



2024



CASE SYSTEMS TRAINING REVIEW

CONDUCTED BY THE WASHINGTON STATE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION

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Program Manager

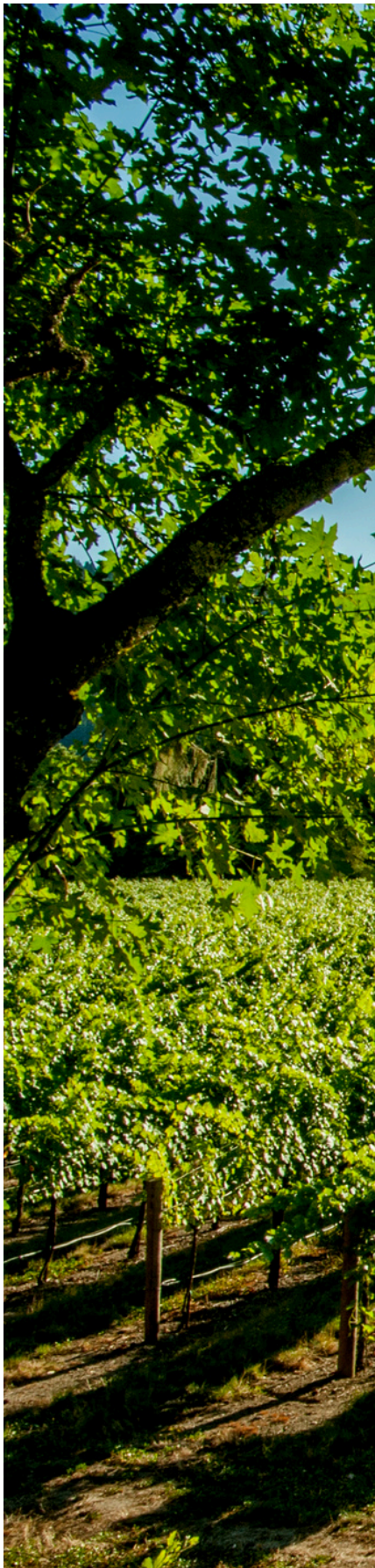


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ACRONYMS

CRM- Community Resiliency Model®

CSTR- Case Systems Training Review

DV- Domestic Violence

EVAWI- End Violence Against Women International

IPSV- Intimate Partner Sexual Violence

LE- Law Enforcement

LPD- Lakewood Police Department

PM- Program Manager

PORSA- Patrol Officer Response to Sexual Assaults

SA- Sexual Assault

SAI- Sexual Assault Investigations

SAK- Sexual Assault Kit

SANE- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

UWPD- University of Washington Police Department

VCERT- Victim-Centered Engagement and Resiliency Tactics

WWPD- Walla Walla Police Department

WSCJTC- Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission



TEAMS INVOLVED

The WSCJTC would like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the various contributors of the 2024 Case Systems Training Review Project:

Lakewood Police Department

Captain-Andy Gildehaus

Sergeant-Sean Conlon

Pierce County Prosecutor's Office

University of Washington Police Department

Chief- Craig Wilson

Captain-Kevin Grossman

Lieutenant- Anthony Stewart

King County Prosecutor's Office

Walla Walla County Police Department

Chief-Chris Buttice

Captain- Eric Knudson

Records Supervisor -Patty Blakely

Walla Walla County Prosecutor's Office

Prosecuting Attorney- Gabe Acosta

Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission

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Kevin Montgomery, retired Kent Police Department, WSCJTC Facilitator
Riddhi Mukhopadhyay, Sexual Violence Law Center, WSCJTC Instructor
Emily Stone, MSW, WSCJTC Instructor

In Memoriam Antoinette Bonsignore

Antoinette was a committed legal professional who worked tirelessly to shape laws and policies that improved access to justice for crime victims. She was an outspoken advocate for sexual assault reform at both the state and national levels, playing a pivotal role in Washington's legislation to formalize the annual Case Systems Training Review (CSTR) process. Antoinette served as a CSTR Member for five years and was actively involved in the 2024 review until her passing. Her expertise and enduring contributions will be held in highest regard. In tribute to her lasting legacy, we the CSTR Team, and WSCJTC dedicate this report to Antoinette.



CASE SYSTEMS TRAINING REVIEW EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“Sexual assault is the most heinous crime against another person, short of murder.” - RCW 7.105.900

Washington State acknowledges that rape is both a grievous offense and among the most underreported crimes, with national estimates suggesting that more than 2 out of 3 incidents of rape go unreported to law enforcement. When survivors of sexual assault do choose to report, it is crucial for law enforcement agencies to respond with trauma-informed expertise, empathy, and skills that encourage victim engagement and resilience.

When law enforcement agencies adopt victim-centered and trauma-informed frameworks in their response and investigative practices, survivors are more likely to stay engaged in the criminal justice process, develop a positive outlook, and build trust in the response system and its officials. These approaches prioritize the well-being and recovery of victims. By implementing trauma-informed practices, law enforcement can create a culture that provides comprehensive support for victims, encourages their engagement, holds perpetrators accountable, and ultimately enhances community safety.

Investigators may unintentionally cause distress to victims by asking them about assault details and memories which weren't encoded well or may have faded. This can create additional stress, leaving victims feeling misunderstood and hesitant to engage further in the investigation. To best equip officers in responding to adult sexual assault cases in Washington State, the State Legislature directed the Criminal Justice Training Commission in 2017 to develop comprehensive training on sexual assault investigations. This mandate resulted in the creation of the Sexual Assault Investigations and Victim-Centered Engagement and Resiliency Tactics (SAI-VCERT) course.

This advanced four-day course focuses on the psychological, emotional, and physical effects of trauma on individuals. It emphasizes the importance of trauma-informed, compassionate, and empathetic responses from law enforcement at every stage of the sexual assault response process. The course aims to promote resilience and encourage the active involvement of survivors.

RCW 43.101.272 mandates that law enforcement officers assigned to regularly investigate sexual assault and other forms of gender-based violence involving adult victims, as well as the highest-ranking supervisors and commanders overseeing these investigations, complete the SAI-VCERT course within one year of their assignment. Since November 2018, 944 participants have been trained in SAI-VCERT, 123 of which completed the course within the last fiscal year.

SAI-VCERT trains law enforcement to minimize the chances of re-traumatizing individuals during their interactions. This includes acknowledging the survivor's experience, recognizing signs of trauma, and responding with compassion and respect. The course adopts a start-by-believing approach and equips officers with skills to navigate the complexities of responding to sexual assault trauma.

To measure the effectiveness of the Commission's 4-day SAI-VCERT course and identify other training needs, including advanced training for sexual assault investigators, the WSCJTC conducts an annual sexual assault case review process per RCW 43.101.278. Case reviews help identify patterns and practices within departments and assess alignment with SAI-VCERT core response principles of interviewing, documenting, and interacting with sexual assault victims.

This year, the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) expanded the number of departments under review from one to three. This change aims to gather a broader sample of training implementation and needs across the state. The departments participating in this year's review include an urban police department, a small metropolitan police department, and a campus police department. The selected departments were Lakewood Police Department (LPD), University of Washington Police Department (UWPD), and the Walla Walla Police Department (WWPD). These selections were made based on geographic representation and SAI-VCERT attendance.

The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) requested that each department submit five case files that met established review criteria, which were mutually agreed upon with their respective Prosecutor's office. From the 15 cases submitted by the selected partners, one was found ineligible.

Among the 14 eligible adult sexual assault cases reviewed, 86% were identified as misaligned with SAI-VCERT best practices. The misaligned practices included, but were not limited to, the following issues: misinterpreting signs of trauma, spending little to no time building rapport, using closed questions, stacking questions, employing directive rather than invitational language, conducting minimal to no sensory inquiry, failing to offer or document that survivors were offered victim advocacy, providing minimal to no reflection of a victim's words in reports, responding to Intimate Partner Sexual Violence (IPSV) cases with a primary aggressor focus, using perjury statements with victims, showing inconsistencies in suspect interviews, and not utilizing the Community Resilience Model® wellness skills during victim interviews.

The three selected departments have sent 17 officers to SAI-VCERT, 16 of whom are still employed. The currently trained officers within these departments include 11 from LPD, 1 from UWPD, and 5 from Walla Walla. Of the cases submitted for review, only two investigators had completed SAI-VCERT training before investigating their respective cases. Of those two, one case aligned with best practices. The misaligned case appears to reflect the officer's attitudes, as indicated by survey data: they did not find the training valuable and do not plan to implement any wellness skills in future interviews.

As the majority (86%) of the cases submitted for review were not handled by graduates of SAI-VCERT, the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) CSTR is unable to determine the impact of SAI-VCERT training on officer skill implementation.

In 2025, we plan to revise the selection criteria to help obtain a larger sample of cases handled by trained officers. The number of closed cases by graduates is limited due to the lengthy nature of the criminal justice process.

To address the limited number of cases conducted by trained officers, requests will specify that at least 50% of submitted cases will have been conducted by an officer who completed SAI-VCERT before the investigation. We anticipate that review of cases conducted by officers who have participated in SAI-VCERT will likely reveal less misalignment with best practices for victim engagement and sexual assault responses. Furthermore, we believe it is in the best interest of positive case outcomes and victim satisfaction to utilize officers who have specialized VCERT training and who are equally committed to the well-being of survivors.

Participating departments expressed a strong commitment to professional development and training. Both Lakewood and Walla Walla PD report that all active investigators are trained in SAI-VCERT, and the University of Washington Police Department is dedicated to expanding its pool of trained investigators over the next year.

Training is a key element of becoming trauma-informed and developing effective responses to sexual assault. However, training alone is not enough; it must be reinforced by the consistent application of principles across the department and a commitment from leadership to adopt trauma-informed and resilience-focused policies and procedures. Additionally, leader efforts to integrate and destigmatize wellness and mental health within the department are vital for demonstrating care for officers, building community trust, and embodying trauma-informed principles. Continuous education, departmental discussions, and evaluations are key components.

By embracing trauma-informed and resilience-oriented practices, leaders can encourage a cultural shift within their organization, fostering a compassionate and supportive environment for all. During the CSTR, several promising practices were identified, such as conducting victim interviews with additional investigators observing through one-way glass when possible, and having a mental health professional on retainer, as seen in Lakewood.

Debrief sessions and detective survey results reveal a disconnect between the officers and the department regarding integrating new modalities. While all departments reported implementing skills following their training, officers' self-reports demonstrate varying interest and willingness to adopt new interview procedures or wellness skills. Factors such as attitudes, perceptions, confidence in the likelihood of prosecution and conviction, beliefs about victim responsibility, and views on trauma training as unnecessary or merely an additional requirement all affect the ability of departments to excel fully.

Sentiments expressed by these investigators included feeling they already possessed the necessary knowledge and skills to conduct successful investigations. They viewed the introduction of resiliency skills meant to help regulate a victim's nervous system as "silly" and felt that focusing on victim wellness was outside their job responsibilities. Additionally, some investigators expressed discomfort practicing skills with the mock interviews required for the training course. While it is common for adult learners to feel uneasy during mock interviews, this common training method is a proven learning modality that can positively influence officer behavior, particularly when professional actors are involved and multiple practice opportunities are provided, as is the case in SAI-VCERT.

Post-course student evaluations of SAI-VCERT consistently show that course participation positively influences police officers' attitudes toward trauma and enhances their understanding of how to engage with sexual assault survivors. Furthermore, 85% of law enforcement officers from the reviewed sites reported increased knowledge and interest in the impacts of trauma on sexual assault victims since taking SAI-VCERT.

All three departments are encouraged to engage in discussions emphasizing the importance of trauma-informed and resiliency-focused responses for crime victims while providing practical learning opportunities for their officers. Officers who resist adopting trauma-informed investigation practices should be considered for reassignment from investigating crimes against persons and replaced with those committed to best practices and quality stewardship of the profession. The potential risks of harm to victims and disengagement from the system are too significant to involve investigators who are unwilling to use best-practice techniques.

The LPD and WWPD currently have fully trained investigation teams, which is commendable. It is recommended that leadership at these sites thoroughly evaluate their organizational culture, assess the commitment of investigators to applying best practices, and select investigators for adult sex crimes based on their training, skills, and attitudes. Self-reported behavioral hesitations among officers, particularly regarding introducing wellness skills, were noted at both sites.

Of 14 cases reviewed, seven were declined, and seven were charged. While there have been some positive criminal justice outcomes, survivors and cases could benefit significantly if the principles of SAI-VCERT training were consistently applied to support wellness, engagement, and resilience.

The 2024 review highlighted the importance of a multidisciplinary approach, a crucial component of the SAI-VCERT training program. Law enforcement, prosecutors, advocates, medical professionals, and community partners should meet regularly to discuss sexual assault cases and address their communities' specific needs. Improved coordination among all departments can lead to better outcomes.

All departments work collaboratively with their prosecutor's office to promote positive case outcomes. These partnerships are vital for ensuring effective communication and mutual support. In instances where prosecutors had undergone SAI-VCERT training before prosecution, one of those cases was charged while the other was declined. This data is neither correlative nor collaborative, and no conclusions about the training's influence on the cases can be drawn.

Since 2018, 100% of county prosecutors who graduated from SAI-VCERT have reported through post-course surveys that the program has enhanced their knowledge and will inform their future prosecution practices.

Research indicates that individuals who receive support from advocates are more likely to access essential services after a crime, actively participate in the justice process, and experience lower levels of distress during interactions with the legal system.

The CSTR team found limited evidence indicating that advocacy services were offered or utilized at the three examined departments. Lakewood and WWPD reported having systems advocates available, but the documentation across these sites was insufficient and inconsistent. Both Lakewood and WWPD indicated that they relied on system advocates rather than advocates from community sexual assault programs. In contrast, the University of Washington utilizes both campus-based and community-based advocacy services. Each department was encouraged to facilitate connections and referrals between survivors and the local community sexual assault program.

The review strongly reaffirmed the importance of the SAI-VCERT training content and emphasized the need for patrol officers to be adequately prepared to respond to sexual assault calls. When first responders create a positive engagement experience for survivors, they facilitate a smoother transition to detectives, increasing the chances of successful investigations.

The CSTR also identified delays and non-trauma-informed practices from patrol. The legislature may consider mandating sexual assault training for patrol officers. The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) has developed a two-hour online training course titled "Patrol Officer Response to Sexual Assault," available through an officer learning portal ACADIS, which could fulfill this training requirement.

Victim interviews play a crucial role in sexual assault cases, often serving as a primary source of evidence. The review process emphasized the need for ongoing implementation and practice opportunities focused on interviewing skills for officers. In one case, there was more than a year between training and the actual conduct of an interview, which may have contributed to an ineffective response. A refresher session that included mock victim interviews could have been beneficial. In debrief meetings with various departments, two out of three expressed that such opportunities would be valuable for their officers. Currently, officers who wish to gain additional practice after graduation can contact the Program Manager (PM) to enroll in a future interview session.

The WSCJTC believes that training opportunities—particularly those involving practice with reality-based scenarios and the use of actors—are essential for enhancing officers' skills and is committed to developing ongoing practice opportunities for officers. The SAI program will increase its advertising efforts and conduct targeted outreach to class graduates to encourage their enrollment in refresher interview practice sessions.

Exciting developments are underway with the UWPD as they work to build a team of skilled investigators. The LPD and Walla have successfully completed their training, equipping them for swift and effective responses. We encourage these departments to collaborate on case assessments and engage in Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) opportunities while implementing SAI-VCERT training principles in their responses.

The three departments have a significant opportunity to enhance access to critical information about reporting sexual assault and make resources available on their websites. We strongly recommend highlighting "Seek, then Speak," created by EVAWI, as an alternative reporting option for victims and providing a link to the local community sexual assault agency. These actions can improve community awareness, empower individuals, and help survivors make informed decisions about reporting to law enforcement. Combined with other targeted efforts, these enhancements can positively impact community perception, encourage engagement with the system, and improve criminal justice outcomes.

In our meetings with LPD, UWPD, and WWPD to discuss case outcomes, each department showed strong receptivity to feedback and was solution-oriented. The departments are encouraged to deepen their dialogue with staff on the importance of understanding trauma, challenge outdated habits, and embrace new research to help them better serve victims, regardless of the criminal justice outcome.

While most analyzed cases did not fully meet the training objectives or demonstrate best practices, many areas of misalignment can be effectively addressed through targeted training, proper implementation, and supervision. Inconsistencies can be corrected by committing to integrating these practices into agency operations and fostering an overall culture that supports trauma-informed, victim-centered, and resiliency-focused practices. Ongoing training and access to technical assistance could further support these departments in implementing SAI-VCERT training principles.



SAI-VCERT BACKGROUND

The Sexual Assault Investigations – Victim Centered Engagement and Resiliency Tactics (SAI-VCERT) training at WSCJTC is mandated through [RCW 43.101.272](#), as training for persons investigating adult sexual assault, with the following description:

(1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the commission shall provide ongoing specialized, intensive, and integrative training for persons responsible for investigating sexual assault and other gender-based violence involving adult victims, and the highest ranking supervisors and commanders overseeing sexual assault and other gender-based violence investigations. The training must be based on a victim-centered, trauma-informed approach to responding to sexual assault. Among other subjects, the training must include content on the neurobiology of trauma and trauma-informed interviewing, counseling, and investigative techniques.

(2) The training must: Be based on research-based practices and standards; offer participants an opportunity to practice interview skills and receive feedback from instructors; minimize the trauma of all persons who are interviewed during abuse investigations; provide methods of reducing the number of investigative interviews necessary whenever possible; assure, to the extent possible, that investigative interviews are thorough, objective, and complete; recognize needs of special populations; recognize the nature and consequences of victimization; require investigative interviews to be conducted in a manner most likely to permit the interviewed persons the maximum emotional comfort under the circumstances; address record retention and retrieval; address documentation of investigative interviews; and educate investigators on the best practices for notifying victims of the results of forensic analysis of sexual assault kits and other significant events in the investigative process, including for active investigations and cold cases.

(3) In developing the training, the commission shall seek advice from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, and experts on sexual assault, gender-based violence, and the neurobiology of trauma. The commission shall consult with the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys in an effort to design training containing consistent elements for all professionals engaged in interviewing and interacting with sexual assault victims in the criminal justice system.

(4) Officers assigned to regularly investigate sexual assault and other gender-based violence involving adult victims and the highest-ranking supervisors and commanders overseeing those investigations shall complete the training within one year of being assigned.

VCERT includes mock-interviews where professional actors portray sexual assault victims and interview facilitators guide participants in trauma-informed, victim-centered interview exercises. Participants report mock interviews are highly beneficial to their learning.

The SAI-VCERT course was developed and is delivered by a multi-disciplinary team comprised of experienced law enforcement investigators, therapists, advocates, a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), a civil attorney, and prosecutors, which is consistent with the collaborative investigative approach taught in the course. Instructors, facilitators, and actors are trained in the Trauma Resource Institute's Community Resiliency Model® wellness skills. These skills bolster victim engagement, well-being, and recall while reporting information about the assault.

Course training methods are diverse and include self-study, lecture, discussion, video, and mock victim interview practice sessions.

In addition to its focus on victim interviewing, the SAI-VCERT course includes an overview of suspect-focused investigations, evidence collection, report writing/documentation, considerations of equity in SAI cases, relevant Washington State statutes and prosecution perspectives on consent, documentation, and drug and alcohol-facilitated assaults. The course ends with officer resiliency.

SAI-VCERT course learning objectives are as follows:

- Understand and recognize the nature and consequences of victimization.
- Understand and describe how specific experiences impact victim trauma, memory, reactions, and behavior.
- Understand how investigator interpretation of victim behaviors impact sexual assault cases.
- Identify strategies to work with all victims to facilitate trust and communication.
- Conduct interviews utilizing a research-based model that integrates wellness skills designed to minimize victim trauma, provide maximum emotional comfort, reduce the number of interviews, and foster resilience.
- Conduct objective, thorough, and complete investigations that articulate elements of the identified crime, while utilizing physical, psychological, and sensory evidence to build a strong case.
- Understand the importance of working with a multi-disciplinary team.

CASE SYSTEMS TRAINING REVIEW PROCESS

In May 2024, a carefully selected group of professionals with backgrounds in legal, law enforcement, and advocacy were chosen to participate as CSTR Team Members. The review team comprised former reviewers and/or trainers for the SAI-VCERT course.



SAI-VCERT Cadre (all members not pictured),
June, 2024.

On June 12, 2024, formal letters were sent to three selected departments and their affiliated County Prosecutor's Office to notify them of their selection for the CSTR. These letters confirmed their involvement, requested important documents, and outlined review deadlines (please refer to Attachments 1-9 for details).

Once WSCJTC received the case files, team members were assigned specific cases, and reviews began in August. During the review process, CSTR members carefully evaluated the cases and collaborated with a program-appointed team lead to identify trends and patterns in responses. Subsequently, the CSTR Team Leads met with the Program Manager to discuss case-specific outcomes. After these discussions, Team Leads and the Program Manager met with each department to debrief, discuss findings, and share recommendations. These meetings were instrumental in facilitating valuable conversations about CSTR findings and potential policy or practice improvements (please refer to Attachments 11 and 12 for the Review Checklist Form and Team Results Form used by the CSTR team).

All CSTR members adhere to strict confidentiality and team agreement protocols (attachment 10).

WSCJTC 2024 CSTR PROCESS

Phase

01

Development

Legislative support and funding
Identify and convene review team
Identify departments and timelines
Update checklists and surveys

Phase

02

Implementation

Notify selected departments
Departments identify cases per criteria
Cases are uploaded into Box.com
CSTR team reviews files

Phase

03

Analysis

Assessment of alignment with training objectives
Identification of patterns or practices
Analyze sexual assault reporting statistics

Phase

04

Findings

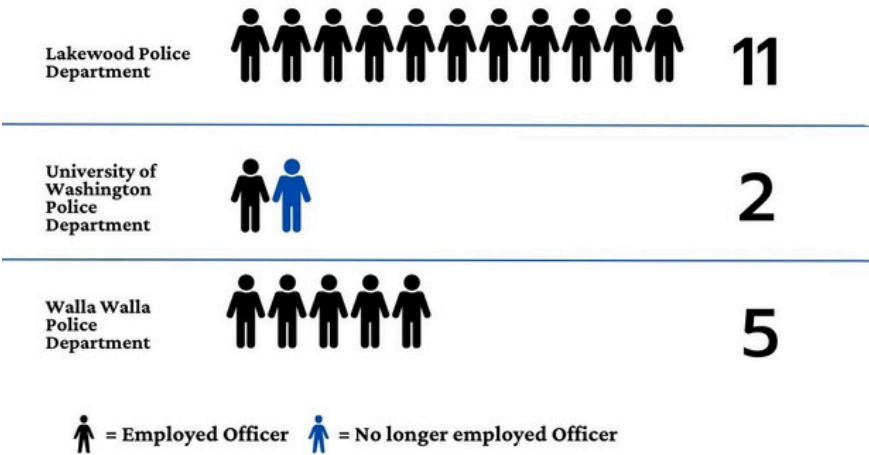
Team leads meet with reviewers and PM
PM and team leads meet with Departments
Report drafted and approvals coordinated
Report submission



CSTR SITE DATA: TRAINEES

Since SAI-VCERT training began in 2018, the selected three Departments have sent 17 officers, of which 16 are still employed. Currently trained officers with the departments include 11 from LPD, 1 at UWPD, and 5 at Walla Walla.

SAI-VCERT TRAINING ATTENDANCE 2018-2024*



Prosecutors who attended SAI-VCERT before handling the submitted CSTR case



CSTR SITE DATA: CASES

Lakewood Police Department

The CSTR reviewed five case submissions and disqualified one because the victim was a vulnerable adult who required the services of a child interviewer (a different interview modality). Of the four cases accepted for review, one was aligned with the training standards.

The cases were from three different years: 2018, 2020, and 2023. They involved five different investigators and nine officers.

Four of the five lead investigators completed SAI-VCERT training; however, only one officer had completed training before responding to a case.

The types of victimization included intimate partner sexual violence and rape committed by a unknown perpetrator.

Three of the four LPD cases reviewed were charged, and one was declined. Notably, one case was handled by a prosecutor who underwent SAI-VCERT training before taking it on, leading to a successful outcome.

LPD CSTR DATA

CASE REVIEW OUTCOME

Four closed LPD sexual assault cases involving adult victims with varying prosecution outcomes (declined-prosecuted) from June 1, 2020, to June 1, 2024 were reviewed by the CSTR.

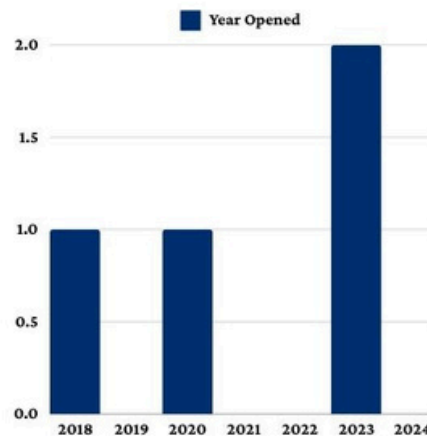
TOTAL CASES

4

ALIGNED



UNALIGNED



CSTR SITE DATA: CASES

Currently, all investigators in Lakewood have completed the SAI-VCERT training, demonstrating the department's commitment to professional development and staying updated on best practices for responding to sexual violence. Lakewood officers are encouraged to deepen their established investigative skills by applying SAI-VCERT interview techniques and strategies focused on victim resilience.

Lakewood is encouraged to prioritize the implementation of training principles within its fully trained investigative unit to improve its response to sexual violence and ensure consistency in handling such cases. Additionally, the department should establish formal processes for leadership to regularly review departmental responses. This could include conducting staff surveys, engaging in team case discussions, reviewing video interview and written documentation/reports.

LPD CASE DATA

CASE REVIEW OUTCOME

Four closed LPD sexual assault cases involving adult victims with varying prosecution outcomes (declined-prosecuted) from June 1, 2020, to June 1, 2024 were reviewed by the CSTR.

TOTAL CASES

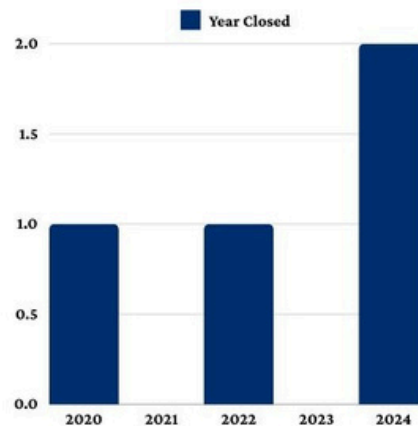
4

CHARGED

75%

DECLINED

25%



CSTR SITE DATA: CASES

UWPD Police Department

The submitted cases encompass three different years (2020-2022) and involved two investigators. Only one of these investigators has attended the SAI-VCERT training, which he completed before responding to one of the three cases submitted.

Of the five cases presented, one aligned with SAI-VCERT criteria. The cases illustrated a variety of sexual violence crimes, including voyeurism and drug-facilitated sexual assault, with perpetrators being both known and unknown.

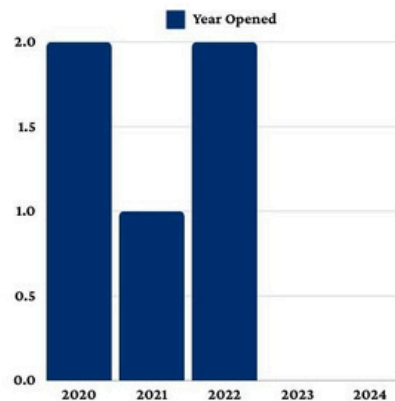
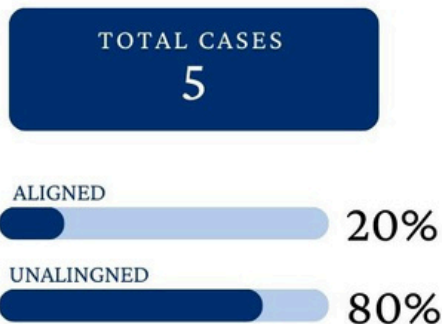
Out of the five cases, one resulted in charges, while four were declined.

Currently, the University of Washington Police Department (UWPD) has one investigator who has completed SAI-VCERT. Due to staffing challenges, additional investigators have not yet been assigned. However, the department is committed to sending more staff for training as new personnel are onboarded and become available.

UWPD CSTR DATA

CASE REVIEW OUTCOME

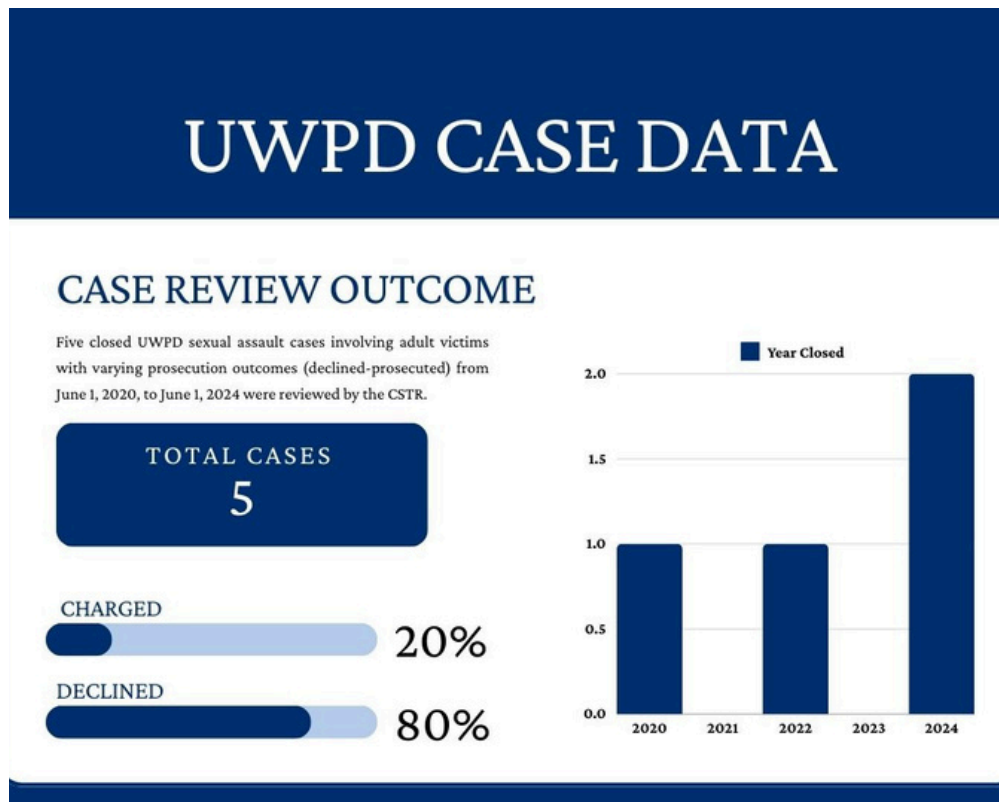
Five closed UWPD sexual assault cases involving adult victims with varying prosecution outcomes (declined-prosecuted) from June 1, 2020, to June 1, 2024 were reviewed by the CSTR.



CSTR SITE DATA: CASES

The University of Washington Police Department is advised to broaden its team of trained investigators. As additional investigators receive training, organizing collaborative case discussions among them can foster shared learning and the exchange of best practices, resulting in a more informed and nuanced approach to each situation.

UWPD might consider implementing thorough staff surveys to evaluate current training levels, pinpoint knowledge gaps, and assess employee’s confidence in managing sexual assault cases. They are also encouraged to review video interviews and written reports, which will offer opportunities for critical analysis, ensuring that the department learns from previous cases while improving their investigative techniques. Together, these initiatives will lead to a more effective and sensitive handling of sexual assault incidents, ultimately fostering a safer campus environment.



CSTR SITE DATA: CASES

WWPD Police Department

Five cases were analyzed from three different years: 2020- 2022. None of the WWPD case submissions were aligned with SAI-VCERT principles.

The cases involved three different investigators and three officers. Two investigators attended SAI-VCERT training; however, only one completed the course before responding to a case. There was a one-year gap between the completion of their training and their involvement in the investigation.

Three of the five cases resulted in charges being filed, while one was not pursued at the victim's request.

Currently, all five WWPD investigators have completed the SAI-VCERT training. However, half of the respondents' CSTR survey feedback was unfavorable toward the training and demonstrated resistance to utilizing CRM wellness skills as a tool to aid victim nervous system regulation and recall during interviews.

WWPD CSTR DATA

CASE REVIEW OUTCOME

Five closed WWPD sexual assault cases involving adult victims with varying prosecution outcomes (declined-prosecuted) from June 1, 2020, to June 1, 2024 were reviewed by the CSTR.

TOTAL CASES

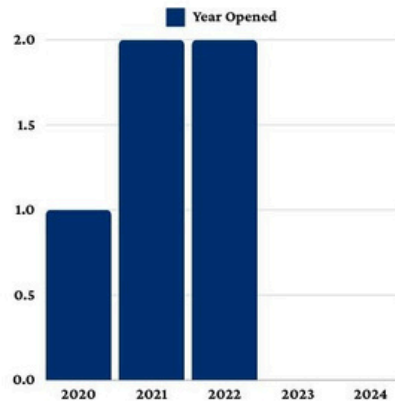
5

ALIGNED

0%

UNALIGNED

100%



CSTR SITE DATA: CASES

During the file review, an officer not trained in SAI-VCERT displayed a strong aptitude for victim-centered interviewing. In the debrief, we recommended that WWPD consider sending this officer to SAI-VCERT, which they swiftly did.

We promote developing departmental response expectations and accountability measures. Leadership is encouraged to examine organizational culture, including staff attitudes and behaviors, and prioritize a commitment to SAI-VCERT principles in policy and action.

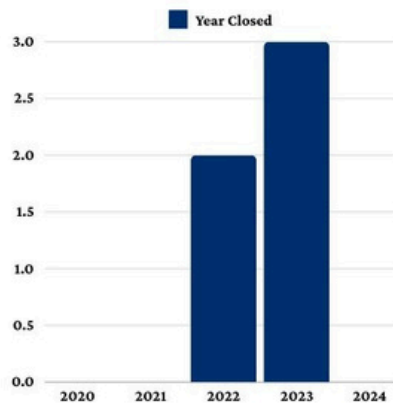
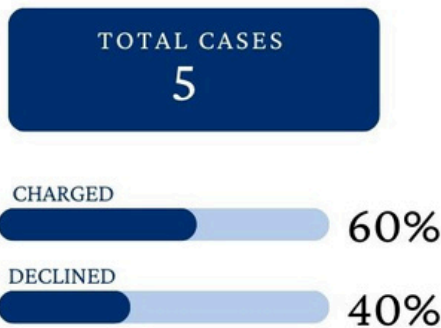
WWPD and the Walla Walla County Prosecutor's Office have established a collaborative working relationship and attended the CSTR debrief meeting together. Both agencies are encouraged to maintain consistent communication and to debrief after achieving significant milestones or accomplishments in their cases.

They should also seek to reinvigorate their multidisciplinary team (MDT) that focuses on responding to adult sexual assault, which was regularly active prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, they should ensure referrals are made to the local community-based advocacy program.

WWPD CASE DATA

CASE REVIEW OUTCOME

Five closed Walla Walla sexual assault cases involving adult victims with varying prosecution outcomes (declined-prosecuted) from June 1, 2020, to June 1, 2024 were reviewed by the CSTR.



CSTR SITE DATA: REPORTING AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Lakewood Police Department

LPD provided data on sexual assault (SA) adult victim cases from the June 2020 to June 2024.

A total of 223 cases were investigated. Below is a table of these cases with their case status denoted as active, arrested, exception, unfounded, or N/A.



City of Lakewood, Population: 62,303.

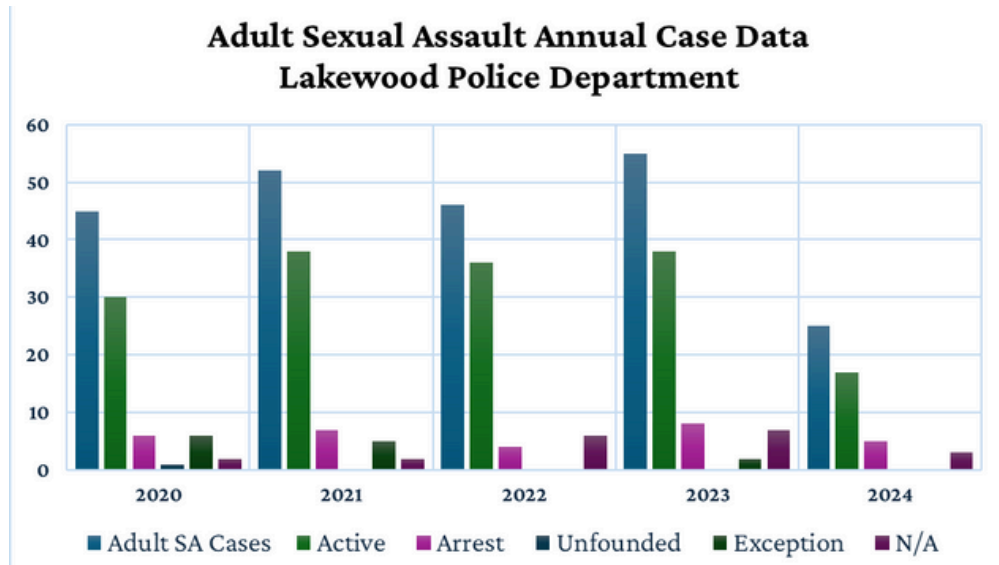
Exception:

- a) The investigation must have clearly established the identity of at least one offender.
- b) Sufficient probable cause must have been developed to support the arrest, charging, and prosecution of the offender.
- c) The exact location of the offender must be known so that an arrest can be made.
- d) There must be a reason outside the control of law enforcement which prevents the arrest (i.e., one of the reasons below):
 - Death of Offender
 - Prosecution Declined (by the prosecutor for other than probable cause)
 - Victim Refused to Cooperate (in the prosecution)
 - Juvenile/No Custody (the handling of a juvenile without taking him/her into custody, but rather by oral or written notice given to the parents or legal guardian in a case involving a minor offense, such as petty larceny)
 - In Custody Other Jurisdiction (including extradition denied).

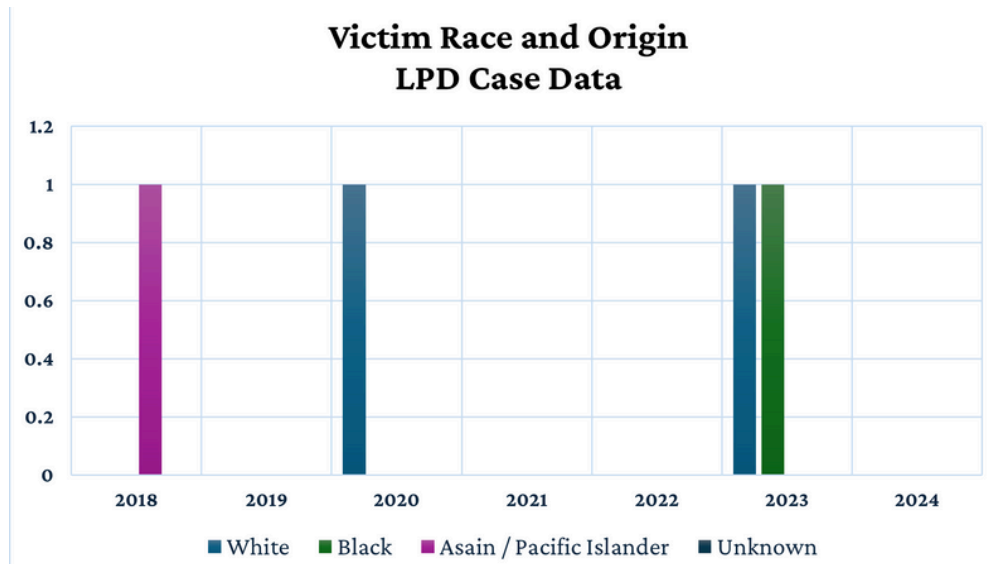
Unfounded:

Having no foundation or basis in fact.

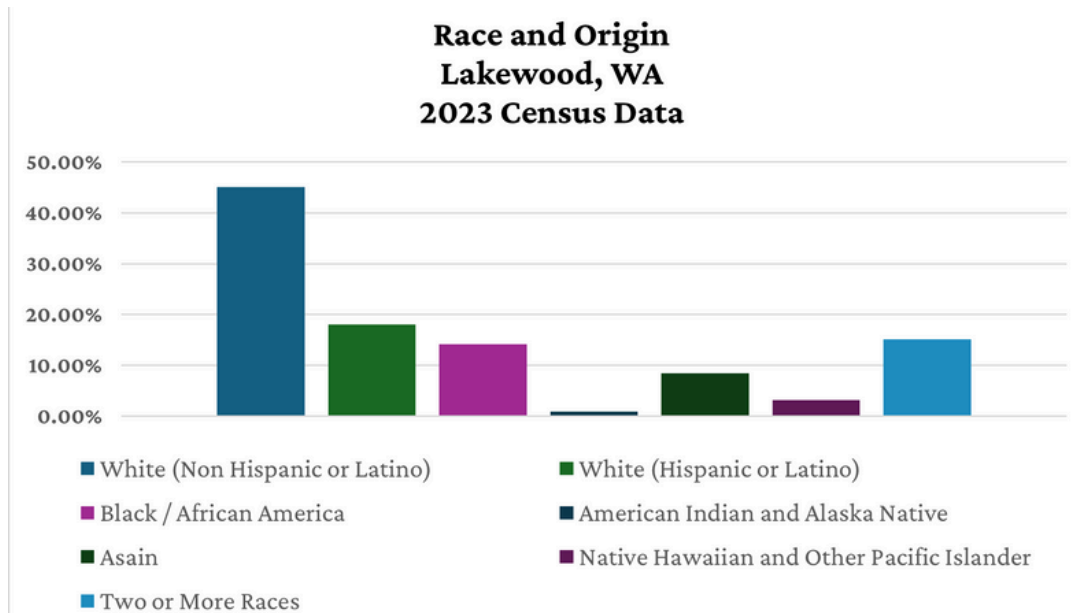
CSTR SITE DATA: REPORTING AND DEMOGRAPHICS



The CSTR sample accounts for only 1.8% of the Department's 223 sexual assault cases.



CSTR SITE DATA: REPORTING AND DEMOGRAPHICS



Although the sample size is small, the cases represent the demographics of the community.

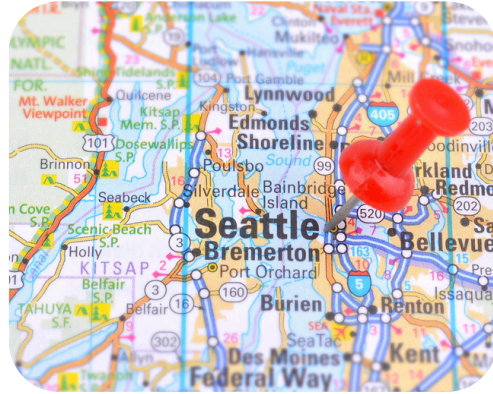
As part of its continuous evaluation efforts, the Department is urged to perform a comparative analysis of its complete case load demographic data against census data. This strategy can offer valuable insights into whether the individuals served truly represent the wider community, help identify and address potential reporting barriers and strengthen relationships within the community.

CSTR SITE DATA: REPORTING AND DEMOGRAPHICS

UWPD Police Department

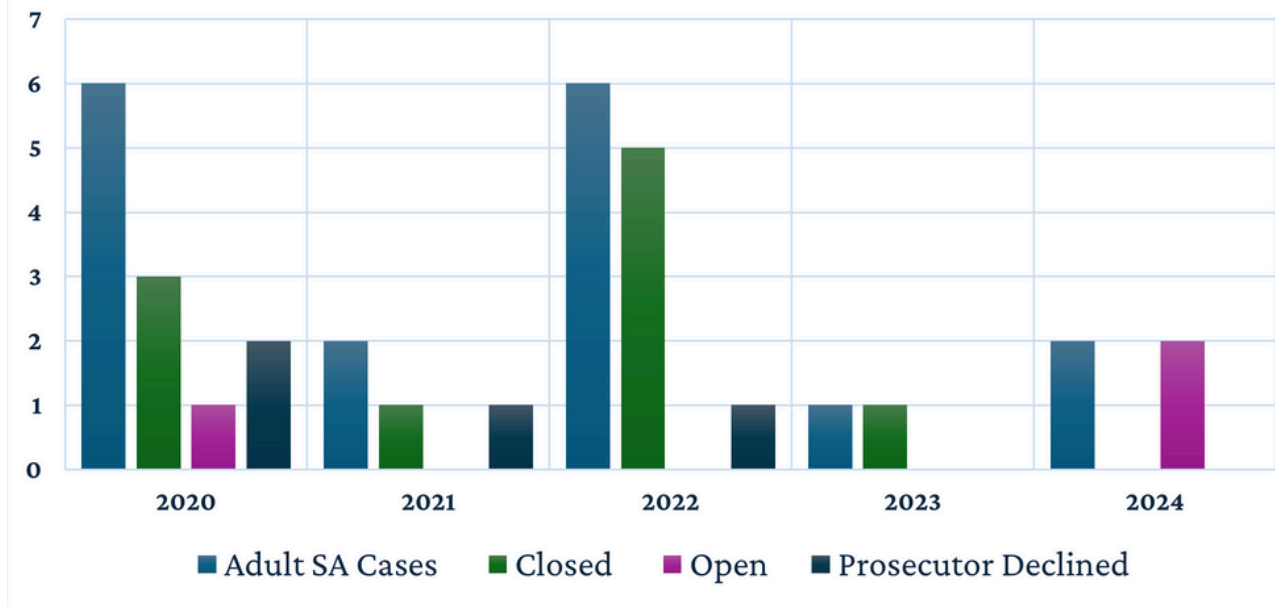
UWPD provided data on sexual assault (SA) adult victim cases from June 2020 to June 2024. A total of 17 cases were reported. CSTR files represent 29% of their case load.

Below is a table of these cases, with their status denoted as open, final disposition, or prosecutor declined.



City of Seattle, Population: 755,078.
UW Student Population: 52,319.

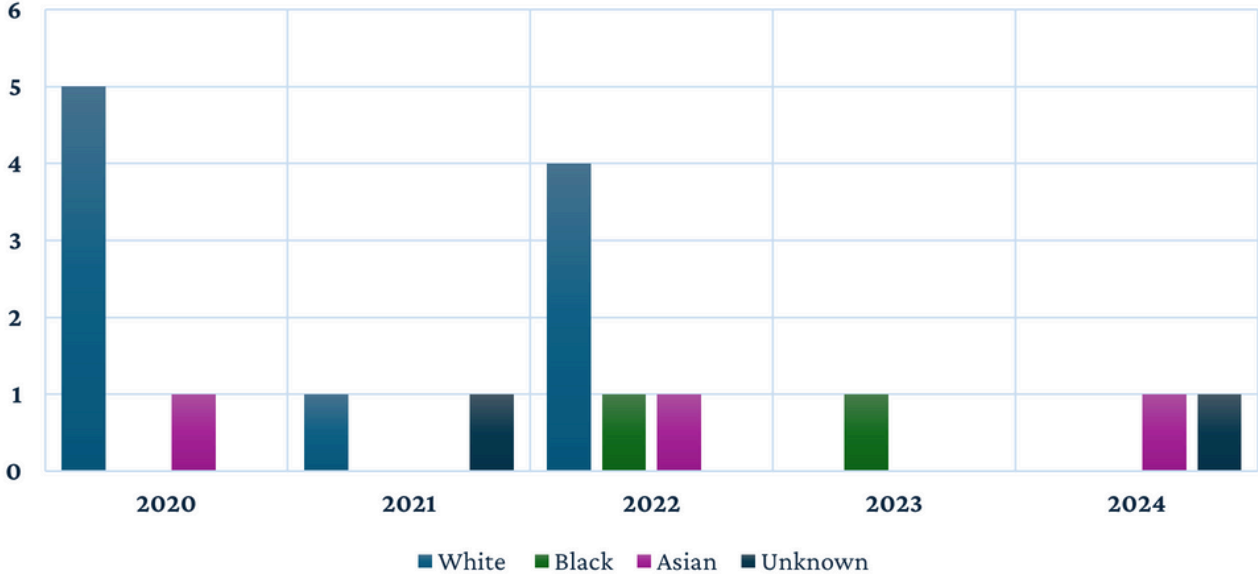
Adult Sexual Assault Annual Case Data University of Washington



A low percentage of reported cases is not uncommon, as sexual assault is often significantly underreported. The FBI estimates that less than 20% of sexual assaults on college campuses are reported to law enforcement. This highlights the importance of enhancing community connections and awareness initiatives, particularly since individuals aged 18-24 are at a higher risk of experiencing sexual violence.

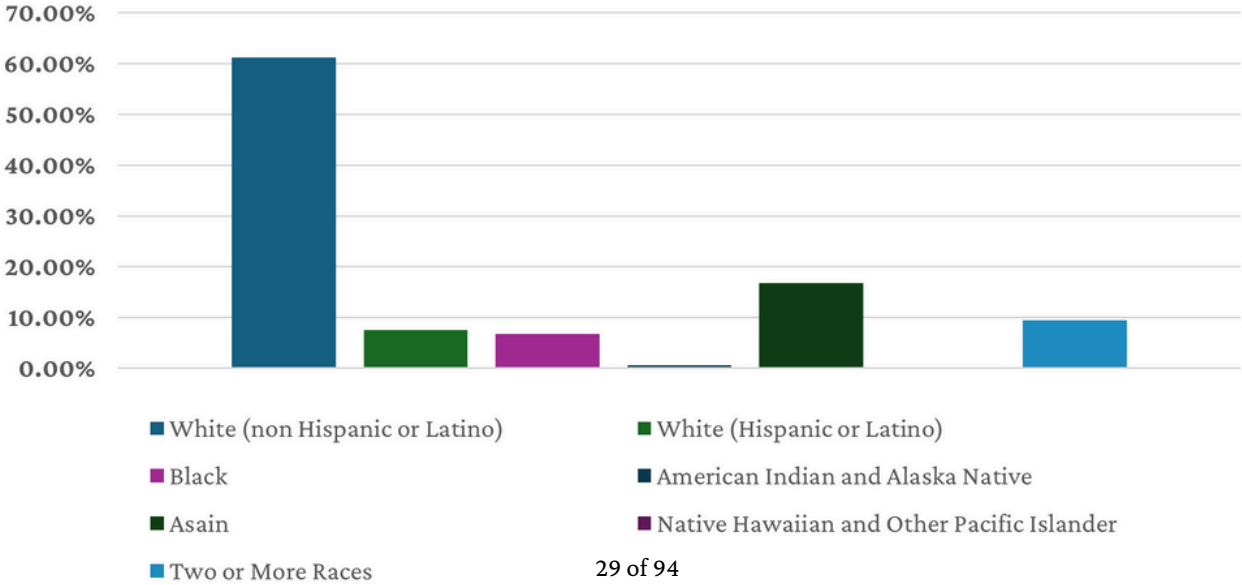
CSTR DATA: REPORTING AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Victim Race and Origin University of Washington Case Data



Despite the limited sample size, the cases accurately reflect of the community served. As part of regular evaluation practices, the Department is encouraged to do comparative analysis to census data. This will determine whether those served are aligned with demographics, creates opportunities to identify and reduce potential barriers to reporting, and build relationships.

Race and Origin Seattle, WA 2023 Census



CSTR DATA: REPORTING AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Walla Walla Police Department

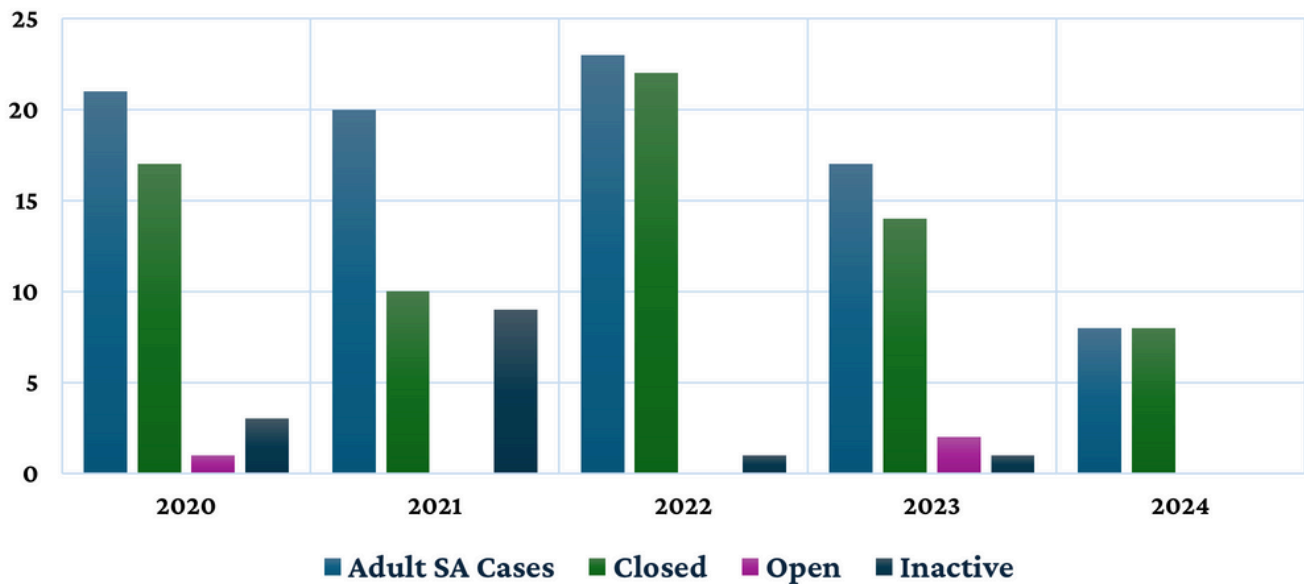
WWPD has shared data regarding sexual assault (SA) cases involving adult victims spanning from June 2020 to June 2024. During this period, they recorded a total of 90 cases, with CSTR files representing 5.5% of the WWPD's overall caseload.

The following table outlines these cases, indicating their status as open, closed, or inactive.

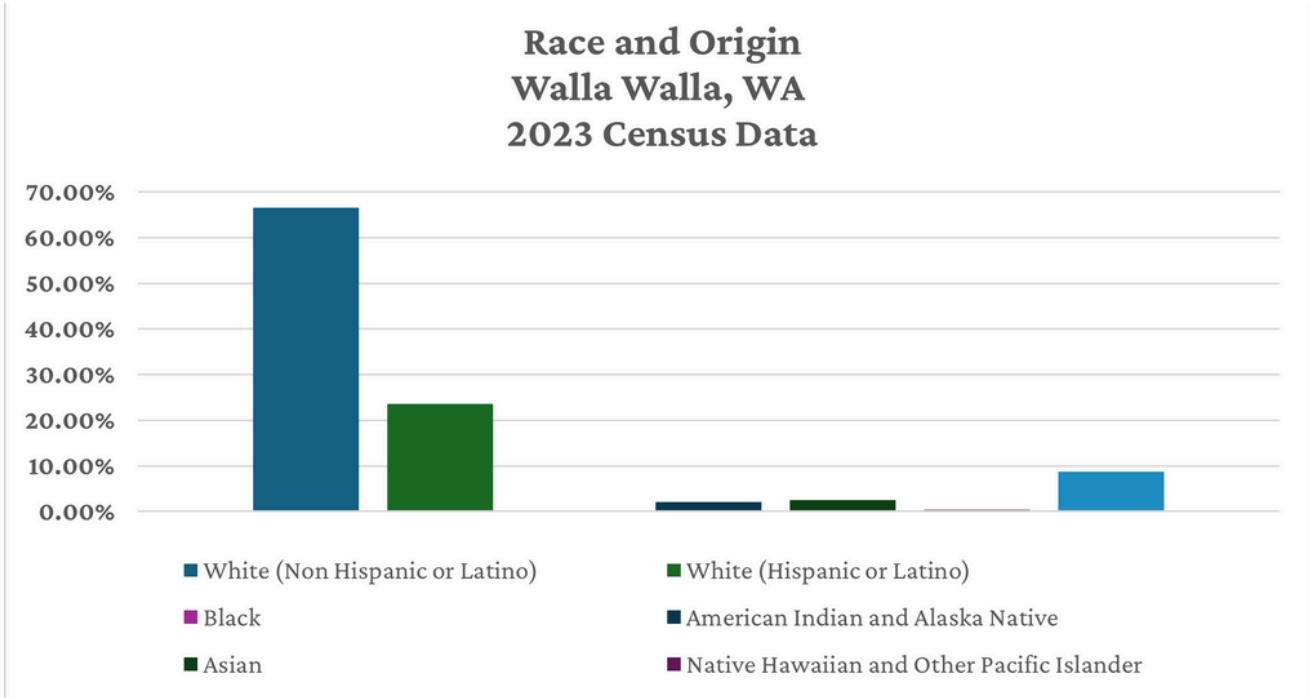


Walla Walla City, Population: 33,339.

Adult Sexual Assault Annual Case Data WWPD



CSTR SITE DATA: REPORTING AND DEMOGRAPHICS



WWPD redacted case specific victim demographic data, so no census comparison was possible.

SAI-VCERT MEASUREMENT AND ASSESSMENT TOOLS

The CSTR process supports WSCJTC in evaluating and implementing core training principles associated with SAI-VCERT. The assessment enhances our capacity to deliver specialized, high-quality training that effectively addresses the needs of law enforcement professionals.

Course content and delivery methods are developed based on prior training reviews, legislative updates, modifications in the law, research on best practices, and constructive feedback from participants. This continuous improvement process guarantees that our training remains compelling, relevant, and consistent with best practices.

We depend on the various methods of information to assess course goals and participant needs/satisfaction:

Course Participants. The course does not include a formal examination. However, participants undergo evaluation through pass/fail interviewing exercises with professional actors portraying sexual assault survivors. The facilitators and actors provide feedback based on trauma-informed guidelines. While some participants may encounter difficulties during the initial interview, they consistently demonstrate improvement in the second practice interview with guidance from facilitators and feedback from peers.

SAI-VCERT Training Evaluations and Live Feedback. Training is assessed based on a formal class evaluation survey and feedback gathered at the end of the class. After carefully reviewing this feedback, we modify the course to elevate training objectives while best meeting participant needs.

SAI-VCERT MEASUREMENT AND ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Department and Partner Surveys: As part of the review process, WSCJTC administered surveys to graduates of the SAI-VCERT program from LPD, UWPD, and WWPD. The purpose of the surveys was to gather information on the implementation of training principles after program completion.

Tailored surveys were also distributed to the County Prosecutor and the local Community Sexual Assault Program to solicit information about sexual assault case investigation practices and their collaborative partnerships.



CSTR SURVEY RESULTS

INVESTIGATORS

A survey consisting of 35 questions was distributed to all officers from LPD, UWPD, and WWPD who have completed the SAI-VCERT course. This survey aims to gather insights into investigators' perceptions, key takeaways, and how much they rely on VCERT materials. You can find a copy of the survey in Attachment 13.

Lakewood Police Department - Six respondents.

Victim Support: Following the training, every respondent (100%) reported either strong agreement or agreement that their understanding of and interest in the effects of trauma on sexual assault victims had improved since completing the course.

When asked to pinpoint barriers that hinder victims from reporting sexual assaults, all respondents correctly identified these challenges. The primary obstacles mentioned were feelings of shame and fear of retaliation.

Among the six respondents who have investigated sexual assault cases after the training, five indicated that they feel better equipped to interact with victims and have gained a deeper understanding of their needs.

There was inconsistency in the timing and frequency of contacting an advocate. Some respondents reported contacting advocates immediately, while others did so within 2-3 days. Two participants stated that they offer advocacy only after personally assessing whether it may be relevant for the victim; for example, one mentioned, "I reach out to the prosecutor's office if I feel an advocate is appropriate." The majority provided referrals by sharing the name and phone number of the organization.

Respondents mentioned that opportunities to learn about their local advocacy center through MDT meetings and collaborating on grants as potential avenues to deepen connections and cooperation between law enforcement and advocacy services.



CSTR SURVEY RESULTS

Resiliency and wellness skills. Respondents were able to identify the reasons why resiliency skills are valuable when working with trauma victims, particularly in terms of regulating the nervous system, and to gather more information during interviews.

50% of respondents said they had used wellness skills in interviews since the training. Grounding was the most frequently employed skill among those employing the Community Resiliency Model® (CRM) skills with victims. This skill helps individuals return to the present moment by guiding them to focus on their physical contact with surfaces, such as feeling their hands on a table or their feet on the floor.

Three respondents reported that using grounding helped address activation and support the victim in returning to what CRM ® refers to as their Resiliency Zone, allowing the interview to continue effectively.

Training. The survey identified respondents' ongoing training needs. Respondents were asked to choose from a list of training topics and given opportunity to add any additional training topics they felt might be helpful to them. The training topics identified included evidence collection/investigative practices, courtroom testimony, and sexual assault kits.

Investigative Process. Since the training, 83% of participants have reported improvements in their interactions with all crime victims and witnesses, not just those involved in sexual assault cases.

Every investigator (100%) accurately identified what constitutes consent in sexual assault. However, only 50% were able to differentiate correctly between mental incapacity and physical helplessness.

100% of respondents either strongly agree or agree that after participating in SAI-VCERT, they consistently incorporate sensory-based questions in interviews with victims and utilize open-ended questions for both victims and suspects.

83% agree or strongly agree that since completing SAI-VCERT, they have focused more on building rapport during the interview process.

CSTR SURVEY RESULTS

The University of Washington Police Department- One respondent.

Victim Support. The respondent reports that since completing SAI-VCERT, they have relied on their understanding of trauma during interactions and interviews with sexual assault victims. They also report feeling more prepared when interacting with victims and have a better sense of victim responses and needs.

When asked to identify potential barriers that prevent victims from reporting sexual assaults, they accurately recognized these obstacles. The respondent reports their use of advocacy hasn't changed since training and that they connect the victim with advocacy at initial contact.

Resiliency & wellness skills. The respondent reports experiencing ongoing and positive benefits from using VCERT, especially regarding their understanding of trauma during victim interviews. They articulated the importance of Community Resiliency Model® (CRM) skills when working with trauma victims, particularly in helping to regulate the nervous system and gathering detailed information.

They reported using "resourcing," which involves recalling a positive memory identified during rapport building, and "reset now" CRM® skills, which encourage individuals to connect with their environment. This can include activities such as observing colors, gazing out a window, counting backward, or sipping water. These skills are especially valuable for assisting survivors in remaining within what CRM® refers to as their Resiliency Zone.

Trauma. The respondent noted that the SAI-VCERT course enhanced their understanding of the effects of sexual assault and deepened their interest in trauma's impacts. They also mentioned relying on this knowledge when interacting with victims, particularly during interviews and case documentation since completing the training.

Interviewing. The respondent exhibited a thorough grasp of trauma-informed practices and accurately recognized statutory definitions related to sexual assault.

As a result of the course, they expressed, "I am a better interviewer," and "It increased my comfort when interviewing victims."

CSTR SURVEY RESULTS

Walla Walla Police Department- Four respondents.

Victim support. After the training, 75% of respondents reported they either strongly agreed or agreed that their understanding of, and interest in, the impacts of trauma on sexual assault victims had increased since completing the training.

When asked to identify potential barriers that prevent victims from reporting sexual assaults, all respondents accurately recognized these obstacles.

Three out of the four respondents who have investigated sexual assault cases since the training indicated that they feel more prepared when interacting with victims and possess a deeper understanding of their needs.

All respondents reported connecting victims for advocacy services upon initial contact. WWPD has an in-house victim advocate who they utilize for advocacy services rather than working with their local community sexual assault program. They are encouraged to work with both types of advocates to best meet the needs of all victims in their community.

Respondents identified open communication practices and equitable investment in relationship building as tools that may advance advocacy and law enforcement relationships.

Resiliency and wellness skills. 75% of respondents were unable to fully identify the reasons why resiliency skills are valuable when working with trauma victims.

50% of respondents from Walla Walla indicated they are not implementing CRM® resiliency skills. When asked why they were not used, the reasons included "not suitable for victimization" and "not useful in connecting with victims." One respondent acknowledged not using them because they feel uncomfortable, but the more they use them, the more natural it becomes. The written survey sentiment of two survey participants demonstrates officer unwillingness to integrate wellness skills into their victim interviews, with one citing it as beyond their role to do so.

CSTR SURVEY RESULTS

Investigative process. Since the training, 50% of WWPD respondents report an increased understanding of investigatory practices for sexual assault cases.

50% of investigators were able to fully identify the difference between mental incapacity and physical helplessness properly.

75% of respondents accurately identified what constitutes consent in sexual assault cases and accurately articulated criminal SA statutes.

Since SAI-VCERT, half of the respondents reported devoting more time and attention to rapport building. The remaining half report neither agreeing nor disagreeing with the statement. One shared, “I already did rapport building before this training; attending this training made no positive impact on the performance nor the connection with people I interview.”

When asked what changes they have noticed in interviews with victims following rapport building, respondents reported receiving more detailed responses and the victim being able to complete the interview.

When asked if they regularly incorporate open-ended questions since SAI-VCERT, 100% agreed or strongly agreed.

When asked about including open-ended questions, 50% reported incorporation, the remaining neither agreed or disagreed.



CSTR SURVEY RESULTS

PROSECUTORS

The PM sent a seven-question survey (attachment 14) to Pierce, King, and Walla Walla County Prosecutor's Offices. We received one response from the Walla Walla Prosecutor's Office. The respondent shared that the most common barriers to submitting a case for charges were incomplete information and lack of victim cooperation (underscoring the need for comprehensive trauma-informed investigations).

When asked what training topic and or areas of emphasis within topics prosecutors recommended for law enforcement, they shared:

- Understanding the neurobiology of trauma and impacts of trauma.
- Use of trauma-informed interview techniques.
- Allowing the survivor to speak, avoid interruption, and understand non-linear recall.

All of these training topics are currently included in WSCJTC's SAI- VCERT and PORSA trainings.

When asked what strategies they implement for identifying and addressing victim disengagement and attrition factors, the respondent emphasized the importance of regular communication, managing expectations, and working with partners to meet survivor needs.

ADVOCATES

Surveys (attachment 15) were issued electronically to the King County Sexual Assault Center, Rebuilding Hope, and the Walla Walla YWCA Community Sexual Assault Program, who serve victims in the counties where reviews occurred. This same survey was used at each site, but only Pierce County's is included in the Attachments since they were identical.

A total of 15 surveys were returned from advocacy respondents sharing their experiences working with law enforcement in their community from a victim's perspective. Eight surveys from the King County Sexual Assault Center and seven from Rebuilding Hope were returned. None were returned from the YWCA Walla Walla.

Advocates for victims identified several significant barriers that impede the reporting of sexual assault. These include fears of being blamed or discredited, a pervasive lack of trust in the legal system, and discouragement stemming from the perceived lack of accountability for perpetrators.

CSTR SURVEY RESULTS

In Pierce County, advocates state that a significant barrier to reporting is long wait times. Survivors are directed call a non-emergency reporting line and then wait for an officer to respond.

King County advocates identified a shortage of available detectives, limited arrangements for interviews, and a minimal amount of bi-cultural and bilingual interviewers as local barriers.

When asked about recommended training areas and topics for detectives and investigators, advocates suggested several key focuses.

These include collaborating with advocates, connecting victims to advocacy services, understanding the neurobiology of trauma, recognizing the impacts of trauma, identifying biases, choosing appropriate language, employing effective interviewing techniques, fostering survivor resilience, comprehending victim rights, exploring the intersections of sex trafficking, cultural competence, navigating protection orders, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) exams, IPSV, strangulation, and understanding the effects of trauma on both primary and secondary victims.

Additionally, they emphasized the importance of specialized trauma-informed response training for patrol officers.



CSTR SURVEY RESULTS

Advocates have brought attention to the challenges victims encounter when reporting sexual assault. These include feelings of self-blame, fear of not being believed, shame, concerns about retaliation, lack of trust, and discouragement with a prolonged justice process.

The VCERT course tackles these challenges by educating officers on the fears and trauma responses experienced by victims of sexual assault, including insights into the neurobiology of trauma.



Advocates have shared effective practices observed by law enforcement in their county when addressing sexual assaults, which include:

- Facilitating a warm handoff or connection between the victim and the local Community Advocacy Sexual Assault Program (CSAP).
- Creating a welcoming environment for interviews.
- Officers demonstrating an understanding of the neurobiology of trauma, showing patience and empathy.
- Allowing survivors to express themselves without interruptions.
- Offering the option to pause or take breaks during the interview process.
- Educating victims about the criminal justice system, the investigative process, and the subsequent steps.
- Prioritizing the victim's choices throughout the entire process.
- Keeping open lines of communication with the victim throughout the journey.

CSTR OUTCOMES

Conducting Victim-Centered Interviews

SAI-VCERT trains on the neurobiology of trauma, equipping interviewers to understand, listen to, and collect information about biology-based victim responses to trauma, including the impacts on cognition and behavior.

Overall, the application of trauma-informed practices and the documentation of trauma impacts were limited across the three sites. Opportunities were lost to address victim statements in several cases; for example, in one interview, a victim shared, “I lost control of my body.” There is no follow-up or inquiry from the investigator to this. While related to trauma in this instance, it could also be indicative of incapacitation, both of which weren’t explored or documented in the report. In another reviewed case, the victim shares, “My body wasn’t doing what my mind wanted it to do”. This, too, wasn’t explored and could indicate a freeze trauma response.

SAI-VCERT provides an interview model for law enforcement to apply. It emphasizes the importance of creating arrangements that prioritize the well-being and participation of victims. Interviewers are trained to consider survivor needs, including preferences regarding contact methods, location, timing, child-care arrangements, transportation, and advocacy needs.

Officers are expected to provide clear information about the interview and investigation process during their introductions. At least one case from each site demonstrated the implementation of supportive measures, such as using a soft interview room, having interpreters ready, allowing the victim to choose where to sit, and granting the victim permission to correct the interviewer and or ask questions.

For example, an officer might say, “If I ask you a question that isn’t clear, or if I get something wrong, please let me know. Do you have any questions for me as we get started?” The aligned case from UWPD effectively navigated all aspects of the introduction, benefiting also from the detective's use of conversational language and approachable demeanor. In another case from Lakewood, the officer explained that he was taking notes, clarifying that looking down momentarily was to document the conversation and he was fully engaged.

Pacing is a crucial element of a sexual assault interview; survivors should set the pace and begin sharing where they feel comfortable rather than being directed to start from the beginning.

CSTR OUTCOMES

The CSTR observed busy response systems where interviews felt rushed—particularly in patrol settings. In these cases, survivors were often interrupted during their narratives, and there was frequent reliance on stacked and closed-ended questions instead of open-ended ones.

Interviews were approached chronologically, missing the opportunity to explore well-encoded memories and conduct sensory inquiry. Encouraging survivors to “start where they can” is highly beneficial. Equally important is not interrupting the narrative to pin down chronology. Instead, they should know recall isn’t linear and take notes for circling back to lock in a timeline/chronology.

Limited use of trauma-informed prompts such as “Take as much time as you need” and “When you're ready” was found. All sites are encouraged to increase the use of these informed and inviting statements.

Trauma-informed interviewers understand how their presence and choice of words can influence the interview process. SAI-VCERT supports a "Start by Believing" approach, which encourages law enforcement to phrase their questions carefully to avoid inadvertently placing blame or responsibility on the survivor.

For example, instead of asking, “Why didn’t you tell someone sooner?” they might rephrase it to, “What’s changed now?” This adjustment removes any implication of blame towards the victim.

In one problematic case, a patrol officer suggested the victim could call the suspect so the officer might hear the suspect. This conveyed disbelief instead of indicating the need for a balanced and thorough investigation. In another instance, an officer asked the victim if they knew whether the perpetrator had a sexually transmitted disease rather than informing the victim about the health benefits of obtaining a SANE exam. Such questions can be distressing to survivors.

Two of the three sites utilized perjury statements. Victims were asked to declare, under penalty of perjury according to the laws of the State of Washington, that their statements were true and correct. Walla Walla reports that their City Attorney’s Office mandates this requirement. This inconsistent practice across the state needs to be further addressed and potentially remedied via legislation.

CSTR SURVEY RESULTS

Additionally, incorporating calming colors and gentle lighting can further contribute to a soothing atmosphere. It is also beneficial to have comforting items like stress balls or fidget toys available to help ease anxiety during interviews. By prioritizing the creation of a nurturing environment, agencies can better support victims in sharing their experiences, ultimately contributing to more effective and compassionate investigations.

Continuous Improvement and Training

To ensure ongoing development in handling sensitive cases, investigators must participate in regular training sessions. These sessions should include a trauma-informed care framework and delve into advanced techniques and insights gathered from recent research. Encouraging feedback from both victims and staff can provide valuable perspectives that lead to meaningful improvements in interview practices and overall response strategies.

By embracing a culture of continuous learning and adaptation, the agencies can foster a more supportive and effective system that prioritizes the needs and rights of victims, ensuring that their voices are heard and respected throughout the investigative process.

Relocating the victim to a safe and private location during the response is a critical consideration. One interview occurred outside a public store and lasted only six minutes. It's clear that adequate information cannot be gathered in such an environment or time frame.

Positive and empowering approaches, such as allowing victims to choose where they sit, asking what name they prefer to be called, and spending time building rapport were observed across various sites, but weren't consistently applied.

A Thoroughly Documented Investigation

The CSTR found that more investigative steps could have been pursued regarding evidence collection and witness identification. However, some unaligned cases had outstanding follow-up and documentation.

Due to the limited instruction time in SAI-VCERT available evidence collection and report writing, the three departments are encouraged to actively participate in advanced SAI courses and other offerings that explore this content in greater depth.

CSTR OUTCOMES

Victim Language

A victim's words document and reconstruct the reality of their experience. It is important to listen intently and capture them accurately. Investigators are encouraged to explore the terms victims use to describe the incident and anatomy. For example, in one case, the victim referred to a penis as "it", "then it went inside me," this would have been a good opportunity for the officer to clarify, "I think I know, but help me understand "it," tell me more. "It" could have been any object, fingers, penis, etc., thus important for the officer to clarify.

In a different case, the survivor shared being choked. The initial investigator didn't respond to her use of the word choke or look into this element of the crime, missing that she had been strangulated, lost consciousness, and was potentially in need of medical attention.

The CSTR trains to document victim, suspect, and witness words using quotations in reports to reflect actual statements and underscores the importance of this. All sites will benefit from the inclusion of quotes; one case avoided the word rape and used the word assault despite detailed and graphic court records.

The sanitized and consensual language of "performed oral sex" was found in a report. These were not the victim's words; they soften the severity of the act and shift focus from the offender's behaviors. A more accurate statement in this case would have been, "suspect forced his penis into the victim's mouth".

Following Up on Time Sensitive Evidence

Identifying and promptly following up on evidence are essential components of a thorough investigation. Patrol officers often serve as the first point of contact for individuals in crisis. It is vital for these officers to receive specialized training on how to respond to adult sexual assault cases.

A quality patrol response should be trauma-informed, focus on identifying evidence, support victim resilience, ensure a timely hand-off to the investigation unit, and enable detectives to engage more successfully with the victim.

CSTR OUTCOMES

Investigations suffer when patrol officers don't appropriately interact with victims. Several issues have been identified, including, but not limited to:

- A failure to recognize vital physical evidence and the urgent need for prompt Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) examinations, which can lead to detrimental delays in health care and evidence collection.
- The influence of personal opinions in official reports, compromising the integrity of the investigation.
- Rushed victim interactions
- Inadequate documentation concerning the victim's well-being.

WSCJTC currently offers a two-hour PORSA training.

Recording Interviews

The CSTR noted inconsistencies in the recordings of victim and suspect interviews. Some interviews were recorded on both video and audio, while others included only audio recordings, and some were documented solely in written reports. This lack of uniformity is due to different practices employed by responders during COVID-19 and the fact that some responders did not begin using body-worn cameras until spring of 2022.

In one case, an officer suggested the victim could call the suspect while inside the patrol vehicle, allowing him to hear the suspect's version. This showed a lack of awareness regarding the need for an appropriate interview environment, suggested disbelief in the victim's account, was rushed, and would jeopardize the case since proper procedures for a one-party consent call wouldn't have been followed.

Strong Suspect Interviews

The CSTR had difficulty accessing suspect interview practices in relation to SAI-VCERT due to varying methods and availability of documentation (written or video) provided. Less than half the submissions included a suspect interview for review. Of these, some investigations appeared to be incomplete, and more investigative steps could have been pursued.

Departments are encouraged to explore other suspect interviewing training opportunities to complement and deepen the skills of their investigators.

CSTR OUTCOMES

Intimate Partner Sexual Violence

In certain instances, sexual assault has occurred at the hands of the victim's partner amidst a backdrop of domestic violence. Notably, the CSTR discovered that such cases were predominantly addressed and investigated as domestic violence incidents, concentrating on physical aggression and pinpointing an aggressor. Furthermore, investigators frequently depended on Smith Affidavits and/or perjury statements.

It is crucial to understand that the investigation of Intimate Partner Sexual Violence (IPSV) cases is complex and requires equal emphasis on the dynamics of sexual assault. For example, one officer neglected to record the sexual violence, and it wasn't until the court records were examined that it became evident that sexual assault was integral to the victim's experience and a key factor in their decision to report.

Marketing and Awareness

The three departments can significantly improve access to vital information about reporting sexual assault by promoting available resources on their websites. We recommend featuring "Seek, then Speak," created by End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI), as an alternative reporting option for victims, along with a link to their local community sexual assault agency. Implementing these strategies can raise community awareness, empower individuals, and help survivors make informed choices regarding law enforcement reporting.

At the time of the report release, the University of Washington Police Department offers reporting information for other offenses, such as bicycle theft, but lacks specific information for crime victims on their homepage. The LPD website includes details on domestic violence, but lacks information on sexual assault. Similarly, the WWPD does not have any resources regarding sexual assault reporting on its department website.

SEEK
THEN > SPEAK

TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR LPD, UWPD and WWPD

- Maintain an emphasis on training (including the EVAWI courses available for free to all VCERT participants).
- Prioritize assigning SAI-VCERT-trained investigators to adult sexual assault cases.
- Encourage prosecutor attendance in the SAI-VCERT course.
- Conduct regular, formal case debriefs with prosecutors.
- Prioritize suspect interview and report writing training for sexual assault responders.
- Attend SAI-VCERT refresher course opportunities.
- Increase visibility on the website/add Seek then Speak information.
- Participate in/endorse/advertise EVAWI's Start By Believing campaign.
- Encourage all patrol officers to complete PORSA within a year of assignment.
- Educate all department levels – patrol, patrol supervisors, other units investigating crimes against people, and leadership – on trauma-informed interviewing and victim-centered/offender-focused investigations (especially sexually motivated crimes) training opportunities through the WSCJTC SAI program.
- Engage in multi-disciplinary team meetings to further advance sexual assault response for adult victims.
- Conduct a future internal case file review process.

FOR WSCJTC

Reviewer takeaways from the 2024 CSTR include the following recommendations for WSCJTC SAI-VCERT training:

- Adjust case file selection criteria.
- Maintain current training content areas.
- Increase content regarding campus sexual assault.
- Address victim perjury affidavits.
- Increase content on the intersection of DV.
- Create additional training opportunities and resources for suspect interviewing and report writing.
- Regularly offer a SAI-VCERT refresher class.
- Provide opportunities for graduates to conduct additional practice interviews.

LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

After completing our case review, the CSTR team identified three issues the Legislature may wish to consider for possible action.

1. Reinstating a training mandate for patrol officers responding to adult sexual assault victims.

Patrol may be the first point of contact a sexual assault victim has with law enforcement. Equipping patrol with essential information and resources will help them respond in victim-centered, trauma-informed ways that minimize secondary victimizations of victims and support identification and evidence preservation. Often detectives do not have the authority or influence over what training patrol receives. Legislative language in 2023 inadvertently removed this important training requirement. WSCJTC has a 2-hour online training PORSA training already developed that can meet this need.

2. Support the professional development of CSTR and SAI-VCERT cadre to maintain up-to-date, state-of-the-art SME and content knowledge.

Support training opportunities for SAI contractors as identified by the PM that will enhance SAI programing and help maintain subject expertise to run SAI-VCERT courses effectively.

Support attendance at the EVAWI conference and payment of certification fees to maintain Community Resource Model® wellness model trainers and property usage rights.

3. Support Comprehensive Technical Assistance Provision to SAI-VCERT graduates via the SAI program.

Case reviews and discussions with Department leaders have demonstrated the need for establishing robust technical assistance delivery in efforts to further support Washington State LE agencies in implementation of trauma-informed and victim resiliency practices.

WSCJTC SAI PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Course Descriptions

SAI-VCERT

The Sexual Assault Investigations – Victim Centered Engagement and Resiliency Tactics (SAI-VCERT) training at WSCJTC was mandated through RCW 43.101.272, as training for persons investigating adult sexual assault.

SAI-VCERT is designed primarily as a victim interviewing course, and as a mechanism to educate and equip officers to recognize and adapt communications for victims who have been sexually assaulted. The course incorporates End Violence Against Women International's (<https://evawintl.org/>) research-based best practices in interviewing and investigations towards offender accountability.

The SAI-VCERT class is designed to include practice interviews staffed with professional actors portraying sexual assault victims and interview facilitators to guide participants in trauma-informed, victim-centered interview exercises. Additionally, it is delivered by a multi-disciplinary team comprised of experienced law enforcement investigators, therapists, advocates, a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), a civil attorney, and prosecutors, which is consistent with the collaborative investigative approach taught in the course. Instructors, facilitators, and actors are trained in the Trauma Resource Institute's Community Resiliency Model® wellness skills included to bolster training team, officer engagement, awareness, and capacity, as well as increase victim well-being, endurance, and recall as they provide information about the assault.

Post-VCERT EVAWI Courses

WSCJTC contracted with EVAWI to make all of their online trainings and webinars available to officers who have completed the SAI-VCERT training. Examples of courses offered by EVAWI include webinars such as “Effective Victim Interviewing,” “Ten Steps to Consider When Conducting a Sexual Assault Investigation,” “Traditional Law Enforcement Interrogation Methods Versus the Trauma-Informed Interviewing Process,” and “Stalking: Slow Motion Homicide.” These trainings are available at <https://evawintl.org/>.

Departments were reminded of free access to EVAWI courses during case review debrief.

SAI- Patrol Officer Response to Sexual Assaults (PORSa)

This is a 2-hour online training offered in Acadis, WSCJTC’s online training platform, which includes knowledge checks to assess and emphasize key concepts. Located under SAI, PORSa provides an overview of materials from the SAI-VCERT course, covering trauma and its impacts and multi-disciplinary team perspectives on working with victims, evidence collection, and conducting investigations on sexual assault reporting.

Although this course is not currently mandated, departments are strongly encouraged to assign it to patrol officers due to their interactions with sexual assault victims and the importance of aligning best practices with VCERT-trained investigators. Completing this course counts toward two of the annual 24-hour training requirements for Washington peace officers. All three departments are encouraged to prioritize having patrol officers take the PORSa online class.



BLEA Sex Crimes

In July 2024, the PM updated the trauma response and sex crime investigations class blocks taught to police recruits during the Basic academy. The training materials introduce recruits to the SAI-VCERT interview model, emphasizing trauma-informed interactions.

Advanced Training Course

The SAI program has developed a suspect interviewing course based on sexual assault case scenario. This class includes an overview of trauma-informed interviewing for victims and witnesses but mainly focuses on interviewing suspects. As with the SAI-VCERT course, this training provides participants with the opportunity to interview live actors who portray suspects in a sexual assault case. The classes are resource-intensive and costly. Additional funding from the legislature would help support offering meaningful ongoing learning opportunities.



CONCLUSION

The SAI program at WSCJTC has broadened its initiatives, successfully training 123 individuals in the past fiscal year.

The 2024 CSTR could not evaluate the impact of SAI-VCERT training on interview practices, as 86% of the cases reviewed did not include officers who had undergone SAI-VCERT training prior to the investigation.

For the 2025 CSTR, WSCJTC plans to revise its selection criteria by ensuring that at least 50% of cases are handled by investigators trained in SAI-VCERT.

Implementing a trauma-informed approach in law enforcement can greatly impact how victims report incidents, enhance their memory recall, improve case outcomes, and positively affect the public's perception of the profession. Department leaders should promote professional development, establish clear expectations for officers, and specific accountability and evaluation measures for their response efforts.

With fully trained investigative teams, LPD and WWPD are expected to show greater consistency and adherence to best practices in future interviews. It is vital to foster both individual and organizational commitments to these practices to support implementation.

The actions of patrol officers can greatly influence case outcomes, making specialized patrol training crucial. Negative responses highlighted the urgent need for this training.

The ongoing need for training and technical assistance to improve comprehensive sexual assault responses throughout the state is clear. Legislative measures, such as funding for technical assistance and professional development opportunities, will bolster the SAI program, allowing it to operate effectively and deepen its impact.



2024

ATTACHMENTS

1. CSTR Notification Letter to the Lakewood Police Department, dated 6.12.2024
2. CSTR Notification Letter to the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office, dated 6.12.2024
3. CSTR Notification Letter to the University of Washington Police Department, dated 6.12.2024
4. CSTR Notification Letter to the King County Prosecutor's Office, dated 6.12.2024
5. CSTR Notification Letter to the Walla Walla Police Department, dated 6.12.2024
6. CSTR Notification Letter to the Walla Walla County Prosecutor's Office, dated 6.12.2024
7. Case Review Checklist Form Lakewood
8. Case Review Checklist Form University of Washington
9. Case Review Checklist Walla Walla
10. CSTR Team Agreement 2024
11. Case Review Checklist
12. Case Review Outcomes Summary Form
13. Detective Survey Questions
14. Prosecutor Survey Questions
15. Advocate Survey Questions

ATTACHMENT 1



WASHINGTON STATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION

Monica A. Alexander, Executive Director

19010 1st Avenue South • Burien, WA 98148 • Phone: 206-835-7300 • www.cjtc.wa.gov

June 12, 2024

LAKEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Patrick Smith
9401 Lakewood Drive SW
Lakewood, WA 98499

Dear Chief Smith,

This letter is to notify you that the Lakewood Police Department and the Pierce Prosecuting Attorney's Office have been selected for the 2024 Case Systems Training Review project mandated under [House Bill 1109](#). The project is conducted by the Sexual Assault Investigations (SAI) training program within the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC). The purpose of the review is to assess officer applications of trauma-informed, victim-centered interviewing practices as prescribed in the training and to identify training gaps or enhancements that may be applied.

The SAI-Victim-Centered Engagement and Resiliency Tactics (VCERT) course is mandated under [RCW 43.101.272](#) for officers assigned to regularly investigate sexual assault and other gender-based violence involving adult victims. It is also mandated for the highest-ranking supervisors and commanders overseeing these investigations. Training should be completed within a year of assignment. Our records indicate that since 2018, 11 Lakewood Police Department officers have attended VCERT.

For the case review process, we request that pre-identified **closed case files be made available for our review on or before July 29, 2024**. Included with this letter is list of documents being sought from your department and the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for review. Please designate a point of contact within your department for case review coordination purposes. We also request participation of a supervisor familiar with the content and outcome of these cases.

Case Systems Training Review results will be included in a December report to the Governor's Office. We've attached our 2023 report for your information and reference. Specific cases will not be identified in the report as it centers around revisions to the WSCJTC training. Any review results by the training team will be verbally briefed to the respective department prior to inclusion, **please hold August 29, 2024**, for this purpose.

Please provide your point of contact information and direct any questions to SAI Program Manager, Andrea Piper-Wentland at (425) 766-1993 or andrea.piper.wentland@cjtc.wa.gov.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this request and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica A. Alexander".

Monica A. Alexander
Executive Director

Enclosures

- (1) WSCJTC Case Systems Training Review Requested Documents List
- (2) Case Systems Training Review, December 1, 2023

cc: Mary Robnett, Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney
Jeanette Blackwell, Gender Based Violence Division Manager
Sharon Swanson, Accountability Bureau Director
Andrea Piper-Wentland, Sexual Assault Investigations Program Manager

TRAINING THE GUARDIANS OF DEMOCRACY

ATTACHMENT 2



WASHINGTON STATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION

Monica A. Alexander, Executive Director

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June 12, 2024

PIERCE COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Prosecuting Attorney Mary Robnett
930 Tacoma Ave Room 946
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Prosecutor Robnett:

This letter is to notify you that the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, along with the Lakewood Police Department have been selected for the 2024 Case Systems Training Review project mandated under [House Bill 1109](#). The project is conducted by the Sexual Assault Investigations (SAI) training program within the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC). The purpose of the review is to assess officer applications of trauma-informed, victim-centered interviewing practices as prescribed in the training and to identify training gaps or enhancements that may be applied.

The SAI-Victim-Centered Engagement and Resiliency Tactics (VCERT) course is mandated under [RCW 43.101.272](#) for officers assigned to regularly investigate sexual assault and other gender-based violence involving adult victims. It is also mandated for the highest-ranking supervisors and commanders overseeing these investigations. Training should be completed within a year of assignment. Our records indicate that since 2018, 11 Lakewood Police Department officers have attended VCERT.

For the case review process, we request that pre-identified closed case files be made available for our review **on or before July 29, 2024**. Included with this letter is list of documents being sought from your office and the Lakewood Police Department for review. Please designate a point of contact within your agency for case review coordination purposes. We also request participation of a staff member or prosecutor familiar with the content and outcome of these cases.

Case Systems Training Review results will be included in a December report to the Governor's Office. We have attached our 2023 report for your information and reference. Specific cases will not be identified in the report as it centers around revisions to the WSCJTC training. Any review results by the training team will be verbally briefed to the respective department prior to inclusion, **please hold August 29, 2024**, for this purpose.

Please provide your point of contact information and direct any questions to SAI Program Manager, Andrea Piper-Wentland at (425) 766-1993 or andrea.piper.wentland@cjtc.wa.gov.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this request and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monica A. Alexander".

Monica A. Alexander
Executive Director

Enclosures

- (1) WSCJTC Case Systems Training Requested Documents List
- (2) Case Systems Training Review report, December 1, 2023

cc: Chief Patrick Smith, Lakewood Police Department
Jeanette Blackwell, Gender Based Violence Division Manager
Sharon Swanson, Accountability Bureau Assistant Director
Andrea Piper-Wentland, Sexual Assault Investigations Program Manager

TRAINING THE GUARDIANS OF DEMOCRACY

ATTACHMENT 3



WASHINGTON STATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION

Monica A. Alexander, Executive Director

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June 12, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Craig Wilson
3939 15th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98105

Dear Chief Wilson:

This letter is to notify you that the University of Washington Police Department, and the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office has been selected for the 2024 Case Systems Training Review project mandated under [House Bill 1109](#). The project is conducted by the Sexual Assault Investigations (SAI) Training Program within the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC). The purpose of the review is to assess officer applications of trauma-informed, victim-centered interviewing practices as prescribed in the training and to identify training gaps or enhancements that may be applied.

The SAI-Victim-Centered Engagement and Resiliency Tactics (VCERT) course is mandated under [RCW 43.101.272](#) for officers assigned to regularly investigate sexual assault and other gender-based violence involving adult victims. It is also mandated for the highest-ranking supervisors and commanders overseeing these investigations. Training should be completed within a year of assignment. Our records indicate that since 2018, 2 UW Police Department officers have attended VCERT.

For the case review process, we request that pre-identified **closed case files be made available for our review on or before July 29, 2024**. Included with this letter is list of documents being sought from your department and the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for review. Please designate a point of contact within your department for case review coordination purposes. We also request participation of a supervisor familiar with the content and outcome of these cases.

Case Systems Training Review results will be included in a December report to the Governor's Office. We have attached our 2023 report for your information and reference. Specific cases will not be identified in the report as it centers around revisions to the WSCJTC training. Any review results by the training team will be verbally briefed to the respective department prior to inclusion, **please hold August 29, 2024**, for this purpose.

Please provide your point of contact information and direct any questions to SAI Program Manager, Andrea Piper-Wentland at (425) 766-1993 or andrea.piper.wentland@cjtc.wa.gov.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this request and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Alexander".

Monica A. Alexander
Executive Director

Enclosures

- (1) WSCJTC Case Systems Training Review Requested Documents List
- (2) Case Systems Training Review, December 1, 2023

cc: Leesa Manion, King County Prosecuting Attorney
Jeanette Blackwell, Gender Based Violence Division Manager
Sharon Swanson, Accountability Bureau Director
Andrea Piper-Wentland, Sexual Assault Investigations Program Manager

TRAINING THE GUARDIANS OF DEMOCRACY

ATTACHMENT 4



WASHINGTON STATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION

Monica A. Alexander, Executive Director

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June 12, 2024

KING COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Prosecuting Attorney Lessa Manion
516 Third Ave W400
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Prosecutor Manion:

This letter is to notify you that the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, along with the University of Washington Police Department has been selected for the 2024 Case Systems Training Review project mandated under [House Bill 1109](#). The project is conducted by the Sexual Assault Investigations (SAI) training program within the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC). The purpose of the review is to assess officer applications of trauma-informed, victim-centered interviewing practices as prescribed in the training and to identify training gaps or enhancements that may be applied.

The SAI-Victim-Centered Engagement and Resiliency Tactics (VCERT) course is mandated under [RCW 43.101.272](#) for officers assigned to regularly investigate sexual assault and other gender-based violence involving adult victims. It is also mandated for the highest-ranking supervisors and commanders overseeing these investigations. Training should be completed within a year of assignment. Our records indicate that since 2018, 2 University of Washington Department officers have attended VCERT.

For the case review process, we request that pre-identified closed case files be made available for our review **on or before July 29, 2024**. Included with this letter is list of documents being sought from your office and the University of Washington Police Department for review. Please designate a point of contact within your agency for case review coordination purposes. We also request participation of a staff member or prosecutor familiar with the content and outcome of these cases.

Case Systems Training Review results will be included in a December report to the Governor's Office. We have attached our 2023 report for your information and reference. Specific cases will not be identified in the report as it centers around revisions to the WSCJTC training. Any review results by the training team will be verbally briefed to the respective department prior to inclusion, **please hold August 29, 2024**, for this purpose.

Please provide your point of contact information and direct any questions to SAI Program Manager, Andrea Piper-Wentland at (425) 766-1993 or andrea.piper.wentland@cjtc.wa.gov.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this request and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monica A. Alexander".

Monica A. Alexander
Executive Director

Enclosures

- (1) WSCJTC Case Systems Training Requested Documents List
- (2) Case Systems Training Review report, December 1, 2023

cc: Chief Patrick Smith, Lakewood Police Department
Jeanette Blackwell, Gender Based Violence Division Manager
Sharon Swanson, Accountability Bureau Assistant Director
Andrea Piper-Wentland, Sexual Assault Investigations Program Manager

TRAINING THE GUARDIANS OF DEMOCRACY

ATTACHMENT 5



WASHINGTON STATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION

Monica A. Alexander, Executive Director

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June 12, 2024

WALLA WALLA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Chris Buttice
54. E. Moore St
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Dear Chief Buttice,

This letter is to notify you that the Walla Walla Police Department, along with the Walla Walla Prosecuting Attorney's Office has been selected for the 2024 Case Systems Training Review project mandated under [House Bill 1109](#). The project is conducted by the Sexual Assault Investigations (SAI) training program within the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC). The purpose of the review is to assess officer applications of trauma-informed, victim-centered interviewing practices as prescribed in the training and to identify training gaps or enhancements that may be applied.

The SAI-Victim-Centered Engagement and Resiliency Tactics (VCERT) course is mandated under [RCW 43.101.272](#) for officers assigned to regularly investigate sexual assault and other gender-based violence involving adult victims. It is also mandated for the highest-ranking supervisors and commanders overseeing these investigations. Training should be completed within a year of assignment. Our records indicate that since 2018, 4 Walla Walla Police Department officers have attended VCERT.

For the case review process, we request that pre-identified **closed case files be made available for our review on or before July 29, 2024**. Included with this letter is list of documents being sought from your department and the Walla Walla County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for review. Please designate a point of contact within your department for case review coordination purposes. We also request participation of a supervisor familiar with the content and outcome of these cases.

Case Systems Training Review results will be included in a December report to the Governor's Office. We've attached our 2023 report for your information and reference. Specific cases will not be identified in the report as it centers around revisions to the WSCJTC training. Any review results by the training team will be verbally briefed to the respective department prior to inclusion, **please hold August 29, 2024**, for this purpose.

Please provide your point of contact information and direct any questions to SAI Program Manager, Andrea Piper-Wentland at (425) 766-1993 or andrea.piper.wentland@cjtc.wa.gov.

Thank-you in advance for your attention to this request and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Alexander".

Monica A. Alexander
Executive Director

Enclosures

- (1) WSCJTC Case Systems Training Review Requested Documents List
- (2) Case Systems Training Review, December 1, 2023

cc: Gabriel E. Acosta, Walla Walla County Prosecuting Attorney
Jeanette Blackwell, Gender Based Violence Division Manager
Sharon Swanson, Accountability Bureau Assistant Director
Andrea Piper-Wentland, Sexual Assault Investigations Program Manager

TRAINING THE GUARDIANS OF DEMOCRACY

ATTACHMENT 6



WASHINGTON STATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION

Monica A. Alexander, Executive Director

19010 1st Avenue South • Burien, WA 98148 • Phone: 206-835-7300 • www.cjtc.wa.gov

June 12, 2024

WALLA WALLA PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

Prosecuting Attorney Gabriel Acosta
240 W. Alder Street, Suite 201
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Dear Prosecutor Acosta:

This letter is to notify you that the Walla Walla Prosecuting Attorney's Office, along with the Walla Walla Police Department has been selected for the 2024 Case Systems Training Review project mandated under [House Bill 1109](#). The project is conducted by the Sexual Assault Investigations (SAI) training program within the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC). The purpose of the review is to assess officer applications of trauma-informed, victim-centered interviewing practices as prescribed in the training and to identify training gaps or enhancements that may be applied.

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For the case review process, we request that pre-identified closed case files be made available for our review **on or before July 29, 2024**. Included with this letter is list of documents being sought from your office and the Walla Walla Police Department for review. Please designate a point of contact within your agency for case review coordination purposes. We also request participation of a staff member or prosecutor familiar with the content and outcome of these cases.

Case Systems Training Review results will be included in a December report to the Governor's Office. We have attached our 2023 report for your information and reference. Specific cases will not be identified in the report as it centers around revisions to the WSCJTC training. Any review results by the training team will be verbally briefed to the respective department prior to inclusion, **please hold August 29, 2024**, for this purpose.

Please provide your point of contact information and direct any questions to SAI Program Manager, Andrea Piper-Wentland at (425) 766-1993 or andrea.piper.wentland@cjtc.wa.gov.

Thank-you in advance for your attention to this request and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Alexander".

Monica A. Alexander
Executive Director

Enclosures

- (1) WSCJTC Case Systems Training Requested Documents List
- (2) Case Systems Training Review report, December 1, 2023

cc: Chief Chris Buttice, Walla Walla Police Department
Jeanette Blackwell, Gender Based Violence Division Manager
Sharon Swanson, Accountability Bureau Director
Andrea Piper-Wentland, Sexual Assault Investigations Program Manager

TRAINING THE GUARDIANS OF DEMOCRACY

ATTACHMENT 7

WSCJTC Case Systems Training Review Requested Documents List

Select and submit a total of five closed sexual assault cases involving adult victims with varying prosecution outcomes (declined – prosecuted) from June 1, 2020, to June 1, 2024. If possible, include a mix of cases investigated by officers who have and have not attended the SAI-VCERT course. Once these cases have been mutually agreed upon, the Lakewood Police Department and/or the Pierce County Attorney's Office is requested to upload the listed documents contained in each case file and/or report (a secure link will be provided). Organize request materials according to the below categories:

1. Interview recordings
2. Investigative reports
3. Evidence
4. Miscellaneous

Law Enforcement Document List

1. A listing of the total number of adult sexual assault and/or rapes reported to the department and their investigative outcomes in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and Jan- June 1, 2024.
2. Documentation of the race and/or ethnicity of victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
3. Documentation of age of the victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
4. Documentation indicating if the case involved a stranger assailant or non-stranger assailant;
5. Documentation whether voluntary or involuntary alcohol/drug facilitation was involved;
6. Documentation of advocate(s) contacted and utilized during interviews with the victim;
7. Written (notes and transcripts) and recorded documentation of interviews with victim(s), witnesses, and suspect(s);
8. Documentation of all evidence gathered, including physical evidence, digital evidence from social media, texts, and any communication between the victim(s) and witnesses, friends, family members, and suspect(s), etc.;
9. Documentation regarding testing and results from victim's sexual assault kit;
10. Documentation regarding 911 call evidence;
11. Results of crime lab testing (if any) of items belonging to suspect(s) and/or victim(s);
12. Documentation of suspect's criminal history, including any known prior arrests and prior protection orders;
13. Investigator's detailed documentation of the disposition of the case, including arrest, communications with victim wishing not to move forward, recantation, referral to prosecutors, etc.;

ATTACHMENT 9

WSCJTC Case Systems Training Review Requested Documents List

Select and submit a total of five closed sexual assault cases involving adult victims with varying prosecution outcomes (declined – prosecuted) from June 1, 2020, to June 1, 2024. If possible, include a mix of cases investigated by officers who have and have not attended the SAI-VCERT course. Once these cases have been mutually agreed upon, the Lakewood Police Department and/or the Pierce County Attorney's Office is requested to upload the listed documents contained in each case file and/or report (a secure link will be provided). Organize request materials according to the below categories:

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3. Documentation of age of the victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
4. Documentation indicating if the case involved a stranger assailant or non-stranger assailant;
5. Documentation whether voluntary or involuntary alcohol/drug facilitation was involved;
6. Documentation of advocate(s) contacted and utilized during interviews with the victim;
7. Written (notes and transcripts) and recorded documentation of interviews with victim(s), witnesses, and suspect(s);
8. Documentation of all evidence gathered, including physical evidence, digital evidence from social media, texts, and any communication between the victim(s) and witnesses, friends, family members, and suspect(s), etc.;
9. Documentation regarding testing and results from victim's sexual assault kit;
10. Documentation regarding 911 call evidence;
11. Results of crime lab testing (if any) of items belonging to suspect(s) and/or victim(s);
12. Documentation of suspect's criminal history, including any known prior arrests and prior protection orders;
13. Investigator's detailed documentation of the disposition of the case, including arrest, communications with victim wishing not to move forward, recantation, referral to prosecutors, etc.;

ATTACHMENT 9

WSCJTC Case Systems Training Review Requested Documents List

Select and submit a total of five closed sexual assault cases involving adult victims with varying prosecution outcomes (declined – prosecuted) from June 1, 2020, to June 1, 2024. If possible, include a mix of cases investigated by officers who have and have not attended the SAI-VCERT course. Once these cases have been mutually agreed upon, the Lakewood Police Department and/or the Pierce County Attorney's Office is requested to upload the listed documents contained in each case file and/or report (a secure link will be provided). Organize request materials according to the below categories:

1. Interview recordings
2. Investigative reports
3. Evidence
4. Miscellaneous

Law Enforcement Document List

1. A listing of the total number of adult sexual assault and/or rapes reported to the department and their investigative outcomes in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and Jan- June 1, 2024.
2. Documentation of the race and/or ethnicity of victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
3. Documentation of age of the victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
4. Documentation indicating if the case involved a stranger assailant or non-stranger assailant;
5. Documentation whether voluntary or involuntary alcohol/drug facilitation was involved;
6. Documentation of advocate(s) contacted and utilized during interviews with the victim;
7. Written (notes and transcripts) and recorded documentation of interviews with victim(s), witnesses, and suspect(s);
8. Documentation of all evidence gathered, including physical evidence, digital evidence from social media, texts, and any communication between the victim(s) and witnesses, friends, family members, and suspect(s), etc.;
9. Documentation regarding testing and results from victim's sexual assault kit;
10. Documentation regarding 911 call evidence;
11. Results of crime lab testing (if any) of items belonging to suspect(s) and/or victim(s);
12. Documentation of suspect's criminal history, including any known prior arrests and prior protection orders;
13. Investigator's detailed documentation of the disposition of the case, including arrest, communications with victim wishing not to move forward, recantation, referral to prosecutors, etc.;

ATTACHMENT 7

14. Documentation of communication with prosecutors, reasons for the referral of the case to prosecutors, the recommendation regarding the charge(s) for the suspect, etc.;
15. Documentation of coding of the case, especially documentation indicating the case was closed by exceptional clearance;
16. Documentation and explanation if the case was referred to the City Attorney's Office;

Prosecutorial Document List

1. Documentation of the race and/or ethnicity of victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
2. Documentation of age of the victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
3. Documentation of indicating if the case involved a stranger assailant or a non-stranger assailant, and/or whether it involved voluntary or involuntary alcohol/drug facilitation;
4. Documentation of all information relied on/reviewed by prosecutor in making charging decision, including but not limited to:
 - a. Documentation of all written (notes and transcripts) and recorded interviews with the victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
 - b. Documentation of past criminal history and/or cases against the suspect/defendant;
 - c. Documentation regarding testing and results from victim's sexual assault kit;
 - d. Documentation of SANE notes and/or any other medical records obtained;
 - e. Documentation regarding any searches conducted;
 - f. Documentation of results of Crime Lab testing, if any.
5. Documentation of all communication with the victim;
6. Documentation of any existing or past protection orders involving the suspect and/or victim;
7. Documentation of the disposition/current status of the case and reasons for the specific disposition;
8. Documentation and explanation for a declination or plea agreement, including whether voluntary or involuntary use of drugs and/or alcohol was a factor;
9. If charges were filed, copies of all original and amended charging documents
10. Documentation of results of a jury trial (i.e., conviction, acquittal, hung jury);
11. If there was a conviction as a result of a guilty plea or trial, copies of:
 - a. Judgement and sentence;
 - b. Pre-sentencing report;
 - c. Victim impact statement.

ATTACHMENT 8

WSCJTC Case Systems Training Review Requested Documents List

Select and submit a total of five closed sexual assault cases involving adult victims with varying prosecution outcomes (declined – prosecuted) from June 1, 2020, to June 1, 2024. If possible, include a mix of cases investigated by officers who have and have not attended the SAI-VCERT course. Once these cases have been mutually agreed upon, the University of Washington Police Department and/or the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office is requested to upload the listed documents contained in each case file and/or report (a secure link will be provided). Organize request materials according to the below categories:

1. Interview recordings
2. Investigative reports
3. Evidence
4. Miscellaneous

Law Enforcement Document List

1. A listing of the total number of adult sexual assault and/or rapes reported to the department and their investigative outcomes in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and Jan- June 1, 2024.
2. Documentation of the race and/or ethnicity of victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
3. Documentation of age of the victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
4. Documentation indicating if the case involved a stranger assailant or non-stranger assailant;
5. Documentation whether voluntary or involuntary alcohol/drug facilitation was involved;
6. Documentation of advocate(s) contacted and utilized during interviews with the victim;
7. Written (notes and transcripts) and recorded documentation of interviews with victim(s), witnesses, and suspect(s);
8. Documentation of all evidence gathered, including physical evidence, digital evidence from social media, texts, and any communication between the victim(s) and witnesses, friends, family members, and suspect(s), etc.;
9. Documentation regarding testing and results from victim's sexual assault kit;
10. Documentation regarding 911 call evidence;
11. Results of crime lab testing (if any) of items belonging to suspect(s) and/or victim(s);
12. Documentation of suspect's criminal history, including any known prior arrests and prior protection orders;
13. Investigator's detailed documentation of the disposition of the case, including arrest, communications with victim wishing not to move forward, recantation, referral to prosecutors, etc.;

ATTACHMENT 8

14. Documentation of communication with prosecutors, reasons for the referral of the case to prosecutors, the recommendation regarding the charge(s) for the suspect, etc.;
15. Documentation of coding of the case, especially documentation indicating the case was closed by exceptional clearance;
16. Documentation and explanation if the case was referred to the City Attorney's Office;

Prosecutor Document List

1. Documentation of the race and/or ethnicity of victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
2. Documentation of age of the victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
3. Documentation of indicating if the case involved a stranger assailant or a non-stranger assailant, and/or whether it involved voluntary or involuntary alcohol/drug facilitation;
4. Documentation of all information relied on/reviewed by prosecutor in making charging decision, including but not limited to:
 - a. Documentation of all written (notes and transcripts) and recorded interviews with the victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
 - b. Documentation of past criminal history and/or cases against the suspect/defendant;
 - c. Documentation regarding testing and results from victim's sexual assault kit;
 - d. Documentation of SANE notes and/or any other medical records obtained;
 - e. Documentation regarding any searches conducted;
 - f. Documentation of results of Crime Lab testing, if any.
5. Documentation of all communication with the victim;
6. Documentation of any existing or past protection orders involving the suspect and/or victim;
7. Documentation of the disposition/current status of the case and reasons for the specific disposition;
8. Documentation and explanation for a declination or plea agreement, including whether voluntary or involuntary use of drugs and/or alcohol was a factor;
9. If charges were filed, copies of all original and amended charging documents
10. Documentation of results of a jury trial (i.e., conviction, acquittal, hung jury);
11. If there was a conviction as a result of a guilty plea or trial, copies of:
 - a. Judgement and sentence;
 - b. Pre-sentencing report;
 - c. Victim impact statement.

ATTACHMENT 9

WSCJTC Case Systems Training Review Requested Documents List

Select and submit a total of five closed sexual assault cases involving adult victims with varying prosecution outcomes (declined – prosecuted) from June 1, 2020, to June 1, 2024. If possible, include a mix of cases investigated by officers who have and have not attended the SAI-VCERT course. Once these cases have been mutually agreed upon, the Walla Walla Police Department and/or the Walla Walla Prosecuting Attorney's Office is requested to upload the listed documents contained in each case file and/or report (a secure link will be provided). Organize request materials according to the below categories:

1. Interview recordings
2. Investigative reports
3. Evidence
4. Miscellaneous

Law Enforcement Document List

1. A listing of the total number of adult sexual assault and/or rapes reported to the department and their investigative outcomes in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and Jan- June 1, 2024.
2. Documentation of the race and/or ethnicity of victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
3. Documentation of age of the victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
4. Documentation indicating if the case involved a stranger assailant or non-stranger assailant;
5. Documentation whether voluntary or involuntary alcohol/drug facilitation was involved;
6. Documentation of advocate(s) contacted and utilized during interviews with the victim;
7. Written (notes and transcripts) and recorded documentation of interviews with victim(s), witnesses, and suspect(s);
8. Documentation of all evidence gathered, including physical evidence, digital evidence from social media, texts, and any communication between the victim(s) and witnesses, friends, family members, and suspect(s), etc.;
9. Documentation regarding testing and results from victim's sexual assault kit;
10. Documentation regarding 911 call evidence;
11. Results of crime lab testing (if any) of items belonging to suspect(s) and/or victim(s);
12. Documentation of suspect's criminal history, including any known prior arrests and prior protection orders;
13. Investigator's detailed documentation of the disposition of the case, including arrest, communications with victim wishing not to move forward, recantation, referral to prosecutors, etc.;

ATTACHMENT 9

14. Documentation of communication with prosecutors, reasons for the referral of the case to prosecutors, the recommendation regarding the charge(s) for the suspect, etc.;
15. Documentation of coding of the case, especially documentation indicating the case was closed by exceptional clearance;
16. Documentation and explanation if the case was referred to the City Attorney's Office;

Prosecutorial Document List

1. Documentation of the race and/or ethnicity of victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
2. Documentation of age of the victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
3. Documentation of indicating if the case involved a stranger assailant or a non-stranger assailant, and/or whether it involved voluntary or involuntary alcohol/drug facilitation;
4. Documentation of all information relied on/reviewed by prosecutor in making charging decision, including but not limited to:
 - a. Documentation of all written (notes and transcripts) and recorded interviews with the victim, witnesses, and suspect(s);
 - b. Documentation of past criminal history and/or cases against the suspect/defendant;
 - c. Documentation regarding testing and results from victim's sexual assault kit;
 - d. Documentation of SANE notes and/or any other medical records obtained;
 - e. Documentation regarding any searches conducted;
 - f. Documentation of results of Crime Lab testing, if any.
5. Documentation of all communication with the victim;
6. Documentation of any existing or past protection orders involving the suspect and/or victim;
7. Documentation of the disposition/current status of the case and reasons for the specific disposition;
8. Documentation and explanation for a declination or plea agreement, including whether voluntary or involuntary use of drugs and/or alcohol was a factor;
9. If charges were filed, copies of all original and amended charging documents
10. Documentation of results of a jury trial (i.e., conviction, acquittal, hung jury);
11. If there was a conviction as a result of a guilty plea or trial, copies of:
 - a. Judgement and sentence;
 - b. Pre-sentencing report;
 - c. Victim impact statement.

ATTACHMENT 10



Sexual Assault Investigations Program,
Case Systems Training Review

Team Agreement Form

The Case Systems Training Review Project is an annual project of the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) mandated under RCW 43.101.278. The purpose of conducting case reviews is to measure the effectiveness of the SAI-VCERT course, and to identify other training needs including advanced training for sexual assault investigators. The Sexual Assault Investigations (SAI) program at the WSCJTC leads the process and conducts the review in collaboration with select subject matter experts and members of the SAI-Victim-Centered Engagement and Resiliency Tactics (VCERT) training team.

Police departments selected for the 2024 Case Review Process include Lakewood, University of Washington, and Walla Walla. Members of the team will be accessing and reviewing actual recent, closed cases to assess the effectiveness of the VCERT course, as well as the development of additional training. To ensure the integrity of the process, respect the role of individual agency employees, and to protect the privacy of community residents, all case file review team members agree to the following:

1. The material collected and distributed to team members is intended only for use in conducting this case file review and to inform project staff and training stakeholders (with WSCJTC authorization) about noted themes in current response practices.
2. Team members will have access to case files and file information only for the purposes of the case review. At the end of the review, all written materials with case information will be turned into Andrea Piper-Wentland.
3. Specific case information should not be discussed outside of the review project.
4. While careful work has been done to protect the identities of the parties involved in each case as well as those of responders, the nature of the documents remains sensitive. Any discussion of case file content will happen only in the context of the case file review process and only in the presence of team members who have agreed to this confidentiality statement. Additionally, should identities become known, review team members will not identify or discuss any individuals involved in any case materials, except as necessary within review team meetings.
5. Team members are not authorized to release or discuss any details of the review or case information to anyone outside of the review team or VCERT training team, except through coordination with the SAI program at WSCJTC and as agreed to through the release of findings and recommendations.

Team member signature: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

ATTACHMENT 11



Sexual Assault Investigations Program
Review Team Members Only

Case Review Checklist

Observation Form

- Case ID Number: Click or tap here to enter text.
- Reviewer(s): Click or tap here to enter text.
- Investigator: Click or tap here to enter text.
- Department: Click or tap here to enter text.
- Case Open Date: Click or tap to enter a date.
- Case Closed Date: Click or tap to enter a date.
- Attended SAI-VCERT: Yes No
Date: Click or tap to enter a date.
- Advocate Org: Click or tap here to enter text.
- Others Involved (name/org): Click or tap here to enter text.

Case Synopsis

- Suspect Name: Click or tap here to enter text.
- Victim Name: Click or tap here to enter text.
- Key Facts: Click or tap here to enter text.

Initial Response

1.	Name/role of initial responder: Name: Click or tap here to enter text. Role: Click or tap here to enter text.			
	Yes	No	Unk/NA	
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did initial responder conduct the full investigation?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was the case referred to a Detective for investigation?



4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Were advocacy services offered and explained?
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Were advocacy services utilized?
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was a SANE exam offered and explained?
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was a SANE exam administered?
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coordination within dept./with outside resources as applicable. Describe:
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Report includes victim's words/language? (use any quotes?)
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete, thorough documentation in case file.
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crime scene secured; proper evidence collected.
12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the case involve the voluntary use of drugs/alcohol by the victim?
13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the case involve the involuntary use of drugs/alcohol by the victim?
14.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was the victim's race and/or ethnicity identified in the case file?
15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was the victim's age noted in the case file?
16.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was the victim's gender identified in the case file?
17.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was an interpreter needed/used?



Initial Response Comments:

#1.
#2.
#3.
#4.
#5.
#6.

B. Report Writing Analysis- FIRST RESPONDER ONLY

	Yes	No	Unk/NA	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the officer write a detailed incident report that includes a narrative provided by the victim that conveys the trauma of rape?
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the officer include as many details about the rape as possible, such as the victim's fears and thoughts and what they heard, saw, smelled, tasted, etc.?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the officer focus on the victim's experience and vulnerability?
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the victim receive support throughout the entire criminal justice process from law enforcement, prosecutors, and advocates?
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the officer minimize the number of irrelevant and nonfactual statements and observations, especially about the victim, that do not contribute to understanding the victims' experience?
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the officer emphasize the psychological impact on the victim?
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the officer use factually unsupported signaling statements in the incident report?
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the officer handle sensitive information with care?



9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was the case transferred timely to a Detective?
----	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	---

Report Writing Comments:

- #1.
- #2
- #3
- #4
- #5
- #6
- #7
- #8
- #9

Additional Observations



#7
#8
#9
#10
#11
#12
#13
#14
#15
#16
#17

Additional Observations

<p>Did the case involve a stranger or non-stranger assailant? <input type="checkbox"/> Stranger <input type="checkbox"/> Non-stranger</p> <p>Was the case appropriately coded in the case file? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If 'yes', was the case coded as:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> with an arrest</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> unfounded, or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> with an exceptional clearance designation?</p>

A. Victim In-depth Interview

	Yes	No	Unk/NA	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Used trauma-informed* practices. (*See Case Review Guide, page #)
2.	If no or unknown re: trauma-informed practices:			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the investigator ask questions that were focused on victim-blaming and/or reflecting more concern for the accused than the victim?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the investigator ask questions demonstrating disbelief or misunderstanding of victim behavior?



3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Report uses victim's words/language?
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Report captures the full context of the crime in language of non-consensual sex?
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Context of force, threat, or fear victim experienced is well documented in interview, if applicable?
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete, thorough documentation of victim interview?
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If recantation occurred, what were the circumstances?
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was a recording of the victim's interview(s) provided for the review?
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the case strongly rely on information/evidence from the victim?



Victim In-Depth Interview Comments:

- #1.
- #2
- #3
- #4
- #5
- #6
- #7
- #8
- #9

Additional Observations re: Victim Interview

- Did the investigator use non-leading questions and other open-ended prompts?
 Yes No
- Did the investigator provide encouragement of narrative responses and active generation of information by the victim, not just passive responses to investigator questions?
 Yes No
- Did the investigator pause to allow the victim time to digest a question and think about how to respond, without being rushed or interrupted?
 Yes No
- Did the investigator focus on what the victim could recall thinking and feeling throughout the experience?
 Yes No
- Did the investigator provide consistent expressions of patience, empathy, and understanding?
 Yes No
- Did the investigator explain to the victim that there was no necessity for information to be provided in a sequential or "logical" order?
 Yes No
- Did the investigator instruct the victim not to guess at any answers, and to say "I don't know" or "I don't remember" when needed?
 Yes No



- Did the investigator not ask the victim “why” questions, but replaced and reframed questions to help understand the victim’s experiences and responses?
 Yes No
- Did the investigator explain to the victim that they may recall additional information as time passes?
 Yes No
- Did the investigator listen to the victim’s account without assumptions or bias?
 Yes No
- Did the investigator ask if there was something else they did not ask that the victim would like to share?
 Yes No

B. Suspect Interview

	Yes	No	Unk/NA	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Suspect interview attempted/accomplished (circle)?
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was a recording of the suspect’s interview(s) provided for the review?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Report uses suspect’s language as appropriate?
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elements of ‘voluntariness’ of statement highlighted (or suspect Mirandized if in custody)?
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Offender history collected/investigated as applicable?
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Suspect’s role in ‘setting up’ the assault (or creating the conditions of vulnerability) noted?
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Areas of corroboration of victims’ account highlighted; implausible/absurd statements highlighted?
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forensic/physical exam conducted as applicable?
Suspect Interview Comments:				
#1.				



#2
#3
#4
#5
#6
#7
#8

Additional Observations re: Suspect Interview

- Suspect’s level of intoxication probed (if any)?
 Yes No
- Did the investigator ask if there was anything else they did not ask that the Suspect would like to share?
 Yes No
- Other observations?
Click or tap here to enter text.

C. Evidence Collection/Witness Identification

	Yes	No	Unk/NA	
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Information necessary to prove elements of the crime included/noted?
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Witnesses identified and interviewed (witnesses at scene, witnesses who know suspect, initial disclosure witnesses, etc.)?
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Interviews recorded?
12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Comprehensive evidence collection (e.g., photographs, physical/forensic evidence from suspect, clothes, pre-text calls)?
13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In-person or photo lineup used, if appropriate
Evidence Collection Comments:				
#9				
#10				
#11				



#12
#13

Additional Observations

--

D. Prosecution Overall Questions

	Yes	No	Unk/NA	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was the case properly coded as a crime and as the correct crime?
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the investigation supported an arrest, was it made?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If the case was unfounded* , explain the circumstances. (*See Case Review Guide, page #)
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the investigation demonstrate that no crime had occurred?
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did a supervisor review and approve each decision to unfound a case?
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If a case was exceptionally cleared was the exceptional clearance* proper? Describe. (*See Case Review Guide, page #)
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was the case forwarded to the prosecutor after a full investigation and the proper collection and testing of evidence?
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If appropriate, was additional follow-up investigation conducted after referring to the prosecutor?
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If appropriate, was the victim contacted by the police after referral to the prosecutor? (to see if new memories, etc.)
Prosecution Overall Comments				
#1.				
#2				



#3
#4
#5
#6
#7
#8
#9

E. Report Writing Analysis- Detectives/Investigator Only (excludes patrol response).

	Yes	No	Unk/NA	
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the officer write a detailed incident report that includes a narrative provided by the victim that conveys the trauma of rape?
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the officer include as many details about the rape as possible, such as the victim's fears and thoughts and what they heard, saw, smelled, tasted, etc.?
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the officer focus on the victim's experience and vulnerability?
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the victim receive support throughout the entire criminal justice process from law enforcement, prosecutors, and advocates?
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the officer minimize the number of irrelevant and nonfactual statements and observations, especially about the victim, that do not contribute to understanding the victims' experience?
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the officer emphasize the psychological impact on the victim?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the officer use factually unsupported signaling statements in the incident report?



9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the officer handle sensitive information with care?
----	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	---

Report Writing Comments:

#1.
#2
#3
#4
#5
#6
#7
#8
#9

Additional Observations

ATTACHMENT 12

Sexual Assault Investigations Program
Case Review Members Only



Case Review Results Summary

Case ID Number: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Reviewer(s) Dates Reviewed: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Investigator: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Department: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Case Open Date: [Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

Case Closed Date: [Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

Attended SAI-VCERT: Yes No

Advocate Name: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Advocate Organization: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Others Involved (name/org): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Brief Description of Case: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

SAI-VCERT Learning Objectives

- a. Understand and recognize the nature and consequences of victimization.
- b. Understand and describe how specific experiences impact victim trauma, memory, reactions, and behavior.
- c. Understand how investigator interpretation of victim behaviors impact sexual assault cases.
- d. Identify strategies to work with all victims to facilitate trust and communication.
- e. Conduct interviews utilizing a research-based model that integrates wellness skills designed to minimize victim trauma, provide maximum emotional comfort, reduce the number of interviews, and foster resilience.
- f. Conduct objective, thorough, and complete investigations that articulate elements of the identified crime, while utilizing physical, psychological, and sensory evidence to build a strong case.
- g. Understand the importance of working with a multi-disciplinary team.

Questions

	Yes	No	Unk/ NA	
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the investigator attend SAI-VCERT? Date: Click or tap to enter a date.
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Did the prosecutor(s) attend SAI-VCERT?

CITC 2024

This checklist was derived from SVJI/MNCASA SART Case File Review Guidebook and the Women's Law project, Policy Brief, Feb. 2013.

1

				Date: Click or tap to enter a date.
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Documents provided by PAPD and/or CCPAO facilitated a thorough case review.
	If not (no), then list any additional documents needed.			Click or tap here to enter text.
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Were the interactions with the victim consistent with training objectives?
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Was the case conducted in accordance with training objectives?
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Were there takeaways from the case that could be incorporated into the training? <i>Please note below.</i>
	Reviewers' top takeaways from this investigation.			Click or tap here to enter text.
7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Were there areas of improvement in the case that can be addressed through training? <i>Please note below.</i>
	Areas for improvement:			Click or tap here to enter text.
8.	List specific questions for investigator(s) or Detective Supervisor: Click or tap here to enter text.			
9.	List specific questions for the prosecutor(s): Click or tap here to enter text.			

Notes and Observations

Please note any case highlights or exceptional techniques, strategies, and/or practices identified during the review that support or extend training objectives.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Please note any recommendations to strategies, policies or practices that could assist the department with meeting training objectives/best practices.

CJTC 2024

This checklist was derived from SVJI/MNCASA SART Case File Review Guidebook and the Women's Law project, Policy Brief, Feb. 2013.

2

Additional thoughts/observations of investigation or review process.

Click or tap here to enter text.

#1

COMPLETE

Collector:

Started:

Last Modified:

Time Spent:

IP Address:

Page 1: Please answer all of the questions below with the caveat, "Since the SAI-VCERT training"

Q1

Enter your name, title/role, and agency

Name

Title/Role

Agency

Q2

I have an increased understanding of and interest in the impacts of trauma on sexual assault victims.

Q3

3. I have relied on my understanding of trauma during interactions and interviews of sexual assault victims.

Q4

I have reflected my understanding of sexual assault victim trauma in case documentation.

Q5

List or describe the common trauma responses you have observed when responding to sexual assault victims.

Q6

Select all reasons why resiliency skills are useful in working with victims of trauma.

Q7

I have used the wellness/resiliency skills taught in the class (tracking, grounding, resourcing, or reset now) with the sexual assault victim being interviewed.

Q8

I have used the wellness/resiliency skills taught in the class (tracking, grounding, resourcing, or reset now) to build on my own well-being and/or resiliency.

Q9

Please describe one wellness/resiliency skill (tracking, grounding, resourcing, or reset now) you have used recently with a victim or suspect that has worked well.

Q10

What are reasons you have NOT employed a wellness/resiliency skill?

Q11

I have devoted more time and attention to rapport building during the interview process.

Q12

Select and/or describe the changes you've noticed in the interviews with victims following rapport building:

Q13

There are certain topics or questions I rely on that are typically helpful in building rapport.

Please explain your answer:

Q14

Has rapport building been challenging when engaging with a victim?

If yes, please describe:

Q15

I am regularly incorporating open-ended questions in my interviews with victims.

Q16

I am regularly including sensory-based questions in my interviews with victims.

Q17

I am regularly incorporating open-ended questions in my interviews with suspects and victims of other crimes.

Q18

Since the training, my utilization of community-based sexual assault advocates has:

Q19

I am offering community and system advocates as a support to the victim:

Q20

Describe the typical process for connecting a victim to an advocate. Or, if you responded that you do not rely on advocates, please explain why they are not utilized.

Q21

Provide any recommendations you have for improving the collaborations between sexual assault advocacy and law enforcement investigations, please describe.

Q22

What are some potential barriers victims have when reporting a sexual assault?

Q23

What are examples of ways in which offenders select and groom their victims?

Q24

What are the types or categories of evidence you are collecting in sexual assault cases?

Q25

The training improved or enhanced my response to crime victims and witnesses beyond sexual assault crimes.

Q26

The definition of sexual intercourse includes (select all that apply):

Q27

Mental incapacity and physical helplessness are two different things. Describe the differences, and what evidence you would look for to substantiate the difference.

Q28

Why is it important to document your observations and not your opinion?

Q29

What constitutes consent in sexual assault cases?

Q30

In what circumstances should you collect blood and/or urine? Why would you collect it?

Q31

Since the training, I feel better equipped during my interactions with sexual assault victims.

Please explain:

Q32

The training has increased my understanding of what should be collected as evidence for sexual assault cases.

Q33

What, if anything, was missing from the VCERT course now that you have brought the content back into the field?

Q34

What additional training(s) would be useful to you in your work on sexual assault investigations?

Q35

Any additional feedback or suggestions you have regarding the SAI-VCERT course and your work in sexual assault investigations?

24. What are the types or categories of evidence you are collecting in sexual assault cases?

- Clothing
- Digital Evidence
- Outcry Witness Statement
- Blood
- Urine
- Other (please specify)

25. The training improved or enhanced my response to crime victims and witnesses beyond sexual assault crimes.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain

26. The definition of sexual intercourse includes (select all that apply):

- Touching of the inner labia with fingers
- Penile vaginal penetration
- A sex toy inserted in the anus
- Oral sex

27. Mental incapacity and physical helplessness are two different things. Describe the differences, and what evidence you would look for to substantiate the difference.

28. Why is it important to document your observations and not your opinion?

29. What constitutes consent in sexual assault cases?

30. In what circumstances should you collect blood and/or urine? Why would you collect it?

31. Since the training, I feel better equipped during my interactions with sexual assault victims.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree

- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please explain

32. The training has increased my understanding of what should be collected as evidence for sexual assault cases.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

33. What, if anything, was missing from the VCERT course now that you have brought the content back into

the field?

34. What additional training(s) would be useful to you in your work on sexual assault investigations?

- Sexual Assault Kit (SAK) process
- Evidence collection and investigative techniques
- Courtroom testimony
- Report Writing
- Mitigating stress/Resiliency strategies for law enforcement
- Impacts of trauma
- Other (please specify)

35. Any additional feedback or suggestions you have regarding the SAI-VCERT course and your work in sexual assault investigations?

Done



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ATTACHMENT 14

Case Review Prosecutor Survey 2024, Pierce County

1. Name and Organization

2. What do you perceive as barriers/conditions impacting cases which are submitted for charging by an investigative agency, but not prosecuted?

3. Our training emphasizes a trauma informed, victim-centered approach to sexual assault investigation. Towards that end, we are interested in learning about strategies you recommend for reducing the number times a victim is interviewed. Please share:

4. Regarding responding to sexual violence, what training topics and or areas of emphasis within topics would you recommend for patrol officers?

5. Regarding responding to sexual violence, what training topics and or areas of emphasis within topics would you recommend for detectives/investigators?

6. What are examples of best practices you've observed/experienced regarding law enforcement response to sexual assault in your county?

7. What strategies do you implement for identifying and addressing victim disengagement and case attrition factors?

ATTACHMENT 15

CSTR Advocate Survey 2024, Pierce County

1. Name And Organization

2. What are the most common barriers you perceive for victims to report sexual assaults to police departments in Pierce County?

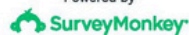
3. What training topics and/or emphasis within topics would you recommend for patrol officers?

4. What training topics and/or emphasis within topics would you recommend for detectives/investigators?

5. What would you consider to be examples the best practices you've observed/experienced with regards to law enforcement responses to sexual assaults in your County?

Done

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