

Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Center

**AY 2020 - 2021
Annual Report**





ABOUT SARP

Mission

We strive to create a campus culture free from violence and built upon healthy relationships and consent. We prevent interpersonal violence through education and we compassionately respond to survivors of trauma to promote healing. We define interpersonal violence to be inclusive of sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual harassment, and hate violence.

Vision

We envision a BU community and world that is just, equitable, and free of violence.

Goals

- **Raise** awareness and broaden the BU community's understanding of interpersonal violence
- **Educate** and enhance the skills of community members towards the creation of safe and healthy relationships.
- **Promote** survivor healing through trauma-informed counseling
- **Advocate** for survivors through empowerment, education, and accompaniment
- **Influence** local and global efforts to prevent and respond to interpersonal violence
- **Respond** compassionately to traumatic events that impact the BU community



MEET OUR STAFF



Nathan Brewer, PhD
Director



Ashley Slay, MSW
Assistant Director of
Interpersonal Violence Prevention



Simi Ogunsanwo, MPH
Administrative Coordinator



Cherita Cloy,
PhD



Madeline Wigon,
LICSW



Emma De Jesus,
LICSW



Amie Piekarz,
LICSW

Crisis Intervention Counselors



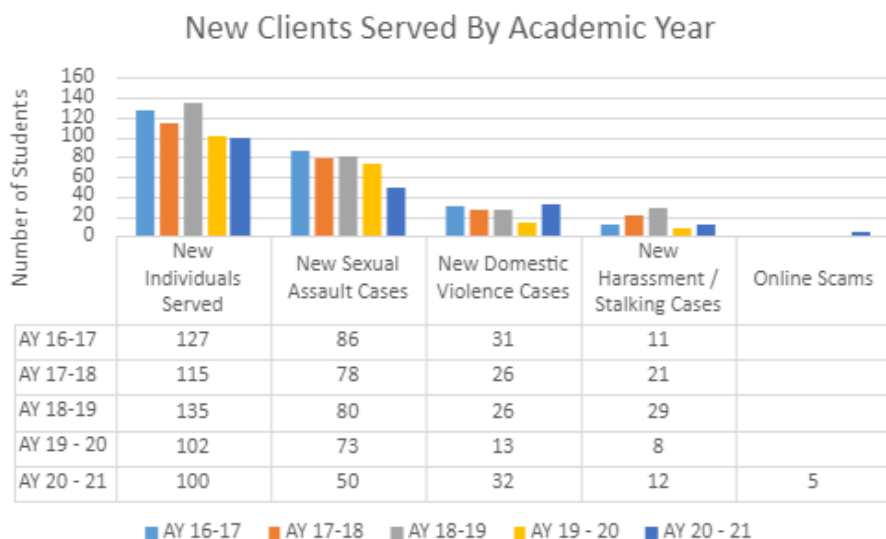
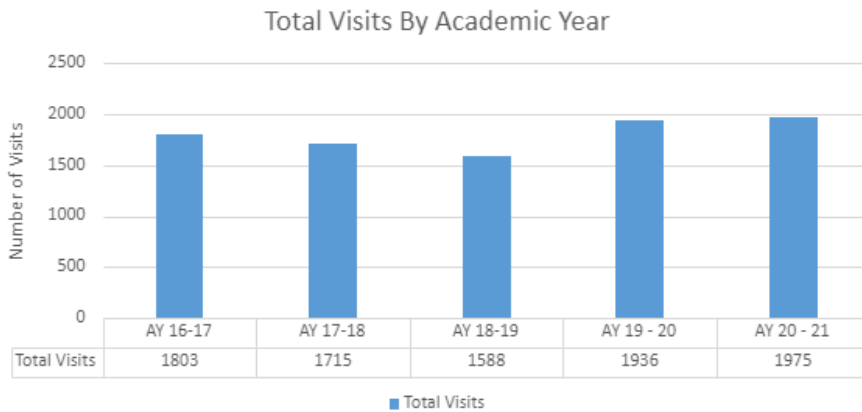
RESPONSE

SARP clinicians continued to provide counseling services through encrypted Zoom, with in-person accompaniments to medical and legal appointments.

This year, SARP saw an increase in the number of counseling visits overall. This is possibly due to telehealth allowing for easier access to counselors and the increased stress of COVID-19 and quarantine.

There was a decrease in the number of new sexual assault cases and an increase in the number of new domestic violence cases. These changes are in line with trends across the country during the stress and quarantine from the pandemic. According to [UN Women](#), there has been an increase in DV cases globally.

This is the first year that SARP has tracked online scams and sextortion (e.g., blackmail regarding nude images). Male and international students appear to be targeted for sextortion. Students from China have been targeted for scams that begin with a call from what appears to be the Chinese or US embassy (but is fraudulent).



SARP GROUPS

SARP Offers a variety of groups each year. A total of four groups were offered throughout '20-'21 academic year. These groups were:

- **Student of Color Trauma Support Group:** Students of color came together to lend mutual knowledge and support around past experiences of trauma.
- **Sexual Assault Group:** Students came together to lend mutual knowledge and support around past experiences of sexual assault.
- **Trauma workshop:** A trauma workshop where students learned about various forms of trauma, common responses, and skills to help navigate the healing process.
- **Trauma Support Group for Graduate Students:** Provided community and peer support for graduate students who have experienced trauma.



PREVENTION

The SARP Prevention mission is to build awareness, promote prevention, and improve access to resources for survivors in relation to the issue of interpersonal violence while challenging norms and creating inclusive environments.

AWARENESS & EVENTS

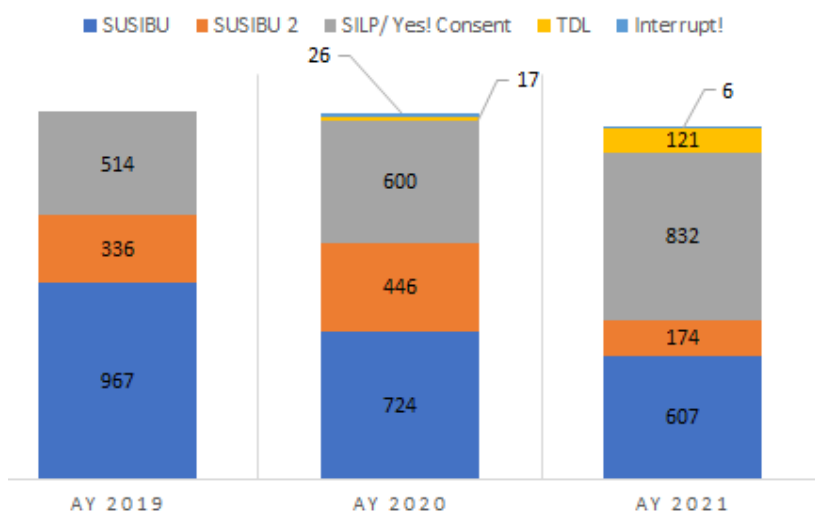
This year, we introduced a series of new virtual events.

- **COVID-19 Virtual Series:** We hosted a series of virtual panels where experts talked about the impact the pandemic has had on sex and relationships and how to adjust in healthy ways given the limitations of the pandemic.
 - Domestic Violence during COVID-19
 - Healthy Relationships during COVID-19
 - Sex during COVID-19
- **Letters to Incarcerated Survivors:** This is a monthly letter-writing action SARP commenced in Fall 2020. Volunteers have the chance to write letters to survivors who are incarcerated to help reduce the survivors' feelings of isolation and improve their well-being.
- **SARP Book Club:** SARP Prevention hosted book club discussions during domestic violence and sexual assault awareness months. The books chosen centered on the theme of the awareness months and discussions were led by a prevention educator.

PREVENTION TRAININGS

One of the primary ways SARP promotes violence prevention is through our evidence-based, interactive, and survivor-centered, prevention trainings.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of our training were held virtually this year.



Number of Students Trained - Past 3 Years

Recurring Events

CONSENSUAL VALENTINE

This year, our consensual valentines process was virtual. Students submitted their requests virtually and SARP mailed the postcards out to the recipients on their behalf.

CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

In addition to displaying the T Shirts at the BU Arts Initiative, we also introduced a virtual experience for the project. To take part in the virtual experience, [click here](#).

DENIM DAY

This year, we displayed a large poster at the GSU where students could write encouraging messages to survivors on a piece of denim and stick it on the poster.

I WILL WALK WITH YOU

IWWWY was held in-person with COVID safety measures and protocols in place. BU students created a pathway of chalk footprints to show solidarity with survivors.

UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

SARP & COVID-19

SARP has continued to provide individual counseling and group offerings via telehealth. Additionally, SARP counselors provided both virtual and in-person accompaniments to medical and legal appointments.

This past year, SARP engaged in prevention work utilizing a hybrid format. Most of the prevention initiatives were virtual. There were occasional in-person events with COVID safety measures and protocols in place.

Prevention Educator Funding

Following student engagement and activism, additional funding was granted to expand the SARP Prevention Educator program to include eight graduate student staff.

New Hire



This year Amie Piekarz, LICSW joined our team as a part-time crisis intervention counselor. Amie has an extensive background supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. We are thrilled to have Amie as part of our team.

