A total of 23 sexual assaults were reported to the Women’s Center between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. In addition to those 23 reports, there was a report of a possible sexual assault, but because the victim was unable to remember any details, we did not have enough information to determine if a sexual assault had occurred. Another sexual assault was reported that had occurred in 2005 (the criminal case just concluded in 2007) on university-owned property but neither the victim nor the assailant were students. This was reported in Public Safety’s statistics, as required by the Clery Act, but is not included in these numbers.

Location
Seven of the assaults occurred on campus, six of those were in residence hall rooms, while one attempted sexual assault occurred in a parking lot. This compares to two on-campus assaults in 2005/2006 and two in 2004/2005. The remaining sixteen occurred off-campus. Of those, seven were in the south-side area of St. Cloud where student housing is concentrated, four occurred in other areas of the St. Cloud community, three occurred somewhere outside of St. Cloud, and in two reports, the exact off-campus location was unknown. Four occurred at house parties, while many of the remaining occurred in the home or residence hall of the victim or perpetrator. National statistics show that the majority of sexual assaults occur in residences.
Types of Assaults

Nineteen of the assaults were committed by acquaintances, two were committed by strangers and in one report the information on the type of relationship was not provided. Two of the assaults involved more than one perpetrator and one report was an attempted sexual assault. Seven of the perpetrators in the acquaintance category were friends of a friend, four were someone the victim had just met, six were considered friends of the victims, one was a personal care attendant, and one was an acquaintance the victim met through work. National statistics reveal that 85 to 90 percent of all sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows.

Victims

All 11 of the victims were female, twenty-two were students, and one was a past SCSU student. Twelve were 18 to 19 years old, eight were 20 to 22 years old, one was over 30 and in two cases the ages were unknown. Women 16 to 25 years old are at highest risk for sexual assault, and college women are at higher risk than women from the same age group that are not in college. It is important to note however, that sexual assault can occur to anyone at any age.

Perpetrators

All of the perpetrators were male. Nine were students at the time of the assault, four had no known affiliation, two were friends of a student and in 8 reports the assailant’s affiliation with the university was either unknown or not provided.

Reported By

Fourteen of the assaults were reported by the Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center, three by Residential Life, three were reported directly by the victim, and one was reported by Health Services.

Drug and Alcohol Involvement

Drugs or alcohol were known to be involved in fourteen of the twenty-three assaults. In Four cases it was either suspected or confirmed that drugs were slipped into a drink of the victim.

Case Outcomes

Fourteen of the victims reported their assaults to law enforcement and four reported a conduct code violation to the university. In one case in which the perpetrator was a student at another university, it was reported to his university. A high percentage of the victims went to the hospital for evidence exams. We continue to see an increase in how many of our students are reporting to law enforcement and seeking out medical care within 72 hours. This year also shows a marked increase in conduct code violation reports to the campus judicial system.

SCSU Sexual Assault Policy states that the Women’s Center will collect and analyze accounts of sexual assaults in the campus community. Staff and faculty are asked to contact the Women’s Center with any information they receive regarding a sexual assault. The victim’s name is not recorded in the report and confidentiality is maintained.

Call 320-308-3995 for additional information.