 2023, Catalyst became the official provider for sexual assault services in Butte and Glenn Counties. By formally expanding services from domestic violence to also include sexual assault, this authorization from the California Office of Emergency Services empowers Catalyst to meet an unmet need in the community and better address the intersection between these two forms of harm.

Catalyst addresses the needs of survivors through a range of compassionate and responsive supports and services, including crisis counseling at Chico and Oroville Drop-in Offices, through a 24-hour hotline, and through qualified and holistic therapeutic services from pre-licensed and licensed therapists. From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021, 797 Catalyst Participants identified as having a history of being sexually assaulted. Of these Participants, 483 specifically identified as having been sexually assaulted by an intimate partner. 314 Participants specifically identified as having a history of being sexually assaulted by someone other than an intimate partner. While some of these Participants sought support from Catalyst for a different primary reason, Catalyst approaches services with trauma-informed care and recognizes the complex and compounding trauma that survivors may be experiencing currently, as well as from a result of their experiences as a whole. In the same time period, 312 adult and 10 teen survivors accessed services because of recent sexual assault within their relationships. In addition, 10 other survivors accessed services because of recent sexual assault outside of a relationship and were not requesting services for intimate partner violence but had identified Catalyst as a supportive resource. As Catalyst works to fully integrate services for survivors of sexual assault, it is anticipated that many of these numbers will increase, and future data will demonstrate advocacy and accompaniment services provided to survivors when interacting with other SART partners such as Enloe Health, Oroville Hospital, and all area law enforcement departments.

DeafSAFE

The DeafSAFE program is operated under NorCal Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. NorCal offers many services for the deaf including LeadK; Client Advocacy, Senior Services, Excel program for Deaf Plus; BEST program for careers and jobs. DeafSAFE is one of their unique programs. DeafSAFE is funded by the Office of Violence Against Women. DeafSAFE services covers Sacramento and 24 surrounding counties. Our services include provides advocacy for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence. Advocacy includes crisis intervention, accompanied to court and/or medical consultations, completing necessary paperwork, provide safety planning and other countless services for survivors. DeafSAFE provides community education and professional training to both deaf and hearing communities on numerous topics to enhance opportunities for everyone to gain knowledge. DeafSAFE provides numerous activities to increase awareness by in-person community events and by virtual learning spaces. DeafSAFE has strong partnerships with many agencies; locally, statewide and nationwide. It is through such partnerships that we are able to provide quality services for survivors and their families. DeafSAFE is involved in the community by having a seat at important routine meetings. An example is the DVPC (Domestic Violence Prevention Council), DOJ Steering Committee, SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) and many others. A notable example of participating with Butte County SART, the advocate was able to participate in their training for sexual assault advocacy. As a result of this training, the advocate has gained knowledge of how to better serve a sexual assault survivor and connect with other agencies who also provide services for these survivors.

Butte County SART provided the DeafSAFE advocate with the capability to attend summit (in person) to learn much more, all to benefit our survivors. SART opened the doors for countless networking agencies that have already been of service. In exchange, DeafSAFE hopes that agencies will contact us to provide training/education to enable others to fully understand the deaf community and allow them to provide deaf-friendly services from their end. DeafSAFE is evidence that partnerships and collaborations are the keys for success.

BUTTE COUNY SEXUAL ASSAULT AND CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATION DATA, January 2019- December 2021

Number of Exams Conducted

A total of 252 Forensic Medical Examinations (exams) for Evidence of Sexual Assault and Child Sexual Abuse were conducted for persons 2 years and older during calendar years 2019-2021 in Butte County.

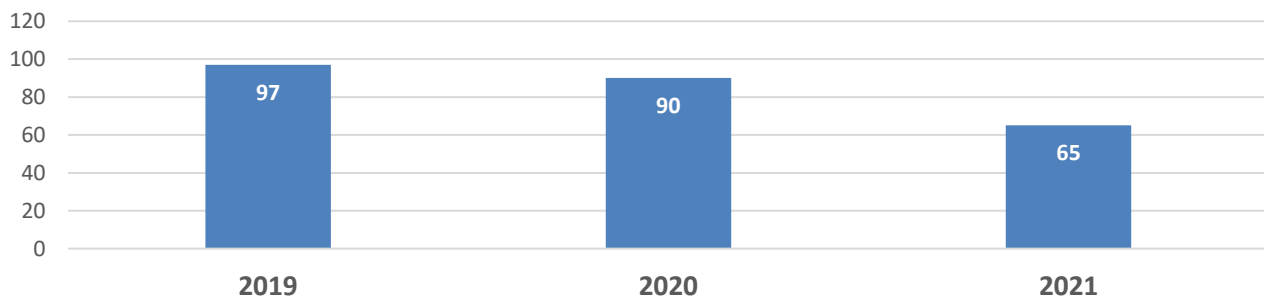
The following graph depicts the number of exams conducted per year, categorized by month. The number of exams performed ranged from 3- 15 per month. During the three-year time period, no statistically significant trends were found between month and number of exams conducted, suggesting that there are no consistent seasonal patterns to sexual assault exams being conducted. These results align with analyses of previous exam data (2014, 2016).

Sexual Assault Exams Conducted, by Year

Glenn and Butte County

2019-2021

N=252

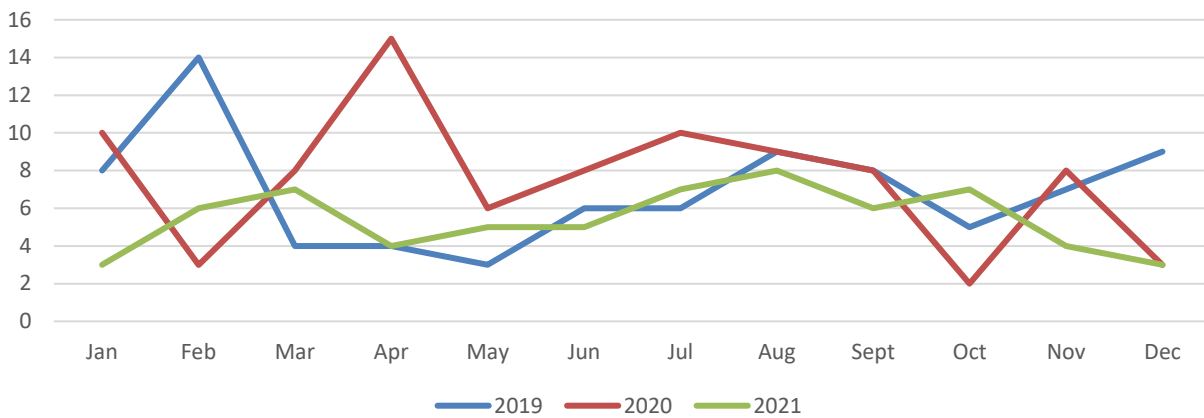


Sexual Assault Exams Conducted, by Month

Glenn and Butte County

2019-2021

n=252



Authorizing Law Enforcement Agency

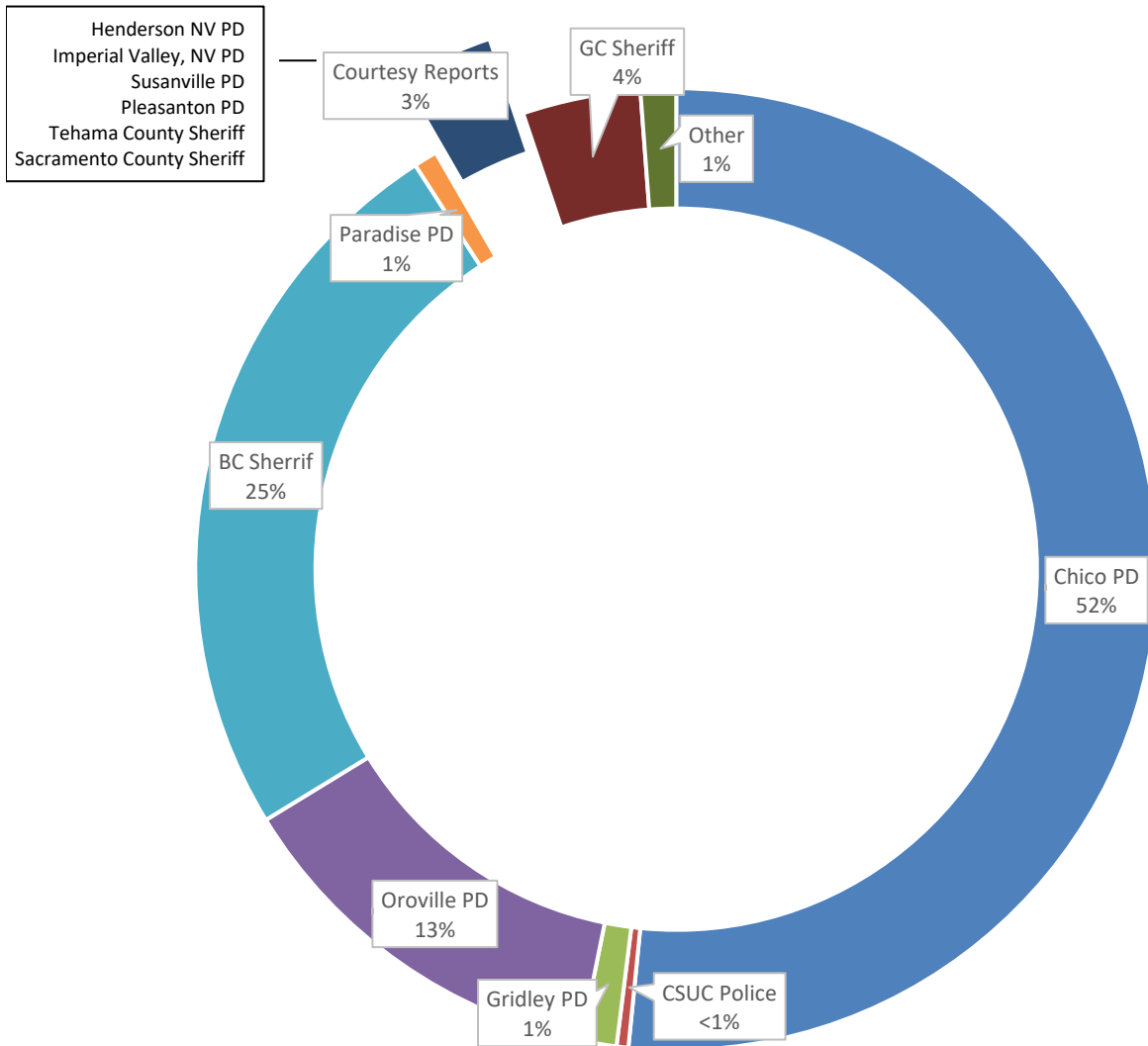
The jurisdictional law enforcement agency is the law enforcement agency where the crime occurred. The jurisdictional agency is responsible for the investigation and cost reimbursement for the forensic medical examination and transportation of sexual assault victims to a hospital with a trained forensic medical examination team. In some instances, victims are assaulted outside of the area, but do not report or request a forensic medical exam until they are closer to home and feel safe. In these cases, a local law enforcement agency coordinates with the jurisdictional agency to take a preliminary report and coordinate with the forensic medical exam team to take custody of the evidence collected during a forensic medical exam. These requests are referred to as “Courtesy Reports.”

Law Enforcement Agencies authorized the vast majority of exams (99%), with a small portion of exams being requested by the District Attorney’s Office (<1%) and Department of corrections (<1%). Breakdowns of specific police departments and sheriff’s offices were similar to previous years (2014, 2016).

Exams Requested by Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices

2019-2021

N=252

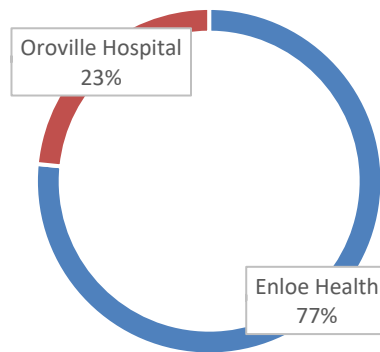


Exam Site

Two area hospitals, Enloe Health and Oroville Hospital, have trained forensic examiners, forensic RNs, who provide medical assessment and treatment and Adult/Adolescent forensic medical examinations for evidence of sexual assault. Enloe Health’s forensic RNs provide Pediatric Child Sexual Abuse Examinations. During 2019-2021, Enloe Health conducted the majority of exams (77%), which aligns with trends seen in 2014 and 2016.

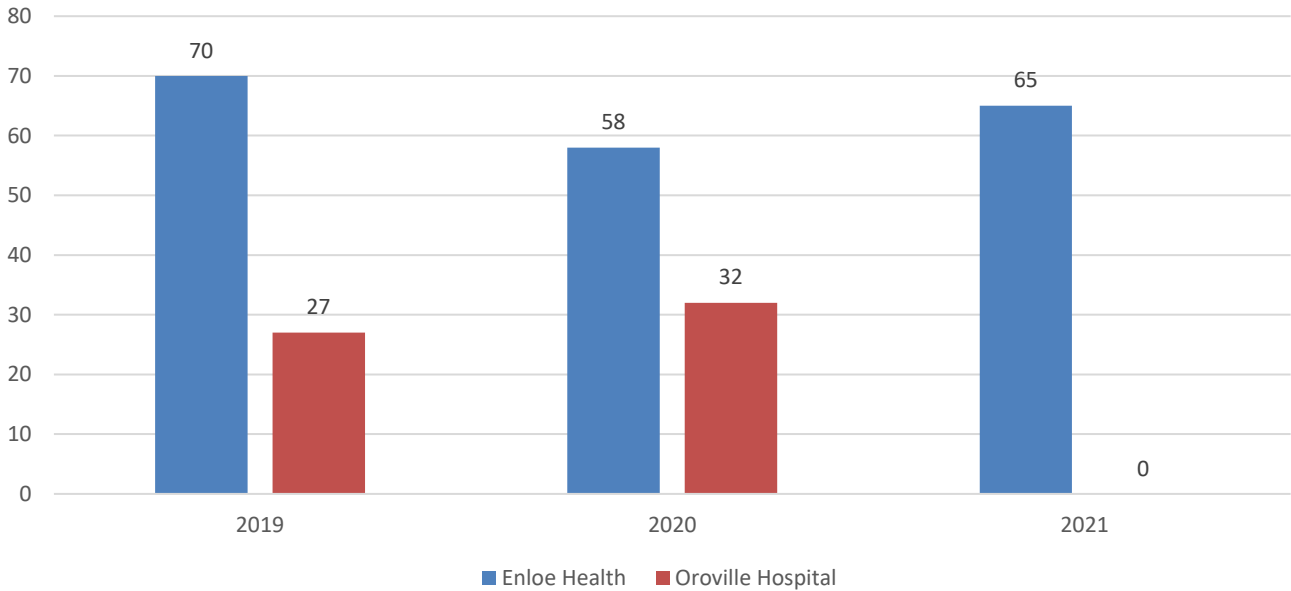
Sexual Assault Exams Conducted, by Site

2019-2021
N=252



Exams Conducted, By Site and Year

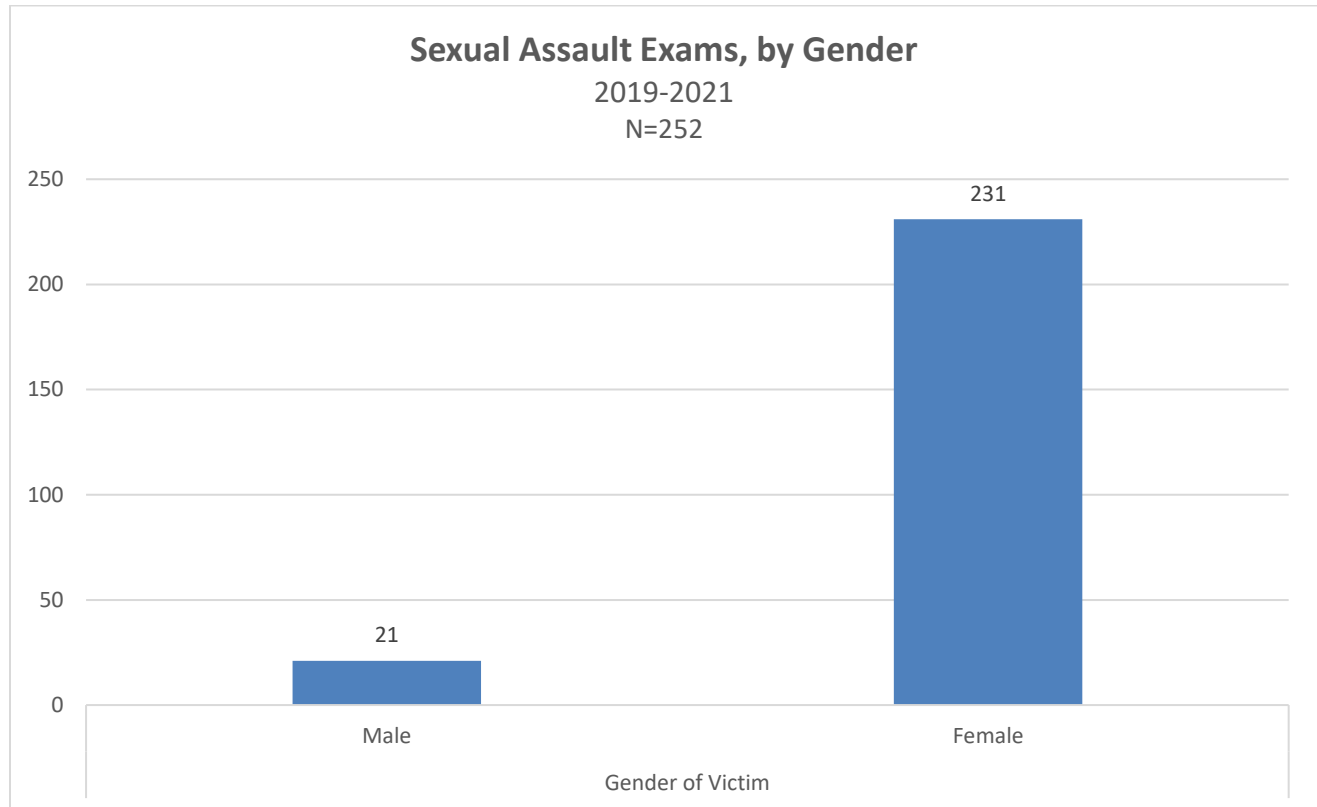
2019-2021
N=252



Descriptive Measures of Victim

Gender of Victim

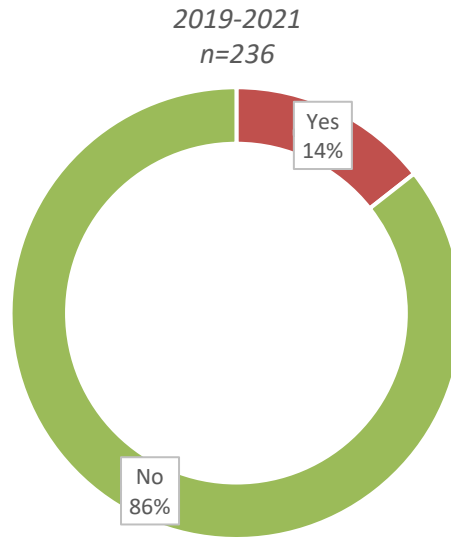
During the three-year period (2019-2021), 92% of exams were conducted for victims reporting their gender as female, with 8% reporting their gender as male.



Race/ Ethnicity of Victim

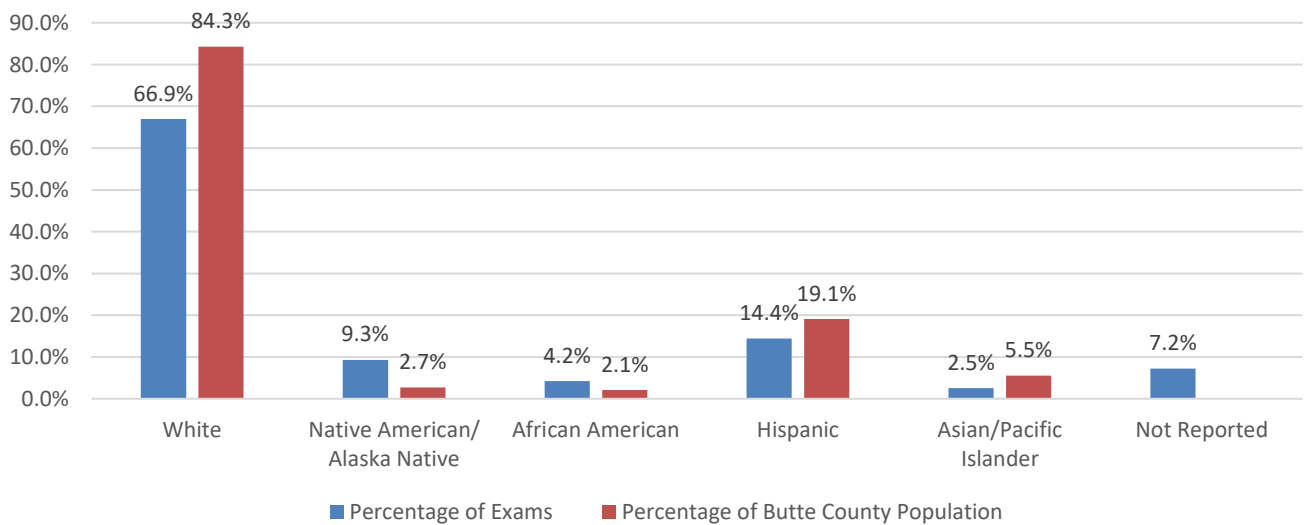
Victims were asked to self-report Hispanic origin and race. Of those victims who chose to answer, 14% reported being of Hispanic origin. In comparison, 19% of Butte County’s population were reported to be of Hispanic origin in 2022.¹ In comparison to Butte County’s population, Native American and African Americans were the most overrepresented racial groups. This does align with current knowledge of racial disparities amongst sexual assault victims.³

Sexual Assault Exams, by Victim-Reported Hispanic Origin



Percent of Exams, by Self-Reported Victim Race

2019-2021
n=236



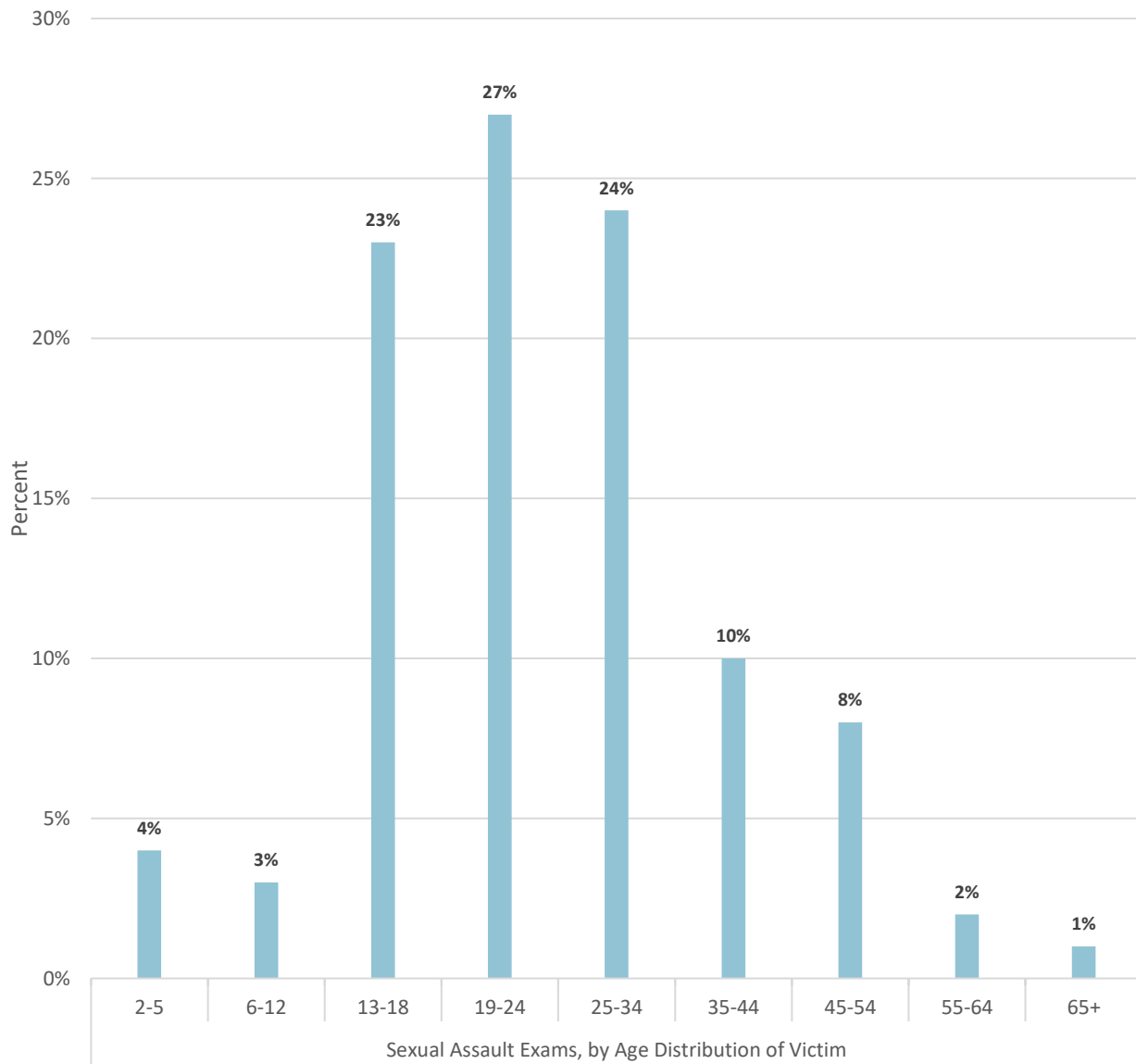
Age of Victim

57% of exams with age recorded were for persons less than 25 years of age, compared with 38% in 2016.

Distribution of Sexual Assault Exams, by Age of Victim

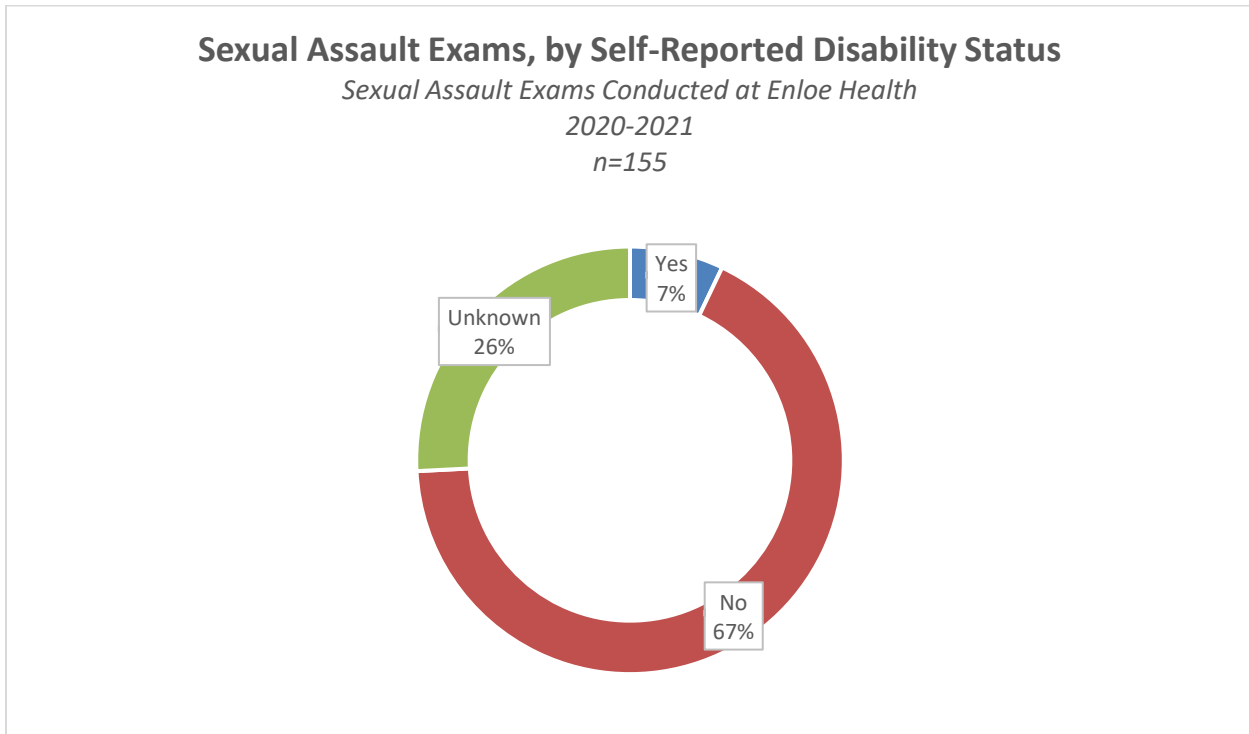
2019-2021

n=248



Disability Status of Victim

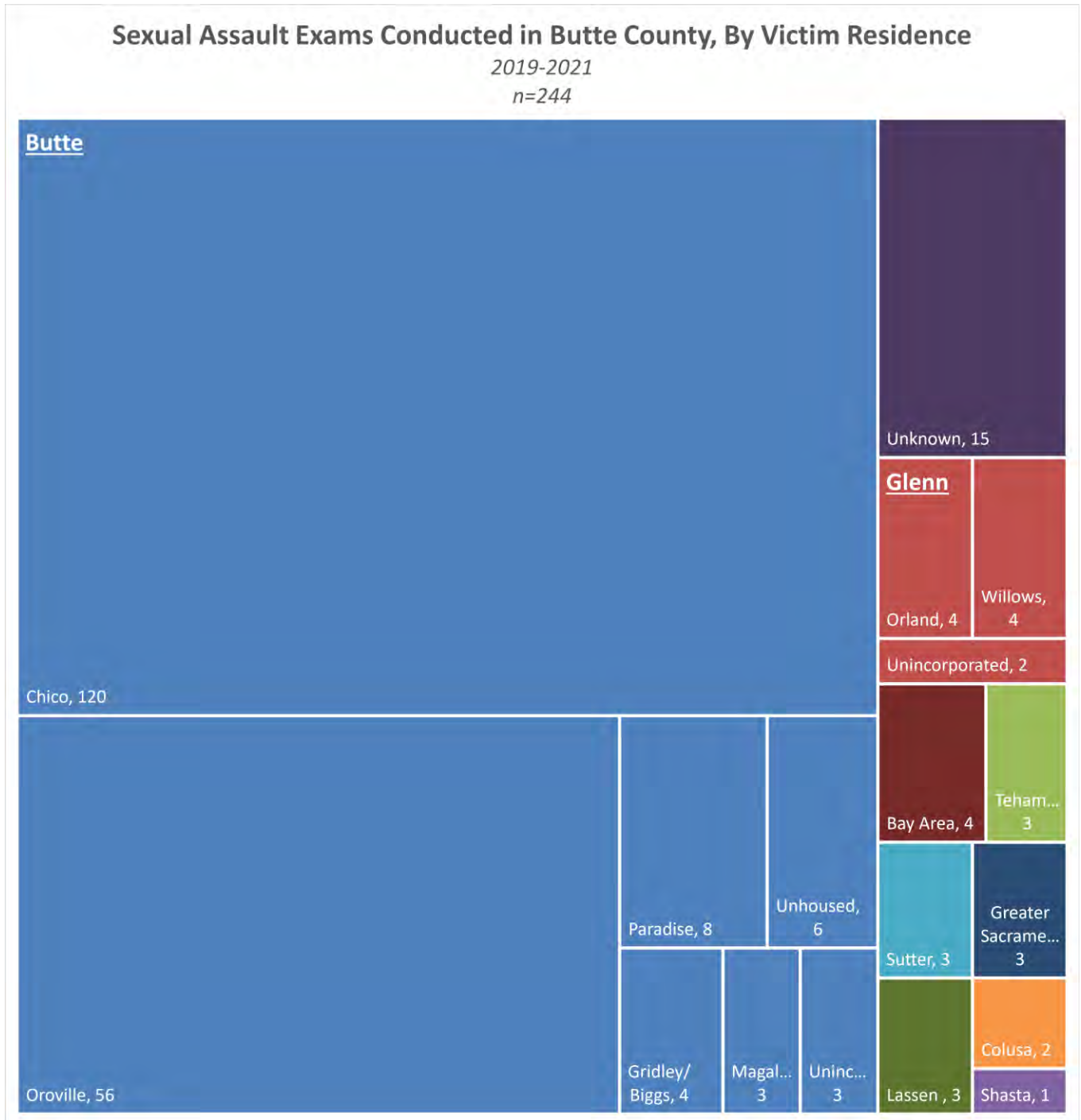
Beginning in 2020, disability status was included in the information collection process for all exams conducted at Enloe Health.



Residence of Victim

The heat map below depicts the distribution of each victim's reported residence. Each shape portrays a different area (town/county/region), with each color designating areas into groups. The size of the shape represents the proportion of victims who reported the area as their residence.

47% of exams were conducted for victims residing in Chico, 23% for Oroville, and 4% for Glenn County residents. 9% of exams conducted were for victims residing out of Butte and Glenn counties.



Tribal Affiliation of Victim

Beginning in 2014, in response to general research highlighting disparaging rates of sexual assault amongst Native American populations, Butte County SART implemented additional survey measures to better articulate tribal affiliation. Only exams conducted at Enloe Health had information collected regarding tribal affiliation. 13% of victims examined reported being affiliated with a tribe. When adjusting for population, the proportion remains the same. 13% of victims who reported Butte/Glenn County as their residence also reported being affiliated with a tribe. This depicts a disparity among tribal affiliated persons as Native Americans represent roughly 3% of Glenn and Butte counties population.^{1,2}

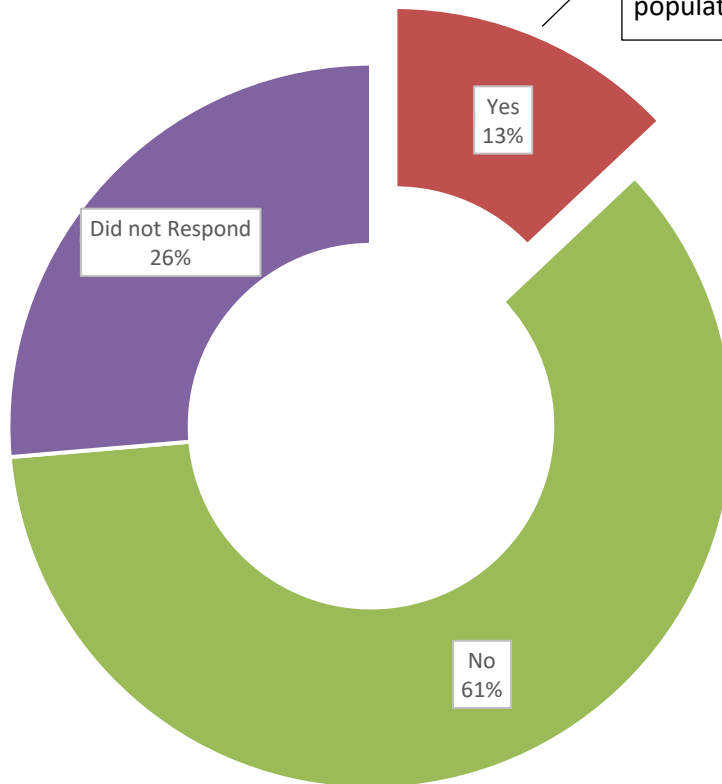
Self- Reported Tribal Affiliation of Victim

Sexual Assault Exams Conducted at Enloe Health

2019-2021

N=239

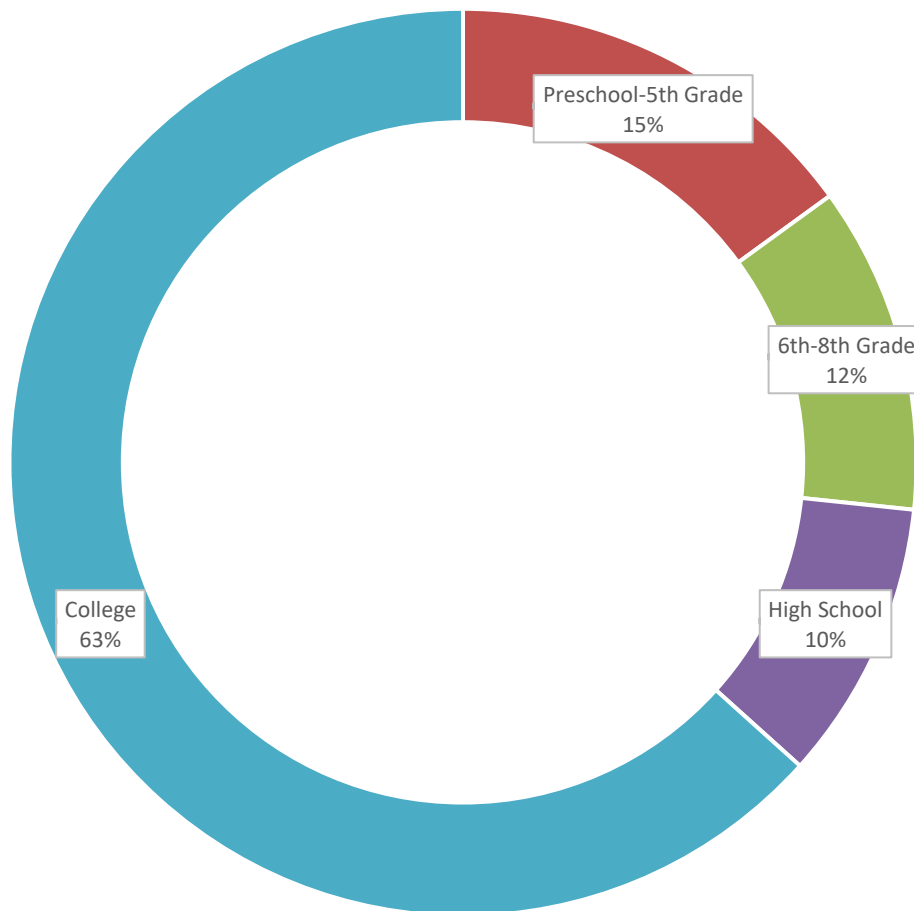
Native Americans account for 3% of Butte/Glenn Counties population (2022).^{1,2}



Student Status of Victim

In addition to tribal affiliation, Butte County SART also added survey question to measure student status in 2014. Only exams conducted at Enloe Health had information collected regarding student status. During the current three-year assessment period (2019-2021), 35% of all victims reported being students at the time of their assault.

Distribution by Reported Student Status
Sexual Assault Exams Conducted at Enloe Health
2019-2021
n=85

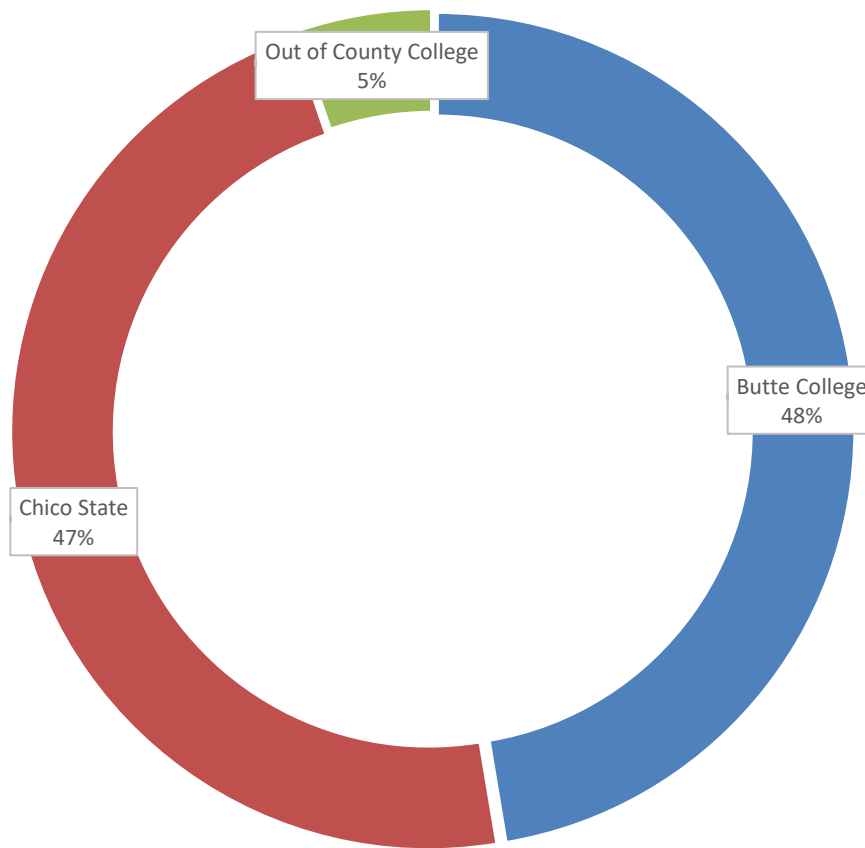


Sexual Assault Exams, by Victim Self-Reported College

Sexual Assault Exams Conducted at Enloe Health

2019-2021

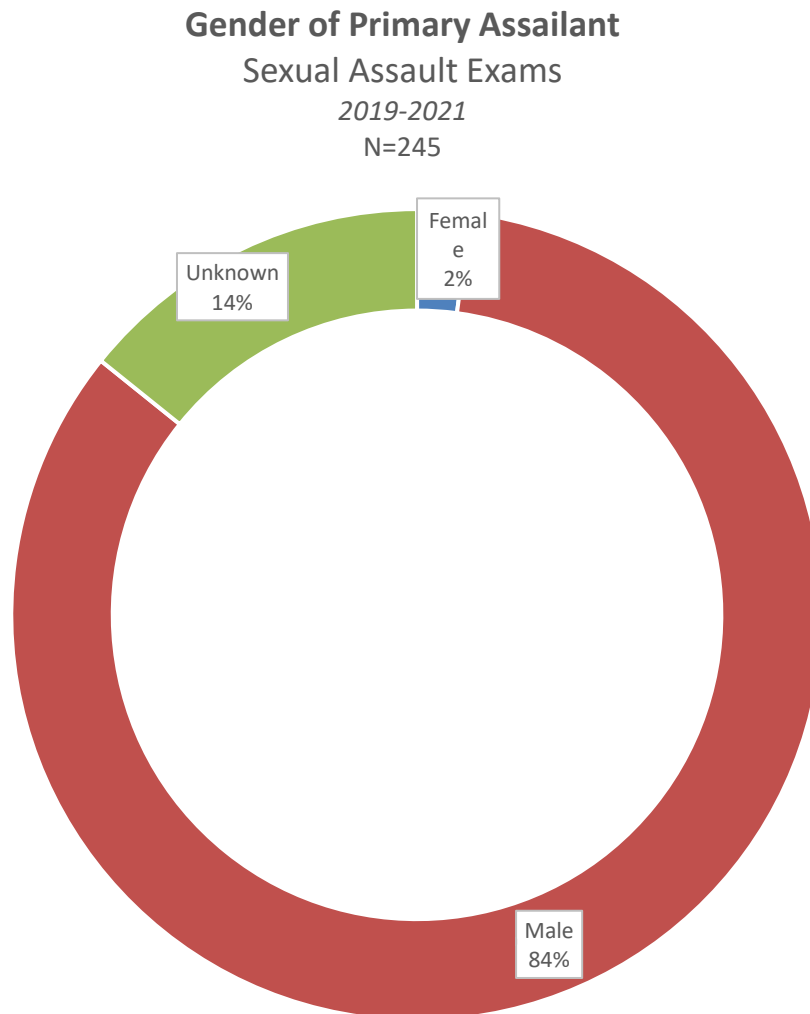
n=42



Descriptive Measures of Sexual Assaults

Assailants

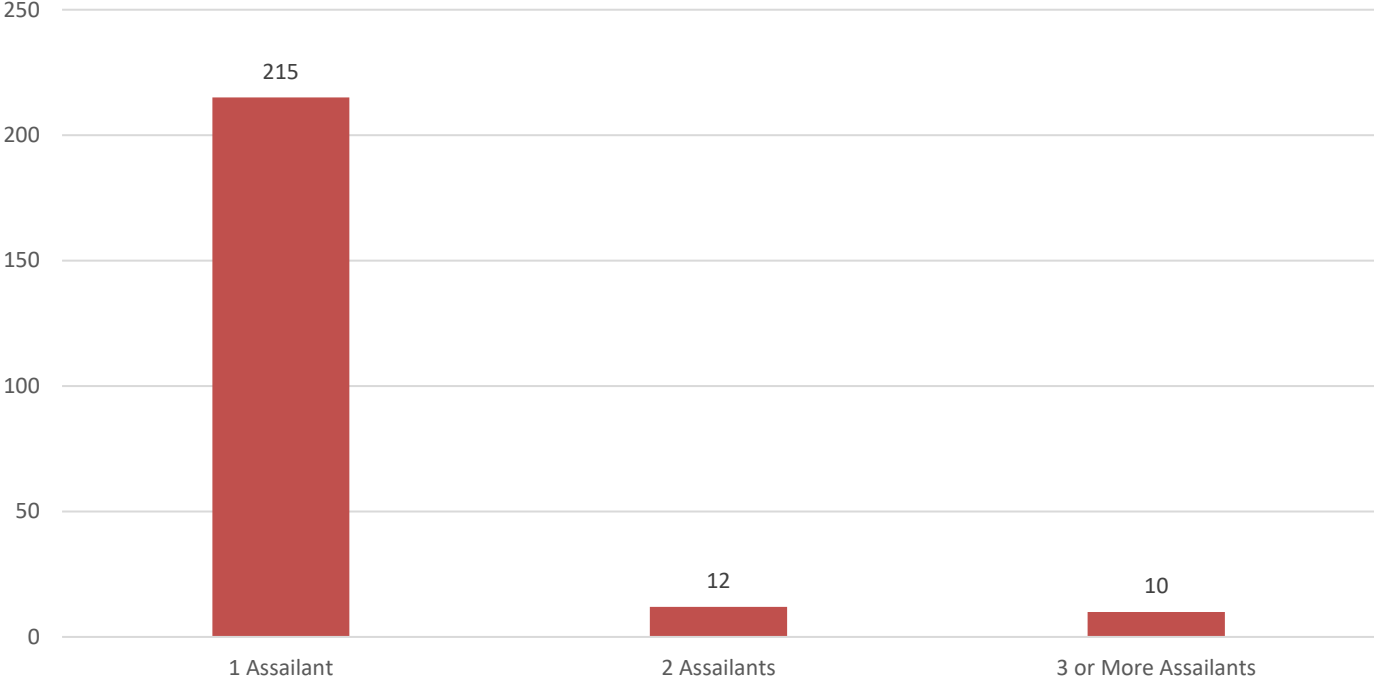
84% of victims reported a male as the primary assailant, compared to 2% for female primary assailants. 14% of victims could not provide information on the gender of their primary assailant due to loss of memory, lapse of consciousness, environmental factors, or decline to answer. Primary assailant is defined as the first assailant listed by the victim.



Sexual Assault Exams, by Number of Assailants

2019-2021

n=237



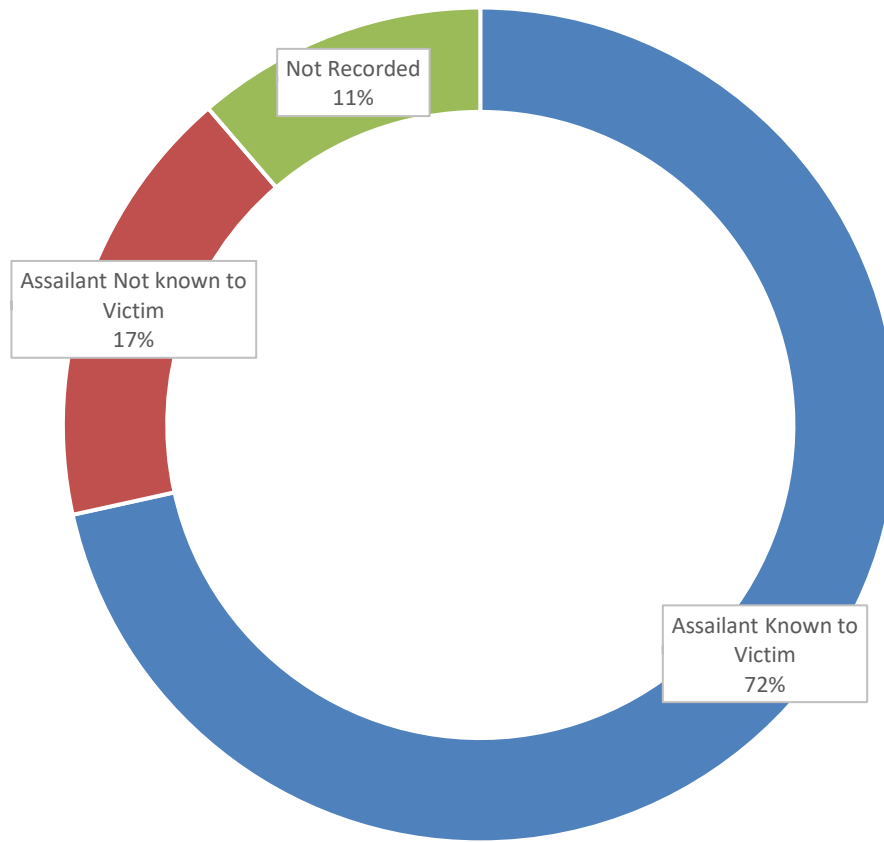
Relationship of Victim and Assailant

At least 72% of victims knew their assailant, with 17% reporting they did not know their assailant. 11% of exams did not have these data available. Anecdotally, a portion of unrecorded responses may have been due to loss of memory or lapse of consciousness causing the victim to be unsure if they knew their assailant or not.

**SA Exams Conducted in Butte County,
by Relationship of Victim and Assailant**

2019-2021

N=242



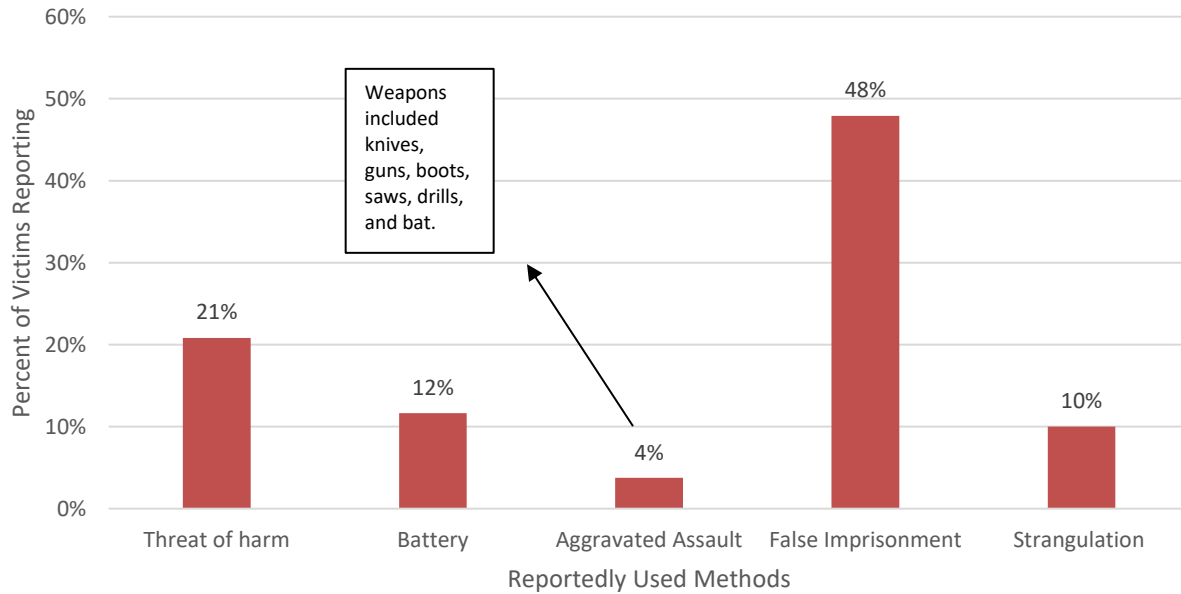
Assault Methods

Assailants used a variety of methods including intimidation and violence.

Distribution of Reported Methods During Assault

2019-2021

n=236



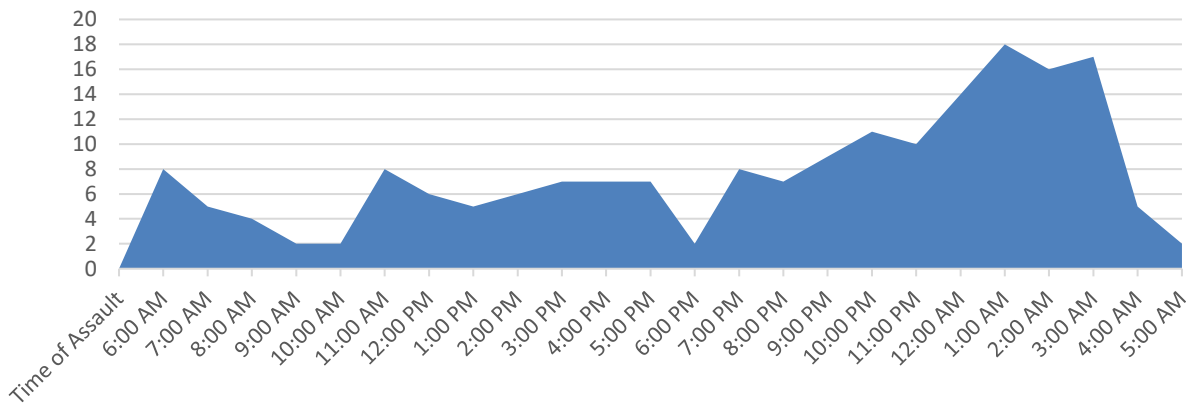
Time of Assault

During 2019-2021, 46% of assaults with a known time occurred between 10PM-3AM, compared to 60% in 2016.

Reported Time of Assault

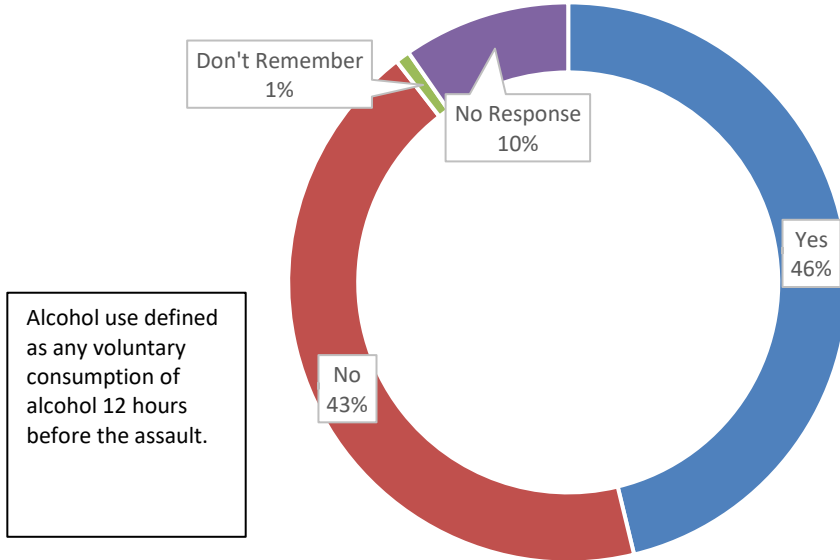
2019-2021

n= 196



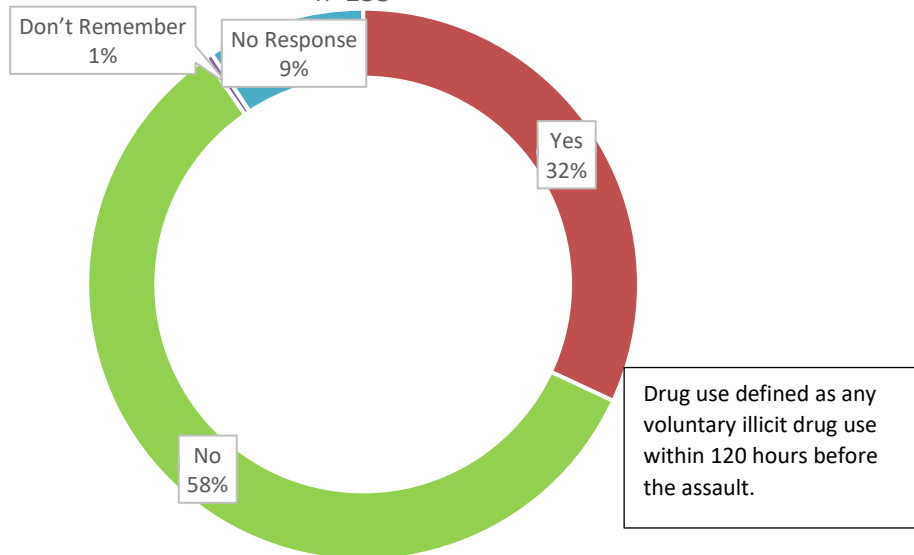
Self-Reported Voluntary Alcohol Use

2019-2021
n=238



Self-Reported Voluntary Drug Use

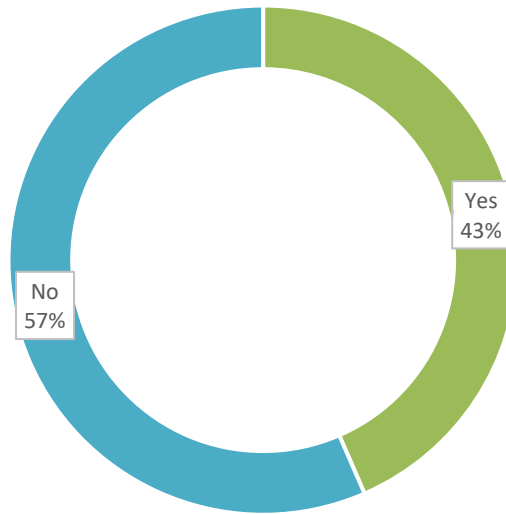
2019-2021
n=238



Self- Reported Involuntary Use of Alcohol

2019-2021

n=25

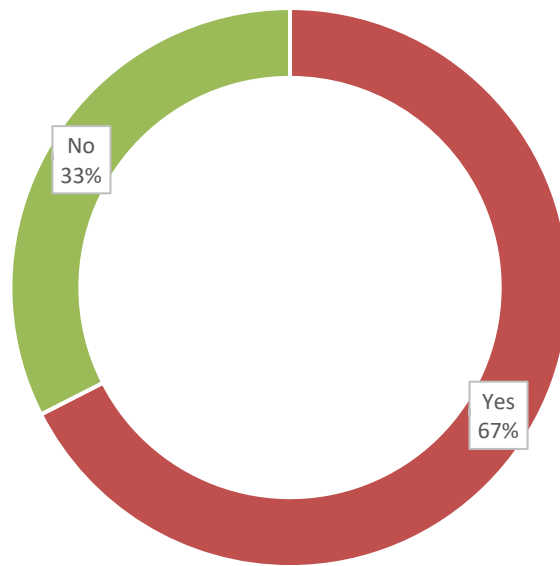


Alcohol use defined as any involuntary consumption of alcohol just prior to or during the assault.

Self-Reported Involuntary Drug Use

2019-2021

n=45



Drug use defined as any involuntary illicit drug use just prior to or during the assault.

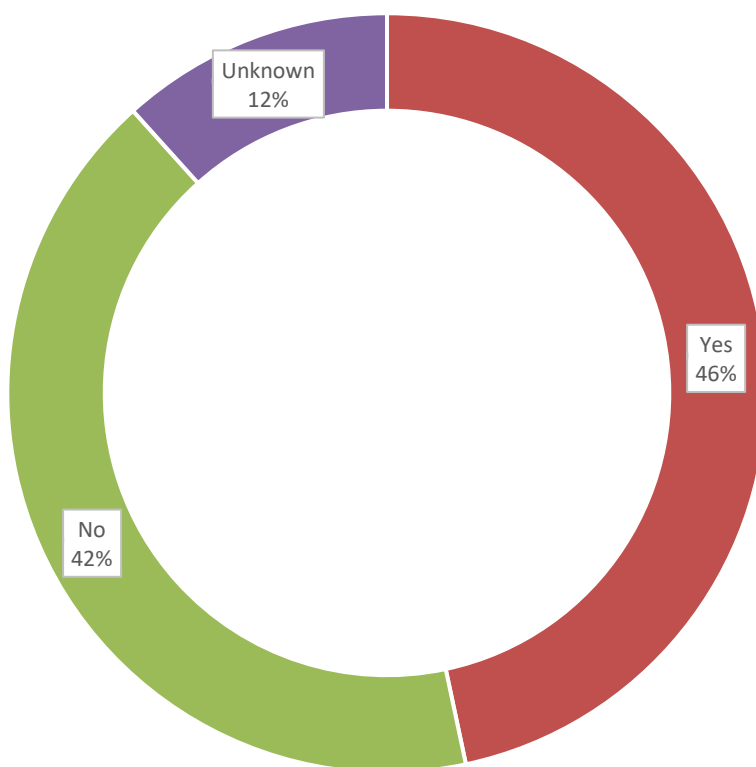
Recall of Assault

Loss of consciousness is defined as a complete black out state, usually due to injury or drugs, in which a person reports being completely aware of surroundings followed by a complete loss of consciousness followed by complete awareness. Loss of memory is defined as having periods of recall followed by missing memory, sometimes described as flashes of memory or “fuzzy” memory, usually due to the psychological trauma of rape or intoxication. A person may experience both states during a traumatic event.

Self-Reported Loss of Consciousness/Memory

2019-2021

N=245



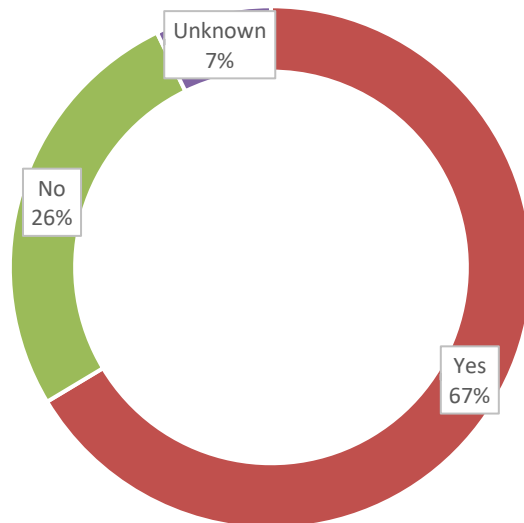
Exam Findings

Physical Findings

Percent of Exams with Physical Findings

2019-2021

n=250



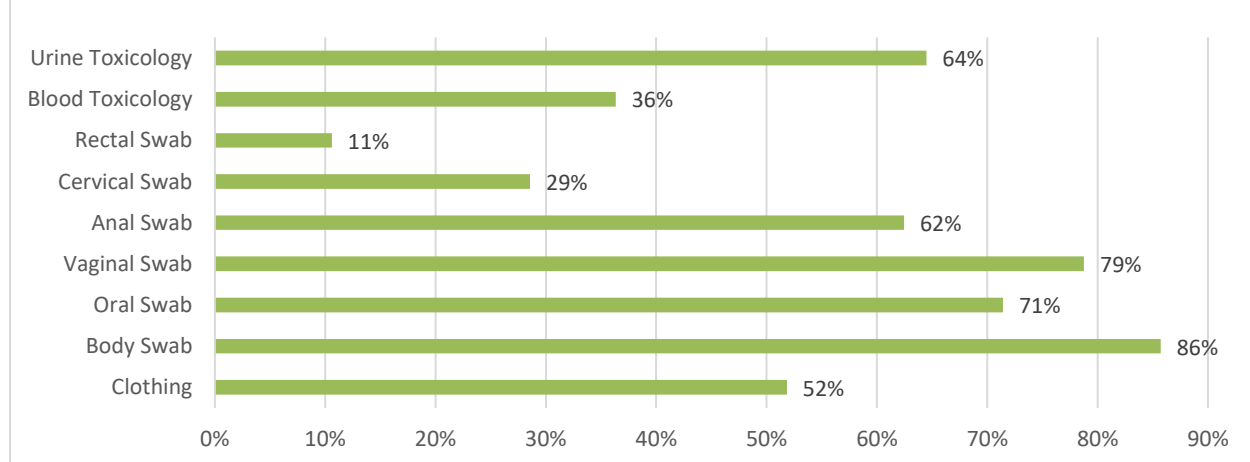
Evidence Samples

The chart below depicts the percentage of cases with evidence samples collected, based on the sample type.

Percent of Exams with Evidence Samples Collected, by Sample Type

2019-2021

n=245



Butte County SART Success Story

“Jamie” (Name changed to preserve confidentiality)

“Jamie” is a 27-year-old female in Chico who worked for Suspect. In 2019, there was a dispute between Suspect and some of his employees, which led to some of the employees leaving Suspect’s business and opening their own establishment. Jamie went to work at the new establishment but remained friends with the workers at Suspect’s business.

In fall of 2019, Jamie invited Suspect to have a drink with her after work in an attempt to “let bygones be bygones.” The two drank at a few places in Chico and Jamie became heavily intoxicated. Suspect drove Jamie to his house. When speaking to law enforcement later, Suspect described Jamie as very intoxicated, and “falling all over the place” while at his house. He took a video of Jamie crawling on the floor in this drunken state.

Suspect’s 19-year-old roommate, “Mr. Jones” (name changed to preserve confidentiality), had never met Jamie before, but when the Suspect brought Jamie to the house, he told Mr. Jones to come meet the “super-hot drunk girl” he had brought home. Later that evening, Jamie came into Mr. Jones’s bedroom in a panicked and disheveled state covered in urine. She collapsed on Mr. Jones’s bedroom floor and told him that Suspect had raped her. Jamie was able to tell Mr. Jones the phone number of Jamie’s sister. After calling Jamie’s sister to tell her what had happened to Jamie, Mr. Jones agreed to take Jamie to the Chico Police Department.

Though Jamie did not remember much from her time at Suspect’s house, she told police that she remembered telling Suspect “No,” and that she was in distress and in danger and needed help. She also said that she did not consent to any sexual acts and remembered going to Mr. Jones’s room for help.

Jamie was transported to Enloe Health where she was provided a Forensic Medical Examination for Evidence of Sexual Assault. As part of the forensic exam, a focused medical history and a history of the assault is obtained. Documenting the assault history, Jamie’s memory was limited, but she remembered being distressed, struggling, and unable to breathe. She also remembered Suspect strangling her. Based on her evaluation of Jamie, the Forensic Nurse opined that Jamie may have been strangled to the point of incontinence and referred Jamie to the emergency department for strangulation protocol evaluation by a physician after the forensic medical exam was completed.

Following the California Medical Protocol for Examination of Sexual Assault Victims, the Forensic Nurse provided a head-to-toe forensic medical examination, diagramming and documenting twenty-four separate injuries on Jamie, ranging from abrasions, bruising, redness, tenderness, and swelling. These injuries included bruises on Jamie’s neck, consistent with strangulation, as well as bruising on her knees, buttocks, back, and inner arms. In the summary the Forensic Nurse wrote, “Abrasions and bruising to neck, chest, abdomen, arms, buttocks, legs, toes & hands.”

The Forensic Nurse also carefully documented observations such as: Jamie's urine-soaked jeans; unlaced Ugg-style boots, which the victim said she never unlaced when she wore them; bra on backwards; blood streaks on pants; and a plethora of other observations that became critical pieces of evidence in establishing at trial that Jamie was indeed sexually assaulted and did not engage consensually with Suspect.

Neck, vaginal and external genitalia evidence swabs, and a patient reference buccal swab collected during the forensic medical exam were submitted to The California Department of Justice (DOJ) DNA crime lab for rapid DNA processing. The DOJ DNA crime lab developed a male DNA profile from the swab collected from Jamie's neck. The vaginal swab collected from Jamie also revealed DNA was present, specifically in the form of seminal fluid. The DNA profile matched a male already in the CODIS data base. A warrant was authored and issued for the Suspect and the Suspect was arrested.

Suspect told law enforcement that he was simply drinking with Jamie, and she got heavily intoxicated. He never mentioned any sexual acts. Later, at jury trial, Suspect took the stand and testified that Jamie had come on to him and had persuaded him to have sex with her. He could not explain the strangulation marks on Jamie's neck, or any of the other evidence collected by the Forensic Nurse.

The Forensic Nurse testified as an expert in forensic medical examination, Rape Trauma Syndrome, and strangulation evaluation. Her testimony was vital in explaining the bruising on Jamie's body. Her testimony was also critical in helping the jury understand the physiological responses to strangulation, including loss of consciousness, anoxic seizures, incontinence, loss of bowel control, and death. The Forensic Nurse demonstrated for the jury the process of conducting a forensic medical exam for evidence of sexual assault and documenting all of the injuries and statements of a victim during the process. In this particular case, the Forensic Nurse asked Jamie to demonstrate with a mannequin head how Suspect's hands were on Jamie's neck. The Forensic Nurse took a photograph of Jamie strangling the mannequin head with both hands, a picture that was worth a thousand words for the jury.

The jury unanimously found the Suspect guilty as charged of forcible rape. The suspect was sentenced to 8 years, 8 months in state prison. Suspect appealed the case, but the appellate court held that the trial was fair and that the Forensic Nurse was more than qualified to testify on the subject matters that she did.

The Chico Police Department was instrumental in keeping Jamie and Mr. Jones informed and feeling safe through the criminal court process. The District Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Bureau was critical in offering support to both Jamie and Mr. Jones, and also in obtaining a lien on Suspect's home after conviction so that Jamie could obtain monetary restitution from the brutal rape she suffered at Suspect's hands.

This success story illustrates how the Butte County SART partners work together to collect invaluable evidence even when the victim is unable to recall what happened to them. The evidence collected in this case significantly contributed to the guilty verdict that was achieved during the jury trial.

Acknowledgement

Special thanks go to Catalyst for their dedication to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child sexual abuse and their families. Catalyst has gone above and beyond to serve our communities and expanded their services to support survivors of sexual assault. Catalyst has been a valuable SART partner since the inception of Butte County SART as a founding SART member. Catalyst's Assistant Director chaired Butte County SART in 2022 and 2023 and co-chaired in previous years. Catalyst is now the sole certified provider of crisis intervention services for survivors of sexual assault in both Butte and Glenn Counties.

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