

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (University of Texas at Austin) release a final report on sexual assault prevalence numbers for Texas: It's staggering

Austin, TX – Today the Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (IDVSA) at the University of Texas at Austin unveils its final report “Health and Well-Being: Texas Statewide Sexual Assault Prevalence Study.” This research project follows up a study completed in 2003 (*Survey of Texans: A Focus on Sexual Assault, 2003.*) and reveals that a decade later sexual assault is more pervasive in Texas. “It’s alarming that the prevalence of sexual assault has grown significantly since 2003. As a state it’s imperative that we devote adequate resources to preventing sexual violence and serving survivor needs” says Annette Burrhus-Clay, TAASA Executive Director, “To do otherwise seems both reckless and heartless.”

“Sexual assault is highly misunderstood. The misconceptions create a difficult atmosphere for survivors, and pose a challenge for prevention and intervention efforts” Says Rose Luna, Director of Communications at TAASA, “Having research to confirm the reality of this issue will only benefit our work across disciplines and with survivors”

Preliminary findings suggest an increase of sexual assault incidences and a decrease in reporting to law enforcement. “Our findings raise important questions. Our science to accurately measure sexual assault has evolved and an increase in public awareness over the past decade may mean that people think differently about their victimization,” said Dr. Noël Busch-Armendariz, the lead investigator and director of the Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, “It is clear that we must continue to propel sexual assault onto our State agenda. Our responses should be swift, strategic, and systematic— with targets from prevention to accountability. Those impacted by this crime are our family members, coworkers, students that attend our schools, and our friends—those that we describe here are all Texans.”

Download “Health and Well-Being: Texas Statewide Sexual Assault Prevalence Study” final report at
<https://socialwork.utexas.edu/cswr/institutes/idvsa/>

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The Institute of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault (IDVSA) at The University of Texas at Austin is a research collaboration between the Schools of Social Work, Law, Nursing, and the Bureau of Business Research. IDVSA’s mission is to advance knowledge about interpersonal violence. IDVSA accomplishes its vision through research, education, and service in multidisciplinary, strategic partnerships with researchers, educators, practitioners, policy makers, and other members of our community.



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The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) is the statewide organization committed to ending sexual violence in Texas. A non-profit educational and advocacy organization based in Austin, TAASA member agencies comprise a statewide network of more than 80 crisis centers that serve rural as well as metropolitan areas. Founded in 1982, the agency has a strong record of success in community education, legal services, youth outreach, law enforcement training, legislative advocacy, and curricula and materials development. Additional information about TAASA can be found at www.taasa.org.

