A total of 34 sexual assaults were reported to the Women’s Center between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

Twenty-eight assaults were committed by acquaintances; three by strangers, and in two cases the type of relationship to the victim was not provided in the report. This compares with one stranger assault during 2010-11; four in 2009/10, three in 2008/09, and none in 2007/08. National statistics show that 80 to 90% of all sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows.

Location
Seven occurred on campus, twenty-four occurred off campus and the exact location was unknown in three reports. A total of eleven sexual assaults occurred in the private residence of either the victim or perpetrator. Seven occurred in connection with house parties. Our local statistics mirror national statistics demonstrating that most sexual assaults occur in a private residence versus on the street.

Victims
Thirty-two victims were female and two were males. Thirty-two were enrolled students at the time of the assault, one was a student from another institution of higher education, and one was not a student. Twenty-four were between the ages of 18 and 23, one was over 27 and the age was unknown in 8 reports. National statistics show that women ages 16 to 24 years old are more at risk of being sexually assaulted than any other age group. In addition, college women are at higher risk than women from the same age group who are not in college. It is important to note, however, that sexual assault can occur to anyone at any age.

Perpetrators
Thirty-three of the perpetrators were male and one was female. Two cases involved more than one perpetrator. Eleven were known to be SCSU students at the time of the assault, one was a former student, one was a student from another campus, seven had no known affiliation with SCSU, and the affiliation was unknown in fourteen reports.

Reported By
Thirteen of the assaults were reported to the Women’s Center directly by the victim, thirteen were reported by the Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center, seven by another campus office and one was reported by a friend of the victim.

Drug and Alcohol Involvement
Drugs or alcohol were known to be involved in twenty-one of the sexual assaults. Perpetrators using alcohol as a tool to commit a sexual assault is well documented. Perpetrators often in the guise of being friendly will persuade the victim to drink or will look for someone who is more vulnerable due to drugs or alcohol.

Reports and Investigations
Conduct code complaints were investigated in seven cases. In eight cases the victims did not report a conduct code complaint to the university. In seventeen cases a campus conduct code complaint was not applicable because the perpetrator was not an SCSU student, or the victim did not or could not identify if the perpetrator was a student or not or the information was not provided in the report.

Guidance by the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, requires employees of the University to report knowledge of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, harassment, stalking and hazing to Ellyn Bartges, Title IX Coordinator, in the Equity and Affirmative Action Office in Administrative Services 102. The Affirmative Action Office is required to investigate and respond, but cannot guarantee confidentiality. For additional information, contact 320.308.5123.

SCSU Sexual Assault Policy states that the Women’s Center will collect and analyze accounts of sexual assaults in the campus community. The victim’s name is not recorded in the report and confidentiality is maintained. For additional information call 320.308.3995 or 320.308.4958.