



Victims of Rape

Issues arising for Citizens Assembly

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Dublin Rape Crisis Centre



- Voluntary Organisation
- Aim:
 - To prevent the harm and
 - heal the trauma
 - of rape and sexual abuse
- We offer:
 - Non-judgmental, confidential support and therapy;
 - Use our experience to inform society of the impact;
 - Work to better protect victims & build a safer, healthier society.

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

Statistics



- Dublin is the largest of 16 Rape Crisis Centres country wide
- Runs National 24-Hour Helpline 1800 77 88 88
- In 2015:
 - 11,789 Helpline contacts with people countrywide;
 - 499 clients seen for face to face therapy;
 - 284 accompanied to the Sexual Assault Treatment;
 - 43 accompanied to court and Garda Stations.

Impact on women as they present to us



- No 'normal' response to rape
- No right or wrong response to rape
- Conflicting emotions at the same time
- Impact varies from person to person

Impact of pregnancy by rape



- We may never hear about the pregnancy of a client
- Pregnancy is often an additional trauma
 - shame or betrayal;
 - terror of the physical hurt / physical violence;
 - Anxiety about being pregnant.

Some of the ways people deal with pregnancy - 1 of 2



Possible conflicting emotions – depends on each person

- **Client had a baby.** May feel
 - an innocent child born of aggression;
 - a loving and loathing of the child.
- **Client had a miscarriage.** May feel
 - Relief no pregnancy;
 - a sense of loss of a baby even if they hadn't wanted the baby.
- **Client pregnant and unsure what to do.** May feel
 - the additional crises of pregnancy;
 - Decisions about whether to proceed in the context of all existing relationships;
 - Practical, financial and emotional decisions.

Some of the ways people deal with pregnancy - 2 of 2



Possible conflicting emotions. Depends on each person

- **Client had an abortion.** May feel
 - Guilt or sadness at having terminated;
 - Relief of no additional dilemma of being pregnant;
 - Stigma, shame and isolation;
 - Secrecy surrounding the abortion a burden;
 - Anger at expensive, complicated and traumatic process.

- **Client had a baby as a result of a past rape.**
 - Child may be adopted or parented;
 - Historical child abuse, usually;
 - Mix of emotions the same.

Reporting the prevalence of rape/ sexual violence



- Massively under reported.
- Findings 2002:
 - 42% of abused women had never told anyone before
 - 8% of women reported sexual violence to An Garda Síochána.
- Findings 2009:
 - Ireland has one of the lowest conviction rates at 8% for sexual crimes of 11 EU countries studied in the research.
- Findings 2014:
 - 3.7 million women in the EU experienced sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the survey - 2% of women aged 18-74 in the EU.

Who our clients/callers say carry out rape and sexual violence



Adult Rape/ Sexual Assault:

- Boyfriend/ partner: 24.36%
- Parent Sibling: 1%
- Other relative: 4.06%
- Other known person: 39.59%
- Stranger: 23.86%

Who our clients/callers say carry out rape and sexual violence



Childhood sexual abuse:

- Boyfriend partner: 25.51%
- Parent sibling: 13.78%
- Other relative: 20.92%
- Person in authority: 8.16%
- Other known person: 25.51%
- Stranger: 5.1%

Pregnancy disclosures



Approx **4%** of women clients of Rape Crisis Centres over 10 years report pregnancies as a result of rape.

PREGNANCY DISCLOSURE (4% of total)	DRCC	RCNI
Clients who went on to give birth and parent	35%	49%
Clients who terminated their pregnancy	31%	18%
Clients who miscarried	19%	12%
Clients who had child placed for adoption	7%	17%
Clients where the outcome was unknown	8%	4%

Concerns about requiring disclosure to another



- Reporting to Gardaí
 - A serious disclosure
 - Criminal investigation
 - Self blame
- Reporting to a doctor or other care worker
 - Disclosing to their regular doctor
 - Medical card holders lack choice
 - Fear of judgment
- Self reporting concerns
 - Self blame
 - Singling rape victims out
 - Credibility questioned
- Re-traumatisation while on the road to managing and coping with the impact of the rape

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

Free phone number:

1800 77 88 88

www.drcc.ie



Thank you!