

Annual Report 2017



sccadvasa

South Carolina Coalition Against
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault



Our Mission

SCCADVASA is the collective voice promoting the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault in South Carolina.

Our Vision

A South Carolina free from domestic violence and sexual assault.

From the Executive Director and Board Chair



2017 was a year of growth for SCCADVASA. We initiated new projects, received funding to support them, and welcomed new staff members on board. Our place at the nexus of Advocacy, Collaboration, Education and Prevention provides us with a wide lens to see the full range of issues surrounding sexual and domestic violence and makes visible how much remains to be done. It concentrates our focus on ensuring that equitable resources are available to victims and survivors, and inspires the prevention work necessary to spark transformative cultural change.

In 2017, we witnessed the explosive power of individuals sharing their stories of victimization as the #metoo movement crested, bringing down some powerful abusers in its wake. Although it seemed to come from nowhere, the groundwork for this moment had been laid during the previous ten years by Tarana Burke as she sought to provide help and amplify survivors' voices through the work of her non-profit, Just Be Inc. Her persistence in leading for change can provide us a model for the importance of perseverance in our goals that transcends the simple counting of our day-to-day activities in providing technical assistance (907), the number of education hours provided (718), and the number of people trained (9,497).

Turning the #metoo moment into a movement that achieves sustainable change impacting all areas of our work will take creativity and every ounce of perseverance we have. We each carry touchstones and inspiration from survivors with whom we've worked, their spirit carries forward the urgency of the work we do, and reminds us of the humility necessary to hear what individuals need on their path to healing and safety. At SCCADVASA we are committed to creating the space in which healing and prevention can happen, changing our communities' future relationship with violence so that it is not simply a mirror of the past.

Thank you for joining us in perseverance.

Sara Barber, *Executive Director*

Ashley Cole Story, *Chair*

The SCCADVASA Team

Sara Barber, *Executive Director* • executivedirector@sccadvasa.org

Valerie Ekue, *Director of Member Support and Community Justice* • vekue@sccadvasa.org

Katie Reid, *Director of Systems Advocacy and Prevention* • kreid@sccadvasa.org

Tandekah Benjamin, *Financial Coordinator* • tbenjamin@sccadvasa.org

Nyomi Guzman, *Prevention and Inclusion Specialist* • nguzman@sccadvasa.org

Olivia London, *Coordinator of Primary Prevention and Specialized Advocacy* • olondon@sccadvasa.org

Courtney-Christie Paul, *Training and Special Events Coordinator*, • cpaul@sccadvasa.org

Patricia Ravenhorst, *General Counsel* • pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org

Natalie Sonek, *Program and Administrative Assistant* • nsonek@sccadvasa.org

Policy Team—*Benton Wislinski (BGW Solutions)*

Graphic Design—*Corie Hipp, The Corinne Company*

Interns—*Ashton Peta • Ali Slack • Juanita McDonald*

SCCADVASA Board of Directors

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Jeanne F. Cook, MSW, PhD, LISW-CP (Retired)

Ronald King (City of Columbia Community Development Department)

Shannon Lambert, Member Program at Large (Pickens County Advocacy Center)

Janie Ward Lauve, Sexual Assault Interest Group Chair (People Against Rape)

Susan Selden, Domestic Violence Interest Group Chair (Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons)

Brett Stevens (Stevens Law Firm)

Farrar Stewart (SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation)

Amelia Waring Walker, Esq.

Ethel (Eddie) Weinberg, (Retired)

Meredith Weinberg (Nelson, Mullins, Riley and Scarborough)

Daniel Wise (Colonial Life Insurance)

Member Organizations

Our 22 full member organizations provide direct services, to survivors of domestic and sexual violence 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Our coalition's strength is rooted in the preventative and life-saving work their staff and volunteers provide daily.

Beyond Abuse (SA)

CASA/Family Systems (DV/SA)

Cumbee Center to Assist Abuse Persons (DV/SA)

Family Justice Center (DV)

Family Resource Center (SA)

Foothills Alliance Center (SA)

Hopeful Horizons (DV/SA)

Julie Valentine Center (SA)

Laurens County SAFE Home (DV)

MEG's House (DV)

My Sister's House, Inc. (DV)

Palmetto CASA (SA)

Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault (DV/SA)

People Against Rape (SA)

Pickens County Advocacy Center (SA)

The Rape Crisis Center (SA)

Safe Harbor, Inc. (DV)

SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition (DV/SA)

Safe Passage, Inc. (DV/SA)

Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands (SA)

Sistercare, Inc. (DV)

YWCA of the Upper Lowlands, Inc. (DV)

****DV: Domestic Violence, SA: Sexual Abuse***

Affiliate Members

Aiken County Victim Services • South Carolina Legal Services • Compass of Carolina • Fourth Circuit Solicitor
Winthrop University Office of Victim Assistance • Domestic Abuse Center • Mary's House • The Hive Community Circle
Prevent Child Abuse Pickens County DBA The Parenting Place • Alice/Alexis Woman to Women Transitional Housing
Bamberg County Sheriff's Office • Nurture Home - Mental Health America Aiken • Origin SC • Eighth Judicial Circuit
Spartanburg Police Department • Kershaw County Sheriff's Office • Mt. Pleasant Police Department • Town of Jackson



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE statistics from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

NON-SHELTER SERVICES



Our domestic violence organizations offer face-to-face crisis intervention, case management, support groups, individual therapy, legal advocacy, and many other supportive services. In FY 2016-17, our member organizations provided these services to **23,789 survivors**.

SERVICES	# CLIENTS
Adult	17,496
Children	6,293
Total	23,789

OVER 62% OF WOMEN SEEKING SHELTER FROM OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS WERE **BELOW THE POVERTY LINE**



In Shelter
Above 4%
Below 62%
Unknown 34%

Non-Shelter
Above 29%
Below 44%
Unknown 27%

Poverty disproportionately affects women and single mothers. Low-income women are often trapped in abusive situations by a lack of financial resources. Domestic violence is one of the main causes of homelessness for women and families, either when women are forced to flee a relationship or when they are evicted from their homes because of the abuse perpetrated against them.

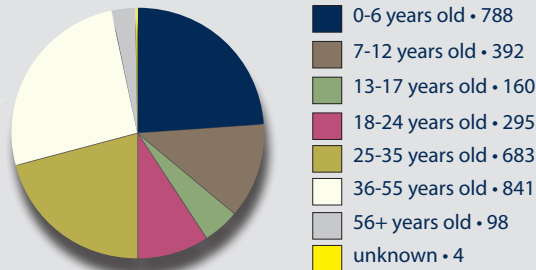
SHELTER SERVICES

20,088 Crisis Calls were received by the 24-Hour Hotlines



83,449 Sheltered Nights

There were a total of **1180 children 12 years old and younger** who received shelter services from our Domestic Violence organizations, which constitutes **41% of clients served**.



*Children who witness violence in the home often suffer from **long-term psychological, emotional trauma**. Because it is a learned behavior, they often become perpetrators of similar violence. In order to **break the cycle**, we must strive towards **violence-free home environments**.*

SCCADVASA has **15 member organizations** serving victims and survivors of sexual violence in South Carolina. Of these 15, **FIVE are dual**, meaning they spread their resources, time, and funding between caring and advocating for survivors of both Domestic Violence (DV) & Sexual Assault (SA).

SEXUAL VIOLENCE statistics from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

Number of
New Direct
Clients in 2017

→ **5,698**

3,419 Secondary Survivors

Secondary survivors are individuals, other than primary survivors, who are directly affected by sexual violence, such as children, family members, partners, etc.

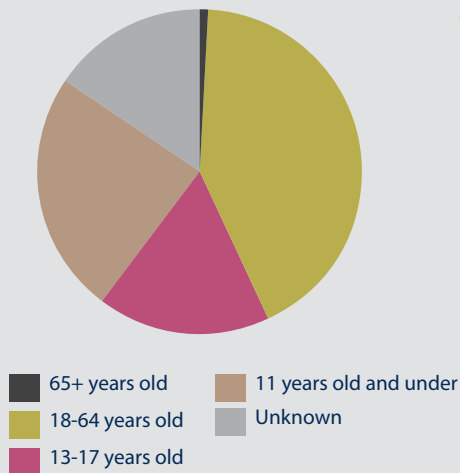


4,720 Females Served



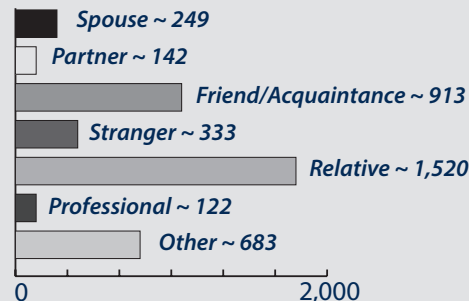
1,318 Males Served

**Gender was not recorded for 312*



Only **8%** Reported
the perpetrator was a **STRANGER**

Almost **40%** Reported
the perpetrator was a **RELATIVE**



Community Education and training community allies is crucial. Primary Prevention programs focus on building understanding of healthy relationships and respect to reduce the likelihood of sexual assault occurring. Our member organizations provided over **5,230 trainings and speaking engagements to educate youth and train community members** to assist in our common goal to end sexual violence and increase safety for everyone.

Advocacy

Policy Advocacy

SCCADVASA works at the Statehouse and in the Halls of Congress to bring the voices of our community members who have experienced sexual and domestic violence into the policy making arenas of our state and nation. The needs of victims and survivors are not limited to traditional ideas of criminal laws and punishments but extend into every sphere of policy—from housing to healthcare, gun safety to immigration and beyond—necessitating a wide lens in monitoring and taking action on bills as they move through the legislative process. We also advocate for the vital funding that supports our member organizations in providing services. In 2017, we were successful in securing recurring funding for domestic violence service providers in the state budget.

Legal Assistance

In the Fall of 2017, SCCADVASA was awarded a grant from the SC Bar Foundation to hire an in-house legal counsel and build a contract attorney program. These contract attorneys will provide direct legal representation for clients in court actions arising from their victimization and help the survivor identify the full range of legal protections and remedies to which they are entitled. Our in-house counsel will also allow SCCADVASA to provide legal technical assistance and training for member organizations, stakeholders and system partners on the full range of legal protections and remedies available and to provide specialized assistance in subpoena defense and response to protect client confidentiality as mandated through federal programs.

Human Trafficking

In collaboration with the SC Attorney General's Office, SCCADVASA chaired the Direct Services Workgroup of the Human Trafficking Task Force. As a statewide alliance of multidisciplinary professionals with expertise in working with victims of trafficking, the group assesses and identifies gaps in services, informs and influences best practices, serves as a clearinghouse of resources, and provides recommendations and updates on service provision to victims of trafficking to the Attorney General's Office. In 2017, SCCADVASA provided 23 instances of technical assistance on issues related to trafficking and trained 81 people on this issue.

Education

Enhancing Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Project

In 2017, SCCADVASA continued to make advances in providing victim assistance services to all survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence in our state. The Coalition's project to support corrections institutions in their implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act contributed to a dramatic increase in collaboration between SCCADVASA's rape crisis center member agencies and their local corrections institutions. By the end of 2017, 12 of the 15 rape crisis centers had signed agreements to provide follow-up and/or emergency assistance to survivors of sexual assault who are incarcerated in their service area. SCCADVASA created 2 new PREA flyers, one of which is for survivors who have limited access to information about sexual assault. SCCADVASA also created PREA advocacy content for the Department of Corrections Roll Call flyers that are distributed to all employees prior to their shifts.

Domestic Violence Awareness Conference

During 2017, SCCADVASA worked with the DSS to begin integrating the Safe and Together Model created by David Mandel into their responses to families experiencing domestic violence, culminating in a successful conference in January 2018. Attendance at the conference was limited to DSS staff, member organizations and batterer intervention programs to encourage knowledge sharing and connections between these systems. The Safe and Together Model focuses attention on the abuser's actions rather than the traditional practice of placing all the responsibility for family safety on the non-offending parent.

Cultural Humility

We believe that increasing our knowledge about the wide range of cultures and communities in our state leads to an increase in our ability to provide the survivor-centered services that form the heart of effective advocacy and support. This learning process is an ongoing process marked by an attitude of cultural humility and curiosity that acknowledges that we can never be an expert on another individual's experience and that true understanding is more than checking the box on providing a cultural competence training and thinking we're done. We are working to make this concept of cultural humility one of the cornerstones of all our education and training initiatives.

Collaboration

SART Project

SCCADVASA has a long history of working with Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) and other multidisciplinary groups to improve the system response to sexual assault survivors in the state. In 2017, the Coalition launched an intensive project to provide multi-tiered support to teams and coordinators, which contributed to the creation of 3 new teams in the state. SCCADVASA hosted quarterly conference calls for SART leaders, provided 37 instances of technical assistance, partnered with SCVAN's Forensic Nurse Examiner Coordinator to organize a one-day training for 22 SART Coordinators and allies, and facilitated trainings for three new or rejuvenating teams. SCCADVASA also created the first-ever South Carolina SART Manual, which was distributed to all team leadership across the state.

DSS Liaison Project

The Liaison Project is a partnership between South Carolina Department of Social Services and SCCADVASA that works to ensure the provision of equitable and supportive responses to survivors of intimate partner violence who are also involved in the child welfare system. In 2017, this project was restructured to increase its efficacy with a focus on developing the statewide adoption of a trauma-informed lens to inform interventions with survivors as they work with their DSS caseworkers in building safety for themselves and their children.



Women's Empowerment Network (WEN)

The Women's Empowerment Network is a forum for discussion of relevant issues facing women of color (WOC) working in this field. Our aim is to empower women of color to reach optimal levels of success by enhancing their ability to transition into successful leaders through building connections and collaborative working relationships with each other and leaders from community and statewide partners. We are committed to assisting WOC in meeting the diverse needs of survivors of domestic and sexual violence, particularly those who are marginalized and those residing in rural communities throughout South Carolina. This project works to address social injustices survivors and WOC face. In March 2017, the first WEN Summit was held, providing a foundation for future growth in this project's work to address the social injustices survivors and WOC face across systems and society.

Telephonic Interpretation

The Language Access Program established in January 2017 has provided our member organizations with consistent access and reimbursement funds to telephonic interpretation for all languages, including interpretation for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Our staff work closely with member organizations to ensure that they can access these services and increase awareness of the services available to survivors with limited English proficiency so they can feel empowered to access the services they need.



Prevention

College Consortium Training

Our prevention staff hosted a full day training for members of the College Consortium and other campus advocates, student affairs staff, and administrators on Title IX (a clause in the 1972 Education Act stating that no one shall because of sex be denied the benefits of any educational program of activity that receives direct federal aid.) The focus was on the current state of Title IX, how advocates and Title IX staff have different roles but can collaborate, and how to craft good Title IX policies. This training and intentional engagement with campus advocates, educators, and Title IX representatives has led to an overall expansion of participation in the College Consortium.

Prevention Basics Training

Our new Prevention Basics training was created and recorded in order to have a foundational resource on SCCADVASA's approach to prevention and prevention philosophy. This is an invaluable tool for new education of prevention staff, as well as a refresher for current staff who would like a better understanding of prevention.

In May, our Project Office from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) visited and attended a College Consortium and Community Educators Roundtable meeting. This gave us the opportunity to showcase the amazing work being done in South Carolina, and to learn the role the CDC can play in supporting the growing needs of our member organizations engaged in expanding this crucial social change work.



Looking Ahead - Plans for 2018

Trauma-Informed Care Project

SCCADVASA is continually working to support our member agencies in providing holistic services to all victims and survivors. At the end of 2017, the Coalition began an eighteen-month project in partnership with American Institutes for Research to assess and support SCCADVASA member agencies in building their capacity to provide trauma-informed services. This project will improve member agencies' services to survivors who come through their doors, advance the quality of our technical assistance and training, and help the Coalition to take one step closer to having a trauma-informed system of support.

Communities of Color Engagement Project

The Communities of Color Engagement Project is an effort to identify the needs of communities of color as it relates to reducing sexual and intimate partner violence, poverty, increasing empowerment and developing resources to address these diverse and intersecting needs. Our hope and plan is to increase equity and access to culturally appropriate services across South Carolina through collaboration with our member organizations, community partners, grassroots and faith leaders and other allies. We will examine best practices for engaging marginalized communities of color, particularly African American communities utilizing a trauma-informed lens. We will be hosting listening sessions within communities to hear what barriers they face in seeking assistance and acknowledging the harms they have experienced both individually and as a community.

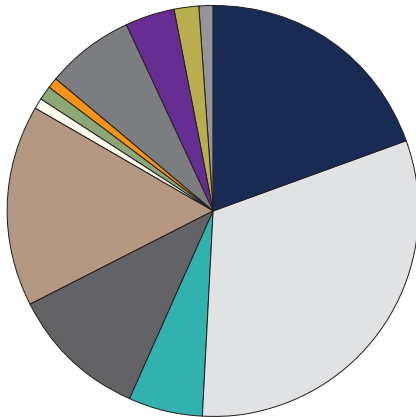
Faith Outreach Initiative

Faith can play a large role in the overall safety and healing for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. This initiative engages faith leaders across the state by bringing them onboard to join us in our work to end harmful beliefs and behaviors that create barriers for survivors seeking help. Through training faith leaders in trauma-informed responses to disclosures and building capacity for prevention initiatives focused on healthy relationships and consent, we hope to build a network of trusted allies for referrals and resources. We will provide technical assistance, training, and resources to our member organizations in order to increase capacity for faith outreach and to help build relationships in local faith communities.

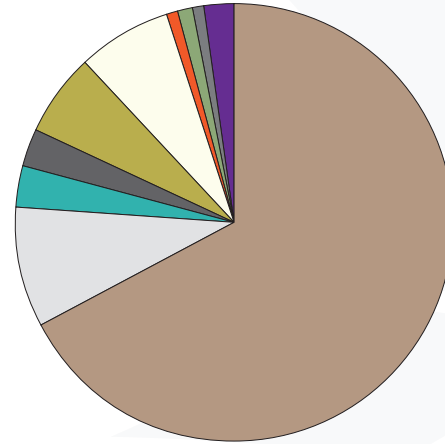
Financials

Total Income.....\$763,217.22

Total Expenses\$747,772.89



INCOME



EXPENSES

Please visit www.sccadvsa.org to view our full income statement.

For \$5 a month {less than a cup of coffee}
YOU can help to sustain
SCCADVASA's services

JOIN US → www.sccadvasa.org



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South Carolina Coalition Against
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

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Post Office Box 7776

Columbia, South Carolina 29202

www.sccadvasa.org

*I am a strong believer in the ability of
human beings to change for the better.*

*I am a strong believer in trying to
change what we are dissatisfied with.*

~ Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie