

SCCADVASA Introduction & Overview

2024 Media Resource Sheet



Who We Are

Established in 1981, SCCADVASA is a leader in representing the critical needs of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and is a pivotal voice in violence prevention.

We advance our work through **advocacy, education, and collaboration.**

Our Vision & Mission

Vision: A South Carolina free from domestic violence and sexual assault.

Mission: SCCADVASA serves as the collective voice promoting the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault in South Carolina.

Our Coalition

We are an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, but our approach is **highly collaborative with our 22 member organizations who provide direct services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in communities across the state, affiliates, partners and allies.**

SCCADVASA is an active member of several national domestic and sexual violence networks and we work in partnership with Coalitions in all 50 states and several US territories.

Media Contact:

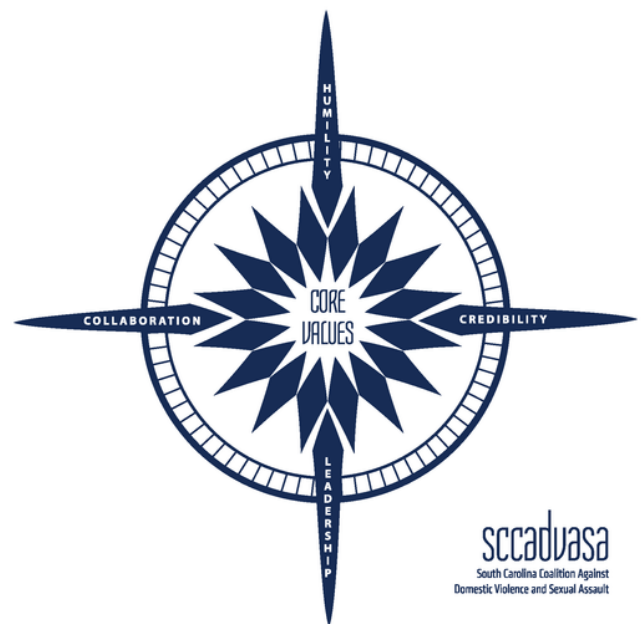
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Our Work

Advocacy: SCCADVASA works to increase the awareness of how laws and policies impact the lives and healing of those survivors. We also play a vital role as a link between direct service providers, state legislators, and policy makers to amplify the voice of all survivors.

Education: We provide professional development training to increase knowledge, skills, and capacities for advocacy and direct service for survivors. We also work with community educators and others on violence prevention initiatives in schools and communities across S.C.

Collaboration: We proactively work with local programs, legislators, system partners, and the community at large towards our goal of ending domestic & sexual violence in S.C.



Although the figures reported below are substantial, they likely reflect only a portion of the domestic violence occurring in South Carolina. Many survivors do not report abuse due to fear, stigma, or limited access to support. Differences in how domestic violence is defined, along with fragmented and inconsistent reporting systems, further contribute to undercounting. Recent analysis suggests that at least 30% of aggravated domestic violence incidents go unreported to law enforcement. Underreporting is estimated to be even higher in cases of sexual violence.⁷

Domestic Violence Statistics | South Carolina

- It is estimated that **47.3% of women in the United States and 44.2% of men** in the United States **experience a form of abuse** during their lifetime.²
 - 32.5% of women and 24.6% of men in the United States experience severe physical violence.
 - 19.6% of women and 7.6% of men in the United States experience sexual violence.
- In **2023**, there were **55 domestic violence homicides** in S.C.⁴
 - **Murder by Intimate Partner:** In victim-to-offender relationships, 58.2% were classified as boyfriend/girlfriend, 26.4% as spouse, and 26.4% as child in common.
 - 70.2% were females in heterosexual relationships, 24.6% were males in heterosexual relationships, 1.8% were females in same sex relationships, 3.5% were males in same sex relationships.
 - In 76.4% of homicide cases, a gunshot wound was listed as the primary cause of death.
 - The average age of a South Carolina DV homicide victim is 40 years old.¹
 - South Carolina ranked in the top 10 states for 23/25 years for the most men murdering women in the state, and ranks 17th in the nation in terms of household firearm ownership rates.⁸
- South Carolina records **an average of 32,563 cases of intimate partner violence** each year.⁵
 - **Intimidation by Intimate Partner:** 28.3% of victim-to-offender relationships were classified as boyfriend/girlfriend, 21.3% as ex-relationship, 19.5% as spouse, and 15.1% as child in common.
 - **Aggravated Assault by Intimate Partner:** 42.8% of victim-to-offender relationships were classified as boyfriend/girlfriend, 16.8% as spouse, and 15.2% as child in common.
 - 71.2% of victims of intimate aggravated assault were females in heterosexual relationships, 21.7% were males in heterosexual relationships, 3.3% were females in same sex relationships, 3.9% were males in same sex relationships.
 - **Simple Assault by Intimate Partner:** 43.4% of victim-to-offender relationships were classified as boyfriend/girlfriend, 22.2% as spouse, and 12.5% as cohabitants.
- The **estimated annual losses from domestic violence in South Carolina reach \$358 million** when economic impacts from loss of productivity are combined with costs of response.⁶

Sexual Assault Statistics | South Carolina

- **3,536 new primary survivors of sexual assault** sought services from a rape crisis center.
 - 2,037 adults, 1,499 children under 18.
 - 427 (12% of total primary victims) said they reported the incident to law enforcement.
- **Each sexual assault is estimated to result in \$122k in lifetime costs.** When multiplied by the number of sexual assaults reported to law enforcement in 2024 (4,172), the aggregate cost soars to \$509 million.⁶
- Over **7,000 sexual assault related crisis calls** received.
- **92% knew their offender:** 15% were identified as a current/former spouse or boyfriend, 47% as a relative, parent, parent's partner, sibling, and 30% as a friend or acquaintance.

Our Impact | 2024 SCCADVASA + 22 Member Statistics

- **19,254 individuals accessed shelter or supportive services:** 2,049 adults & 1,590 children received shelter.³
- **22,212 crisis calls** were received from victims of domestic violence.³
- **15,474 survivors** of domestic violence and sexual assault were served directly by member organizations located throughout South Carolina.³
- Across the state, **107,829 hours of professional capacity building assistance** were provided to improve victim services.
- SCCADVASA and its member organizations **provided 233 trainings** to 250,889 victim service professionals, advocates, and others.
- In 2024, SCCADVASA:
 - Responded to **1,044 requests for technical assistance**, offering guidance on best practices to member organizations, system partners, and community members.
 - Provided **direct legal services to 362 individual survivors** through our Legal Program.
 - Distributed **\$137,000 in survivor support** (including emergency hotel stays and other direct needs).

Sources

1. Branham, Alyssa. 2024. *South Carolina Domestic Violence Fatality Report: Silent Witness Statistical Report on Victims of Domestic Murder from 2023. October 1.* Columbia, SC: Office of the Attorney General, State of South Carolina.
2. Leemis, Rachel W., Nicole Friar, Shruti Khatiwada, Melissa S. Chen, Melissa Kresnow, Sharon G. Smith, Savannah Caslin, and Kathleen C. Basile. 2022. *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2016/2017 Report on Intimate Partner Violence.* Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
3. South Carolina Department of Social Services (Fiscal Year July 2024).
4. South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED). 2024. *Crime in South Carolina 2023.* Columbia, SC: South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.
5. South Carolina State Data, 2008-2018.
6. Von Nessen, Joseph C. 2020. *The Economic Impact of Domestic Violence in South Carolina in 2020.* Sponsored by the Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage. Charlotte, NC: Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage.
7. Wheeler, Andrew, and Alex R. Piquero. 2024. "Using Victimization Reporting Rates to Estimate the Dark Figure of Domestic Violence." *CrimRxiv*.
8. Wiens, Terra. 2023. *When Men Murder Women: A Review of 25 Years of Female Homicide Victimization in the United States.* Washington, DC: Violence Policy Center.