

**Fact Sheet
Sexual Assault Statistics
Reasons for increased vulnerability.**

- **90% of all people with developmental disabilities are likely to have experienced sexual assault. (2007 Bureau of Justice statistics special report on crime against people with disabilities)**
- **49% of people with developmental disabilities who have been sexually assaulted will experience 10 or more sexual assaults in their lifetimes. (according to Leigh Ann Davis, Director of the National Center for Criminal Justice and Disability)**
- **“These crimes go mostly unrecognized, unprosecuted, and unpunished” according to Joseph Shapiro, NPR Journalist, January 8, 2018.**
- **Individuals with developmental disabilities who live in private family homes are 7% more likely to be sexually assaulted than individuals without developmental disabilities. (Department of Justice statistics provided to NPR for the program, “The Sexual Assault Epidemic No One Talks About” January 2018)**
- **Some individuals with intellectual/ developmental disabilities require assistance with personal care (bathing and toiletry) which puts them in vulnerable situations.**
- **In some cases, individuals might be non-verbal, difficult to understand or lack the vocabulary or the understanding to be able to tell others.**
- **Individuals might have been taught to be compliant with family members and staff which makes them vulnerable to abuse.**
- **Individuals might not have had access to sexual education routinely provided to adolescents in public education and might not have a contextual understanding of sexual interaction in which to understand assault.**
- **Individuals with developmental disabilities have increased social isolation and sometimes have precarious living situations and a limited social support network.**

For People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



The Arc New Mexico Sexual Assault Program Outline

Outline Created August 2018

Program Purpose: The Arc New Mexico Sexual Assault Program (SAP) exists to support victims of sexual assault with intellectual/developmental disabilities to access law enforcement and court systems which bring offenders to justice and to, through technical assistance and advocacy, support victims of sexual assault with intellectual /developmental disabilities to receive medical, mental health, and disability related natural and paid supports in a manner that is both trauma and disability informed.

Primary Funding: Crime Victim Reparation Commission \$81,404 a year for four years.

Funding Budgeting includes:

- Salary and benefits for a Victim's Advocate
- 20% salary and benefits for a supervisor (Direct of Public Policy)
- Travel and other expenses
- Interpreting
- Assistive Technology

Geographic Location of Primary Services: The Counties of Bernalillo, Cibola, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Torrance, Valencia.

Numbers Served in Primary Services: 25 individuals in total per fiscal year.

Service Outline:

1. Victim Advocacy Services including accompaniment to law enforcement interviews, medical forensic examinations, follow up appointments, investigative procedures and courtroom proceedings. Assistance Securing Order of protection, assistance accessing crime victim compensation.
2. Technical Assistance and Victim Advocacy to individuals, family members, interdisciplinary team members, medical and mental health professionals in terms of how trauma might impact paid and unpaid disability care support and how disability might impact trauma related medical and mental health care.
3. Referrals – State Wide
4. Presentations on the impact of sexual assault to a victim with intellectual /developmental disabilities/-State Wide

For People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Program is not providing legal services, 24 hour crisis intervention services, forensic interviewing, professional counseling,

Funding Restrictions:

Prevention Activities
Lobbying or Legislative Activities

Uniqueness of Program:

- Disability related criminal justice programming has traditionally been focused on suspect related advocacy and support. Victim Advocacy is a new addition to Criminal Justice Programming
- Sexual Assault and Victim Advocacy supports from Disability Advocates have been focused to increase capacity of community sexual assault and victim advocacy supports to serve this population.

Premise Rationale for Pilot Program:

Sexual assault victims with developmental disabilities might be better supported if instead of bringing knowledge of the unique needs of this specialized population to victim, advocates for individuals with developmental disabilities learn about and provide victim advocacy supports.

The Arc NM continues to support increasing capacity of sexual assault and victim advocates toward provide services to sexual assault victims with developmental disabilities. In a truly inclusive society, any supports of any kind provided to individuals in the community should be fully accessible and effective for anybody with developmental disabilities.

However, the needs are so great and the challenges so unique, that it makes sense to provide this support at this time by advocates who first priority is to the support needs of the victims with developmental disabilities.

We need to have some prosecutions and convictions of offenders against individuals with developmental disabilities before we can normalize and make convictions routine.

Additionally, it would be difficult for a victim advocate without in depth knowledge of individuals with developmental disabilities and the support services that are typically provided to strategize and problem solve with paid and unpaid disability support caretakers about how trauma might impact those support needs.

Additional Information: Through a different funding source, The Arc New Mexico will be bringing The National Criminal Justice & Disability (NCCJD) Pathways to Justice Program back to New Mexico to provide training to police, court personnel, advocates, social workers etc.

For People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities