

NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON ABUSED WOMEN'S SERVICES
COALITION AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT IN NORTH DAKOTA
525 N. 4th Street * Phone (701) 255-6240 * Fax 255-1904 * Toll Free 1-888-255-6240 *
www.NDCAWS.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012

CONTACT: Jennifer Weisgerber

Public Relations/Communications Coordinator, NDCAWS

jweisgerber@ndcaws.org

BECAUSE IN NORTH DAKOTA, IT'S TIME TO TALK ... ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE

"Mandan woman accused of repeated sexual contact with boy"

"Grand Forks man charged with attempted sexual assault"

"Bismarck teacher placed on leave after being accused of sex with teen"

"2 Moorhead day cares close in wake of sexual abuse charge"

"Former Hebron teacher charged with sexual assault"

"Prosecutors won't fight plea withdrawal sought by doctor accused of raping, drugging wife"

"Bismarck man accused of traveling to South Dakota for sex with teen"

"Dickinson police confirm reported rape of 83-year-old woman over weekend"

"Moorhead man admits to sex with same juvenile victim from earlier case"

These headlines from North Dakota newspapers in March 2012 aren't a complete list of the sexual assault-related stories in the media gathering attention lately. But these stories reinforce that North Dakota is not immune to violent crime, including sexual assault.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) – a time to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and people on how to prevent sexual violence. In addition to the month-long campaign celebrated by crisis intervention centers throughout the state, the SAAM "Day of Action," on Tuesday, April 3, will highlight nationally coordinated events to raise public awareness about sexual violence and specific ways people can get involved in its prevention.

The recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness month also coincides with the formal release of the North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services (NDCAWS) statistics on sexual assault in North Dakota for 2011.

"Sexual violence is a crime that affects victims across the lifespan – from childhood to adulthood," said Janelle Moos, Executive Director for NDCAWS. "More than 35% of victims who received help from sexual assault crisis centers last year were children. It's important communities learn not only how to stop but how to prevent sexual assault and other forms of violence."

At least 90% of the victims in 2011 were female, and at least 87% of the cases were male assailant/female victim. Because sexual assault also harms victims' loved ones and families, more than 250 secondary victims sought help from sexual assault advocates. In at least 41% of all sexual assault cases, the assailant was a friend, acquaintance or date of the victim. And at least 39% of the assaults occurred in the victim's or assailant's home. Please review the 2011 statistics (along with past years) in their totality here: http://www.ndcaws.org/facts/sexual_assault/sexual_assault_stats.html

More information about Sexual Assault Awareness Month and concepts behind healthy sexuality can be found here: <http://www.nsvrc.org/saam>

ABOUT NDCAWS:

The North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault is a membership organization representing the 21 domestic violence and sexual assault crisis centers throughout the state. It is the mission of NDCAWS/CASAND to provide leadership and support in the identification, intervention, and prevention of domestic and sexual violence. For more information, please visit www.ndcaws.org.