

The DC SANE Program

The DC SANE Program provides medical and forensic exams and confidential, community-based advocacy services free of charge for survivors of sexual assault ages 13 and older. Medical and forensic exams are provided by the DC Forensic Nurse Examiners and advocacy services are provided by the Network for Victim Recovery of DC 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

SANE Program Process and Services

- Survivors can access the DC SANE Program by walking into MedStar Washington Hospital Center, reporting their assault to MPD, or calling the SANE Call Center. Survivors are given access to free STI testing and antibiotics as indicated, HIV testing and prophylaxis, and pregnancy testing and emergency contraception in addition to other medical care. Survivors can obtain a SANE exam and meet with a confidential advocate without reporting to law enforcement.
- If a survivor is at another District hospital and cannot safely be transferred to MedStar Washington Hospital Center, a DC SANE Program nurse and an advocate will respond to that hospital. In all other cases, transportation is provided by NVRDC for any survivor seeking a SANE exam to and from any location to MedStar Washington Hospital Center.
- Completed evidence kits are stored at the hospital by the DC SANE Program for up to one year for survivors who do not wish to immediately report to law enforcement.

DC SANE Program by the Numbers: FY2017

- In 2017, the DC SANE Program provided 437 SANE exams to victims of sexual assault, an 8% average increase over the previous six years.
 - Self-Identified Gender: Female (86%); Male (11%); Transgender (1%); Non-Binary and Unknown: (2%).
 - Self-Identified Race and Ethnicity: African American (57%); White (23%); Latinx (4%); Asian (3%); African (1%); Multi-Racial (4%); Other (2%); Unknown (6%).
 - Age of Victim: Under 18 (2%); 18-24 (37%); 25-34 (34%); 35-44 (15%); 45-54 (7%); Over 54 (5%).
- Of the 437 victims who sought a SANE exam in 2017, 120 (27%) were college or university students.
- The DC SANE Program provides transportation to and from the exam location to ensure that lack of transportation is not a barrier for anyone seeking services. In 2017, the DC SANE Program provided 252 safe rides.
- In 2017, the DC SANE Program conducted all exams at MedStar Washington Hospital Center except for six (6) that were conducted at other area hospitals: three (3) at George Washington University Hospital, one (1) at Georgetown University Hospital, one (1) at Providence Hospital, and one (1) at United Medical Center.
- Patients were transferred to MedStar Washington Hospital Center from other hospitals in the District 67 times in FY2017. Patients were transferred from: Georgetown University Hospital (8); GWU Hospital (31); Howard Hospital (6); Providence Hospital (6); Sibley Hospital (7); United Medical Center (6). There were also 6 patients transferred from INOVA-Fairfax Hospital, and 30 patients transferred from other hospitals in the region.