

# Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) PROGRAM

2024  
IMPACT REPORT

Thank you for aiding victims of sexual assault in their healing process. While sexual assault is an uncomfortable subject, the effects can be devastating on the victim and the victim's family. Because of your generous gifts, sexual assault victims are receiving the specialized care they need, accelerating their healing process and increasing chances for justice.



## SANE PROGRAM

The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program was created to help victims of sexual assault begin recovery through healthcare that is delivered in a safe, respectful, and professional manner. SANEs are specially trained nurses uniquely equipped to attend to individuals who have been sexually abused or assaulted. The program offers education and outreach to students, law enforcement, and other stakeholders of the community.

At hospitals without SANE services, victims of sexual assault are more likely to wait long hours in emergency departments and are less likely to receive the specialized medical forensic care they need. Providing care by trained staff can increase the victim's level of recovery, prevent secondary injury or illness, and increase the prosecution rates of offenders.

Cindy Burnette, Texas Health's SANE Program Director, shared, "When a victim of sexual assault enters our doors, we have the trained staff available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to care for them on what is probably one of the worst days of their lives. Some hospitals in the North Texas area are blessed to have these services, but there are still many victims that go to hospitals that are not equipped to serve them properly. In these cases, they either transfer to another hospital that offers SANE services, or sadly, they do not access them at all."

## 2024 OUTCOMES

### Violence Prevention

Reduce sexual or physical dating violence by anyone (aligning with the Healthy People 2030 objectives)

66%

Texas Health adult sexual assault patients that reported the crime to law enforcement

31%

The national average of sexual assaults reported \*

\*RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) Website  
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The program's biggest accomplishment this year has been the expansion of medical forensic exams for pediatric patients who have been sexually assaulted or abused. While pediatric services are offered at all of Texas Health's wholly owned hospitals, the team places a special priority on offering pediatric exams at our rural hospitals, so families from outlying areas do not have to travel long distances to the pediatric hospitals in Dallas or Fort Worth. All full-time SANE staff worked to obtain their Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner certification from the Texas Office of the Attorney General this year. By the end of 2025, all part time staff will also have their pediatric SANE certifications.



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# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

## A STORY OF HEALING

“ I treated a sexual assault patient who was unhoused and had a history of drug abuse, no money, and no friends or family to call. She was very broken, disheveled, and possibly on the brink of being suicidal. Her story was so heartbreaking. I completed her exam and shared resources, including information on shelters for people experiencing homelessness. Several months later, I ran into her in the hospital lobby, and she was a completely different person! She gave me a hug and thanked me for helping her. She introduced me to her mother and shared that I was the one who had cared for her on that horrible night. She was doing well, in rehab and back on good terms with her mom, all because of the services that were provided to her: the exam and the resources put her on the right path for healing and recovery.”

Texas Health is grateful to you for making these resources more readily available in our North Texas community. This is a crucial step in the healing process of so many victims. Thank you!



### 2024 ACTIVITIES

#### Sexual violence prevention training



62

Sexual violence prevention trainings offered in the community

452

Youth/college students trained in sexual violence prevention

1718

Groups or organizations (excluding youths or law enforcement) trained in sexual violence prevention. Ex: churches, community clubs, crisis agency employees or volunteers.

### INDIVIDUALS SERVED IN 2024

TOTAL **727** Adults/  
Adolescents

**43** Children

