



Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Best Practices Advisory Group

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

1.	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff and Legislators welcomed participants, established a quorum. See attendance list on page 5.• Staff facilitated small group introductions• The July 16 meeting notes were approved; the September 17 meeting agenda was approved.
2.	Updates and Report-outs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kristina Hoffman shared that the historical kit backlog is done. There are a few kits that were discovered and are going to the lab, but it's a small amount.• In terms of complying with the 45 days' testing requirement, the average turnaround time for kits is currently 48 days and they are trying to get the number below 45. Some kits take longer due to complexity, DNA, sample type, and other factors. Washington State Patrol is working on getting new equipment and training staff. Some of the robotic equipment has been traded due to lack of reliability.• Andrea Piper-Wentland shared that the Criminal Justice Training Commission's (CJTC) mandatory sexual assault investigation training for law enforcement is a 32-hour online course that covers trauma-informed interview strategies. It's called "Sexual Assault Investigations: Victim-Centered Engagement and Resilience Tactics (SAI-VCERT) training. Experts from this advisory group are involved in teaching the course. It includes 6 hours of pre-course work centered around the victim experience. The training is held over 4 days. One day is focused on practicing the skills learned. The content is based on real cases from WA and the training provides a safe place for officers to practice, learn, and get feedback.• Sgt. Savage noted the training was impressive. It was helpful to get feedback from the actors who support the role-playing exercises, and from fellow officers.• CJTC cannot provide definitive information about the portion of sexual assault investigators who have taken the training because they don't have a list of officers assigned to sexual assault work. Anecdotally, some agencies send more officers than others.• CJTC's case review report identifies core themes and systematic analysis from reviews, including demographics. This year's report features WSU, Spokane, Lynnwood. Most investigators involved in the case review had taken the SAI-VCERT training.• The sexual assault conference coming up on April 30th is open to everyone. Mark LeBeau, former FBI toxicologist, will be presenting about drug-facilitated sexual assault.• Senator Orwall recognized the SAI-VCERT training and case review program as leading the country. She also took the opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of Antoinette Bonsignore, who was a leader in conducting the case reviews in the past.• Lauren Vlas shared that the forensic services subcommittee met on August 13 and discussed domestic violence nonfatal strangulation (DV NFS). The state covers the cost of emergency medical care and forensic evidence collection for DV NFS victims. A single episode of

	<p>strangulation raises the potential lethality risk in a relationship by 500%. Experts refer to strangulation as “the last warning shot.” However, 67% of patients report no visible signs or symptoms after strangulation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers reported a high prevalence of misinformation, including in trainings to first responders about strangulation. Accurate assessment and referral to medical care is essential. • The subcommittee also discussed connections to community-based advocacy services for victims who present for a NFS forensic exam and expanding crime victim compensation reimbursement beyond nonfatal strangulation to include victims who present with bruising, fractures, or a traumatic brain injury that did not co-occur with strangulation or sexual assault and aren’t currently able to have their exam reimbursed. • The subcommittee discussed the age at which adolescents can independently consent to medical forensic exams and broadening the language to include all types of forensic exams. Currently, minors age 13+ can independently consent to sexual assault exams but not nonfatal strangulation exams. • The advocacy subcommittee (the statewide sexual assault working group) met on August 11 and debriefed the discussion on crime victim rights at the July SAFE Advisory Group meeting. The following issues, related to harmonizing, modernizing, and improving the efficacy and accessibility of crime victim rights in WA, came up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Awareness and access: Victims and survivors lack general knowledge of rights and need access to rights in different languages. ○ Clarification: Existing language needs modernizing and disciplines need training to make sure interpretation and implementation is consistent. ○ Enforcement: To be impactful, rights must have robust enforcement. Currently, the burden is on victims to file a petition in superior court to have their rights upheld. Several other states have enforcement models that are worth exploring further. ○ Privacy: Victims’ information needs to be safeguarded. • The subcommittee also discussed amending statutes related to Rape of a Child and Child Molestation and prepared for the next SAFE meeting to discuss K-12 prevention.
3.	<p>Debrief Campus Sexual Assault Legislation, Discuss Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5355 (Sen. Orwall) prohibited all post-secondary educational institutions from proposing, requesting, or pressuring a student reporting sexual misconduct to enter into a non-disclosure agreement related to the alleged misconduct. • Beginning in fall 2027 all public institutions of higher education must include a phone number of a regional sexual assault program that provides 24/7 support on the back of each student’s ID card. • Sen. Orwall mentioned a workgroup she is hoping to convene to review Senate Bill 5386 (2025). Email her at tina.orwall@leg.wa.gov if you’d like to participate. She is not planning to introduce a bill until the 2027 session. Ideas include more training, direct services to students impacted, and more accessible ways for students to get sexual assault kits, so they don’t have to go to hospitals.
4.	<p>Presentations and Discussion on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response in K-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sen. Orwall provided some opening remarks. Roughly one in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused before they turn 18. There are around 50 open claims at any time for sexual abuse in WA K-12. 42% of the 105 open claims in 2022 at WA Schools Risk Management Pool were sexual abuse claims, which may be the only data we have on sexual abuse and assault in schools. • We also know that LGBTQIA2S+ youth are victimized at a higher rate than heterosexual and cisgender youth, with 12% of transgender youth reporting sexual assault in K-12 settings in WA. • WA educators are the third most likely professional group to report a young person’s abuse or neglect.

- In the 2022 school walkouts and in the stories collected in the [Supporting Survivors listening sessions](#), students cited fears about the repercussions of mandatory reporting, which likely prevent them from approaching an adult at school to receive needed medical, academic, or mental support.
- Staff introduced representatives from several state agencies who joined the meeting to provide brief presentations on their agency's role in sexual assault response and prevention in K-12.
- Refer to the handout (available on page 7) for an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the primary state agencies responsible for sexual assault prevention and response in WA.
- Clarissa Lacerda and Erica Chang presented on behalf of the Attorney General's HearMeWA program.
- HearMeWA is a statewide program designed to help young people, up to age 25, to report safety and well-being concerns. The program offers support for issues such as bullying, mental health struggles, and suicidal thoughts. It aims to create a safe space for youth to report concerns and receive assistance from trained crisis counselors.
- The program provides support 24/7/365 via app, text, chat, & phone and was developed in response to youth advocacy. They define sexual assault as any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the consent of the recipient. Sexual assault occurs when a person is forced, coerced, or manipulated into any unwanted sexual activity.
- The top 10 concerns reported by youth to the HearMeWA crisis line are (in order from most to least): bullying/cyberbullying, depression, harassment, anxiety, child abuse or neglect, general concerns, suicide/suicidal ideation, homelessness, and sexual assault.
- HearMeWA provides primary prevention- identifying warning signs and providing resources to youth as well as secondary prevention- mandated reporting as well as age-appropriate resources. PowerPoint slides are available on page 10.
- Mikah Semrow presented on behalf of Commerce's Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA)
- OCVA provides funding for programs rather than direct services. Organizations that receive grants have the option to include primary prevention as a service within that funding and determine appropriate levels of service. Media literacy and healthy sexuality, among other things are the topics included in the training provided with the funding.
- OCVA also maintains a crime victim resource directory: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/ocva/crime-victim-resource-directory/>
- Sandy McCool presented on behalf of the Dept. of Children Youth and Families (DCYF)
- DCYF screens, intakes, and investigates child neglect and abuse, including sexual assault. They also inform law enforcement that a crime against a child has been committed. They have a human trafficking unit that works with law enforcement.
- DCYF has a relationship with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to promote prevention and education. They work directly with schools on training and developing policies and procedures for mandated reporting. They've created updated mandatory reporting posters that are available to all their school districts and community members.
- Soleil Muñoz presented on behalf of the Department of Health (DOH).
- DOH administers the rape prevention education (RPE) program. Their funding comes from a federal grant. They partner with OCVA, OSPI and other organizations.
- Over the last 3 years, they created the WA state sexual and gender-based sexual assault prevention learning collaborative. Much of the work is focused on community prevention, fostering safe places and changing community norms.
- Sarah Albertson presented on behalf of OSPI.
- OSPI oversees a few specific programs related to sexual assault prevention and response. [YES program](#), for instance, was developed by OSPI based on what they learned from Erin's law.

Programs are designed to fill a gap and support schools as they create a safe place for students. OSPI created hotspot mapping that helps them identify unsafe places.

- When it comes to prevention and education, OSPI reviews learning curricula and provides learning standards. Sex traffic prevention started this school year to ensure each student receives these instructions once a year. OSPI monitors and enforces state civil rights laws. PowerPoint slides are available on page 19.
- Susie Zhang and Eduardo Rodriguez with the Mockingbird Society introduced their work with youth advocates across the state
- Youth have several priorities when it comes to abuse prevention and awareness. The current school curricula is not comprehensive enough to address other types of abuse, such as financial and emotional abuse. We know that there are many different ways that abuse happens. School is the best place to provide these tools to young people, so they can identify different types of abuse.
- Mockingbird Society connected with OSPI last year, would like to partner on curricula in the future and continue work to destigmatize the conversation around abuse, so people feel comfortable reporting and people believe their stories.
- Senator Orwall: Is there a way for Mockingbird to work with OSPI so they can address these other types of abuse? Sarah Albertson replied that she can take that suggestion back to OSPI.
- Lauren asked the best way to stay updated on the work Mockingbird Society is doing in partnership with youth? Susie replied: we have ongoing meetings, can also reach out to her directly at susie@mockingbirdsociety.org.
- Sara Owen and Carlyn Sampson presented on behalf of community-based advocates. Some advocacy organizations have MOUs with colleges and universities for professional development. UW has their 24/7 helpline information all over the campus.
- Advocates hope to have a more collaboration with OSPI, Commerce, and other state agencies, so correct information about state-accredited sexual assault providers is available for local communities to increase awareness of prevention services and help schools ensure they are complying with Erin's Law.
- Schools send out letters to parents about their obligation to comply with Erin's law but it rarely includes information about sexual assault programs – that is a major opportunity to make sure parents have information on where they can receive help and support when they need it.
- Many community-based advocacy organizations do annual outreach every summer to schools to help them comply with Erin's law. There are many barriers when it comes to coordinating with schools. Upstream coordination across the system would be beneficial.
- When it comes to system-based responses to sexual assault in K-12, advocates flagged some language about K-12 school professionals in SB5386/ HB1817 in terms of complying with mandatory reporting. Members of the work group had questions about the language and its impact on reporting processes.
- Paula Reed presented on behalf of the Children's Advocacy Centers of WA: people are afraid of reporting sexual assault due to fear of retaliation. We don't agree with driving mandatory reports from teachers to school administrators. Had a meeting just this morning about the cases that they haven't been able to investigate because the process is so long and involves so many steps.
- Carlyn: There can't be anonymity for mandated reporters. We need to work on other solutions for this problem.
- Senator Orwall: I plan to convene a work group to look into the language of the bill. Invited folks to join the work group and provide feedback. They are meeting at the end of October. Email tina.orwall@leg.wa.gov if you want to participate.
- Sara Owen: Beyond Survival has an MOU with schools and school districts in Grays Harbor to be able to go in and provide direct services. There are many schools and she is only one person

	<p>providing the education. Every year she seeks out school counselors and offers support. Typically, she does not hear back.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paula Reed: There are concerning behaviors between older and younger siblings and parents don't know what to do. Maybe this is something we could talk about in this group because this is a growing issue. • Lauren recapped the discussion: Heard the need for more upstream collaboration, need for more robust notification about community-based resources available, issues surrounding reporting, unique challenges in rural areas, and the need to hear more from youth directly on this topic. • Flora Diaz: concerned about the federal funding cuts and the impact on training and other sexual assault resources. Would like to talk more about it with this group. • Annette Simpson: we are not only training nurses in King County, but across the state. Training is in a dire situation. Harborview is struggling to support ongoing state training. We have some limitations when it comes to in-person training. Worry that forensic services and training will stop with federal cuts. Especially concerned about rural programs. • Jen Cantrell: Agrees with Annette. We have been fortunate because we have secured funding. Haven't been able to apply for several federal grants because of restrictions. • Next SAFE meeting is October 21, we will review and discuss all potential recommendations for this year.
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Attendance			
	Affiliation	Name, Position	Present 9/17/25
1.	Washington State House of Representatives	Representative Sharon Wylie	Yes
2.	Washington State House of Representatives	Representative Gloria Mendoza	Yes
3.	Washington State Senate	Senator Manka Dhingra	No
4.	Washington State Senate	<<Vacant>>	
5.	Survivor Representative	Leah Griffin	Yes
6.	Survivor Representative	Nicole Stephens	Yes
7.	Washington State Patrol (WSP)	Kristina Hoffman (DNA Operations Manager)	Yes
8.	Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC)	<<Vacant>>	
9.	Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA)	Robin Sand (Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Special Assault Unit, Pierce County)	Yes
10.	Washington Defender Association (WDA)	Cindy Arends Elsberry (Interim Director of Legal Services)	Yes
11.	Attorney General's Office (AGO)	Maggi Qerimi (Managing Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Justice Division)	No
12.	Association of Washington Cities (AWC)	Flora Diaz (Assistant City Attorney, City of Everett)	Yes
13.	Washington Association of County Officials (WACO)	Timothy Grisham (Deputy Director, WACO)	No
14.	Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP)	<<Vacant>>	

15.	Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA)	Mikah Semrow (Sexual Assault Section Manager)	Yes
16.	Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA)	Jacqueline Barton True (Vice Pres. of Advocacy and Rural Health)	Yes
17.	Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)	Annette Simpson (Health Program Manager, Harborview Abuse and Trauma Center)	Yes
18.	Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC)	Andrea Piper-Wentland (Sexual Assault Investigations Program Manager)	Yes
19.	Law Enforcement Officer, Rural	Detective Steve Evitt (Wenatchee PD)	Yes
20.	Law Enforcement Officer, Urban	Sergeant Katie Savage (Everett PD)	Yes
21.	Prosecuting Attorney, Rural	Anita Petra (Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Benton County)	No
22.	Community-Based Advocate, Rural	Sara Owen (Prevention Program Manager & Advocate, Beyond Survival, Aberdeen)	Yes
23.	Community-Based Advocate, Urban	Carlyn Sampson (Exec. Director, Rebuilding Hope, Tacoma)	Yes

<i>Primary WA state agencies with a role in sexual assault prevention and response in K-12</i>	Administers or funds a program(s) to support prevention or response	Responds to reports of abuse and/or investigates school compliance	Administers a legislative task force or advisory group focused on sexual assault prevention and response	Publishes reports, policies, recommendations, curriculum training, and/or guidance related to sexual assault prevention and response in K-12	Coordinates with schools and/or provides training to staff and teachers
<u>Attorney General's Office</u> (AGO)	HearMeWA Program ¹	Responds to reports received from youth, coordinating with DCYF if mandatory reporting applies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HearMeWA Youth Advisory Group HearMeWA Advisory Committee Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Best Practices Advisory Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishes an annual report about the helpline, feedback from youth about their safety concerns, and data on the reports received across the state² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritizes outreach to and collaboration with school districts and educational service districts to ensure students have access to the HearMeWA program School districts are represented on the HearMeWA Advisory Committee
<u>Dept. of Children, Youth, and Families</u> (DCYF)	Child Protective Services (CPS) ³	Receives mandatory reports and investigates allegations of child abuse ⁴	Children's Justice Task Force ⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Among other duties, the Children's Justice Task Force comprehensively reviews and evaluates state investigate, administration and both civil and criminal judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners with OSPI to raise awareness of mandatory reporting requirements and improve coordination with school districts Provides mandatory reporting training to school staff and teachers and assists schools with developing mandatory reporting policies and procedures in alignment with state laws and agency regulations
<u>Dept. of Commerce</u> Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Program⁷ Sexual Assault Funding Formula (including Core, Specialized, Culturally-Specific, and Tribal funding) Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Exam Initiative Children's Advocacy Centers Initiative 		<p>Participates in Gender Based Violence Prevention Collaborative (GBVP) and SAFE Advisory Group.</p> <p>Chairs the Washington State Task Force Against the Trafficking of Persons, which can include sexual assault survivors⁸</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides support to grantees who provide prevention services Maintains a Crime Victim Resource Directory⁹ Collaborates with DOH on the Sexual Violence Prevention State Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notifies schools and non-profits including WA Sexual Assault Service providers of funding opportunities Provides resources and referrals to best practices and potential curricula Makes connections with local and statewide technical assistance and service providers Provides and administers accreditation services standards for community sexual assault programs. Sets primary prevention standard (among other service standards) for sexual assault formula grantees

<u>Dept. of Health</u> (DOH) Injury and Violence Prevention Program	Rape Prevention Education (RPE) Program			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with OCVA, published a Sexual Violence Prevention Plan for Washington in 2017, updating the original 2009 plan¹⁰ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides resources and referrals to best practices and potential curricula • Makes connections with local and statewide technical assistance providers • Provides access to data • Assists with messaging regarding sexual violence prevention
<u>Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction</u> (OSPI)	Youth-Centered Environmental Shift Program (YES!) ¹¹ (implemented with RPE funding from DOH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verifies districts have a Title IX/Sex Equity Officer to investigate sexual harassment and assault complaints • Oversees a complaint process for school districts responding to allegations of discrimination, including sexual harassment 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides directives to school districts regarding their obligations under state and federal law^{12,13} • Lead agency tasked with reviewing curricula and assisting local education agencies with developing a coordinated program for child sexual abuse prevention in K-12 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Curricula on awareness and prevention of sex trafficking¹⁴ ○ Research and best practices on supporting survivors of sexual assault in K-12 schools¹⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a list of reviewed curricula, a curriculum review tool, and resources for sexual abuse prevention programming • Provides training to school districts on responding to discrimination, including sexual harassment • Provides professional development to educators on affirmative consent, bystander intervention and healthy relationship instruction as part of comprehensive sexual health education¹⁶

¹ <https://hearmewa.org/>

² [HearMeWA 2025 Annual Report](#)

³ <https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-welfare-system/cps>

⁴ [RCW 26.44.030](#)

⁵ <https://dcyf.wa.gov/about/community-engagement/cjtf>

⁶ <https://dcyf.wa.gov/about/community-engagement/cjtf>

⁷ <https://www.cdc.gov/sexual-violence/programs/index.html>

⁸ <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/ocva/clearinghouse-on-human-trafficking/task-force/>

⁹ <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/ocva/crime-victim-resource-directory/>

¹⁰ <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs//140-165-SexualViolencePreventionPlan.pdf>

¹¹ <https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/health-safety/sexual-violence-prevention/youth-centered-environmental-shift-program>

¹² [RCW 28A.640](#)

¹³ [Sexual Harassment in Washington K–12 Public Schools](#)

¹⁴ [RCW 28A.320.168](#)

¹⁵ <https://ospi.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/2023-10/07-23-supporting-survivors-sexual-assault-k12-schools.pdf>

¹⁶ [RCW 28A.300.475](#)

HearMeWA Program

Attorney General's Office

What is HearMeWA?



- A holistic program that meets behavioral health and safety needs by linking youth to existing systems of support;
- Youth ages 0-25;
- Covers a broad range of safety & well-being topics;
- Provides support 24/7/365 via app, text, chat, & phone;
- Trained crisis counselors from [Sandy Hook Promise](#) triage all calls;
- Antiracist, trauma-informed, and youth-centered.

Program History

Youth advocacy efforts.

Program development and stakeholder collaboration.

HearMeWA Advisory Committee
(2022 – present).

Youth input and needs for the program.

Youth Advisory Group.

Collaboration with schools, colleges and universities.

Hear MeWA how the program works:

Tip Categories:

Life Safety Tips

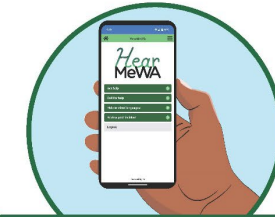
Imminent threat to life such as active shooter, suicidal ideation, overdose, explosives threat, person with firearm, suspicious person, etc.

Urgent Tips

Past, present or future threat or action with no imminent threat to life such as harassment, hate crime, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, etc.

Critical Tips

Non-urgent past, present or future threat or action such as anxiety, depression, bullying, eating disorder, substance use, homelessness, etc.



Tip submitted to call center

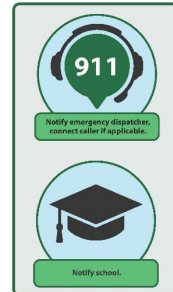


Trained crisis center counselors review & triage tip

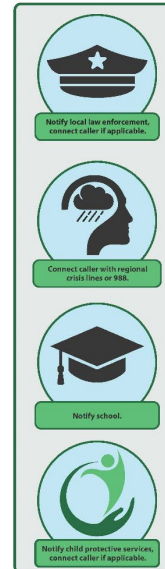
Additional Resources

When needed, call center staff will share other resources with youth based on the nature of the report. These resources can include, but are not limited to community-based and non-profit organizations that provide services to youth.

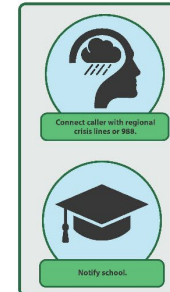
Life Safety Tips



Urgent Tips



Critical Tips



Definitions

Sexual assault

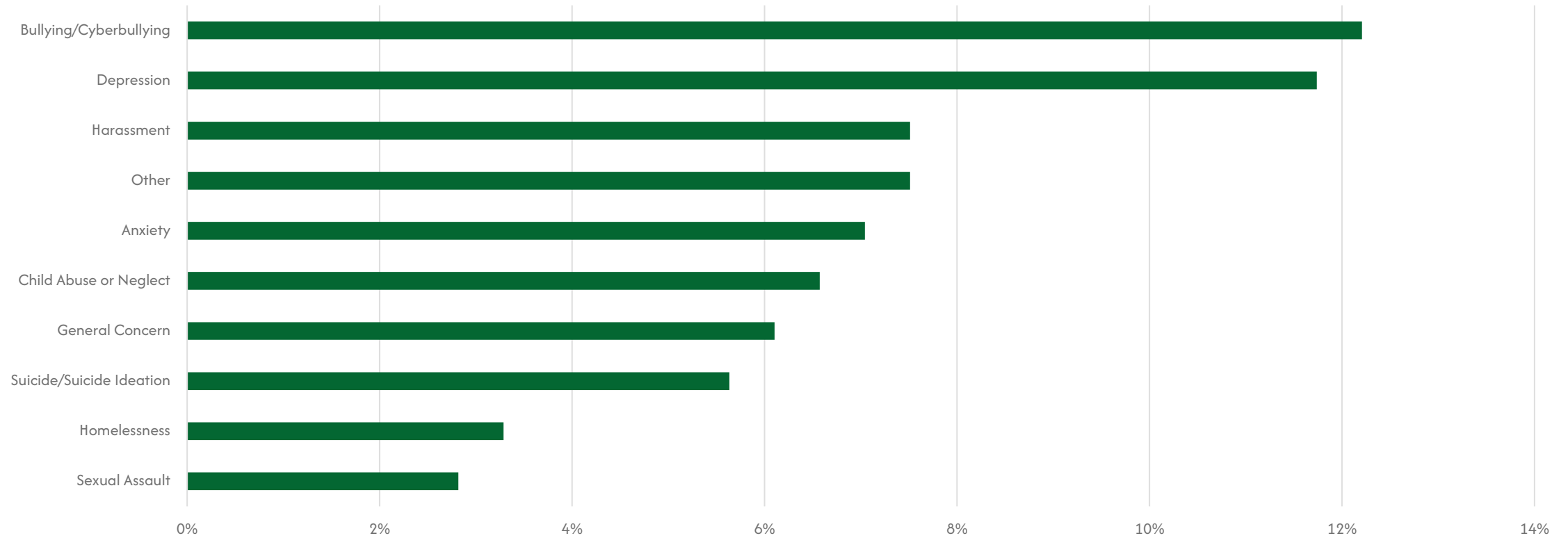
Any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the consent of the recipient. Sexual assault occurs when a person is forced, coerced, or manipulated into any unwanted sexual activity.

- Youth cannot give legal consent to sexual activity or contact if they are:
 - Threatened, forced, coerced, or manipulated into agreeing;
 - Not physically able to (too drunk or high, drugged, passed out, or asleep);
 - Not mentally able to (due to illness or disability);
 - Younger than 16 years old.
- Statutory rape (Chapter 9A.44 RCW).

Responding to Sexual Assault Reports

Youth under 18	Youth over 18
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Redact the survivor's name;• Report to law enforcement and/or Child Protective Services (CPS);• Provide age-appropriate resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report to law enforcement.• Provide age-appropriate resources.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek Then Speak

Top 10 Reported Concerns



Prevention

- Primary prevention:
 - Identifying warning signs and provide resources to youth;
 - Next steps: Awareness (annual reports, newsletter, social media);
- Secondary prevention:
 - Reporting;
 - Providing age-appropriate resources.

Thank you!



Mobile App



Text

HearMeWa to 738477



Call

888-537-1634



Online

www.HearMeWa.org

To reach us, email our team at
youthprogram@atg.wa.gov

Any questions?

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response at OSPI

Sarah Albertson, OSPI Equity and Civil Rights Office



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

YES! - Youth-centered Environmental Shift Program

Mission: To create a culture where students are emotionally and physically safe, supported, and free of abuse, specifically sexual violence

Population: Middle School Students

Example Activity: “Hotspot Mapping” where students identify places they felt safe or unsafe, socially and physically, to identify gaps and promote improvements to the school environment

See OSPI’s [YES! Program](#) webpage



OSPI's Role in Prevention Education

Comprehensive Sexual Health Education (CHSE)

Authorizing statute: [RCW 28A.300.475](#)

Requirement: All students receive instruction at least once in grades 1-5; at least twice in grades 6-12

OSPI Role:

- Develop health [learning standards](#)
- Maintain list of [CSHE curricula](#)
- Training and technical assistance

Sex Trafficking Awareness & Prevention

Authorizing statute: [RCW 28A.320.168](#)

Requirement: All students receive instruction at least once in grades 7-12

OSPI Role:

- Identify & post [Open Education Resources](#)
- Provide [guidance on best practices](#)
- Technical assistance



OSPI's Role in Compliance Enforcement

- OSPI's **monitors and enforces state civil rights laws**, chapters [28A.640](#) and [28A.642](#) RCW, that prohibit discrimination, including **sexual harassment**, in K–12 public schools
 - Title IX and civil rights coordinators
 - Sexual harassment policies and procedures
 - Notices to the school community
- OSPI **investigates discrimination complaints** escalated through the local grievance process, ensuring school districts respond appropriately to allegations of sexual harassment ([chapter 392-190 WAC](#))



2023 Report to Legislature: Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault in K–12 Schools

Authorizing Statute: [ESSB 5683 Sec. 501\(4\)\(ee\)\(i\)](#)

Requirement: Promote survivor-centered and trauma-informed response to sexual assault and support survivors of sexual assault in Washington's K–12 schools

Tasks: Research best practices, conduct listening sessions, update model protocols, review mandatory reporting laws, and develop a training plans for schools

See OSPI's 2023 [Report to the Legislature](#)



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