



new jersey coalition
against sexual assault
Begin by Believing

VOICES IN ACTION

www.njcasa.org

Volume 11 | Issue 3

Gender as a Determinant of Health

Differences in health status among population groups that are unnecessary, unfair, unjust and actionable are referred to as **health inequities**.¹

At the base of most gender-based inequities are the cultural norms about gender. If the norms support a rigid understanding of gender roles, then it is likely that women's status is secondary to men's. In turn, this secondary status negatively affects allocation of resources, including funding for health care; societal attention to problems, including sexual assault; research specific to women's experience; and social value of women's activities, including child and familial care, female dominant jobs, etc. The devaluing of

female experience and work undermines women's and girls' credibility, economic value and remuneration, and access to relevant resources, including health care.

Although we have come a long way in the United States, rigid gender norms, overt sexual objectification of women and girls, hyper-masculinity for men and boys, wage inequity, and a paucity of positions of political, economic, and social power for women remain the norm rather than the exception.

Women and girls are aware of this belief, this mistrust, which in turn affects rates of reporting sexual assault. Sexual assault is the most under-reported violent crime in the United States. Not only is it not reported to law enforcement, many survivors of sexual violence, which are predominantly female, *never report to anyone*. When they do report, it may be decades after the assault.

Therefore, survivors of sexual assault often do not get the immediate help and services they need after an assault. When survivors do not get immediate care after an assault, they often develop other conditions that can be lifelong and life-threatening. Illnesses include inflammatory pelvic diseases, STI/STDs, including HIV, back pain, mental and emotional distress, etc. These lifetime occurrences of illness can lead to job loss, homelessness, depletion of savings. These conditions further exacerbate a survivor's access to affordable and sufficient health care.

It is hard not to be aware of gender inequities in health and safety when working in the sexual violence field. Sexual violence is largely a gender-based violence—girls and women are a super-majority of victims. There is a serious lack of funding, services, policy, and related support services. Data collection on sexual violence is woefully inadequate, partly because survivors often do not report their assault to official agencies. However, it is just as likely that the old adage is true, you only count what you care about.

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Gender norms are one aspect of the social determinants of health, which are "the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and the structural drivers of those conditions—the distribution of power, money and resources."²

NJCASA recently completed a survey, valid on the state-level, regarding gender norms and roles, rape myths, and attitudes about bystander intervention. One of the highest negative scores was related to the continuing belief that women make-up accusations of rape. This belief influences the relatively low levels of investigation, prosecution, and conviction in sexual assault cases. Why? Because police officers believe (based on limited beta-testing of officers in NJ) that there is a higher level of false allegations in cases of sexual assault. Prosecutors, judges, and jurors hold similar beliefs, even in the face of research that contradicts such beliefs.

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Statewide Sexual Violence Hotline
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VOICES IN ACTION

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NJCASA MISSION:

Promote the compassionate and just treatment of survivors, their loved ones and significant others, foster collaborative relationships between community systems, and affect attitudinal and behavioral changes in society as we work toward the elimination of sexual violence against all people.

NJCASA MEMBERS

Sexual Violence Program Members:

- **Atlantic** County Women's Center, Rape Crisis Services
- YWCA of **Bergen** County, Rape Crisis Center
- CONTACT of **Burlington** County
- Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV), **Camden** County
- Coalition Against Rape & Abuse (CARA), **Cape May** County
- Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV), **Cumberland** County
- **Essex** County Rape Care Program
- Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV), **Gloucester** County
- **Hudson** County Rape Crisis Center
- SAFE in **Hunterdon** County
- Womanspace, **Mercer** County
- Rape Crisis Intervention Center, **Middlesex** County
- 180, Turning Lives Around, **Monmouth** County
- **Morris** County Sexual Assault Center
- St. Francis Counseling Service, **Ocean** County
- **Passaic** County Women's Center
- **Rutgers University**, Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance

- **Salem** County Women's Services
- Women's Health & Counseling Center, **Somerset** County
- Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Interventions, **Sussex** County
- **Union** County Rape Crisis Center
- Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Center, **Warren** County

The 22 NJCASA member Sexual Violence Programs provide the following FREE and CONFIDENTIAL services:

- 24-hour hotline
- 24-hour crisis response of a Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate
- Individual and/or group counseling for survivors and significant others
- Sexual Assault Response Teams
- Legal, medical, and/or systems advocacy
- Outreach to survivors regardless of participation in the criminal justice system
- Information and referral services
- Awareness, Education, Prevention Strategies

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NJCASA NEWSLETTER

VOICES IN ACTION is the newsletter of NJCASA. The opinions expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official position of NJCASA. Articles and prose are welcome for consideration. Decision to publish shall be at the discretion of the Editor. Correspondence and news may be sent to:

Executive Editor, **Andrea Spencer-Linzie**
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NJCASA's members and partners are vital to the support and healing of survivors and their loved ones, and the promotion of effective survivor centered laws, policies, and processes.

NJCASA's 30th Anniversary Gala Highlights the Enduring Breadth and Depth of Those Working in the Anti-sexual Violence Field

Many men and women have been working to support survivors and to end sexual violence for the past 30 years.

All of us—advocates, counselors, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, nurses, human rights activists, public health workers, funders, public servants, legislators, students, educators, researchers, corporations, the media—are needed to create transformations in the individual lives of survivors and their loved ones.

All of us are needed to create transformations among our friends and colleagues to intervene and prevent sexual violence.

All of us are needed to create transformations in our communities so that sexual violence is no longer tolerated.

It's clear that over the last 30 years it's taken a lot of audacity, compassion, and resilience for the transformations already achieved.

I am inspired by the courage and determination of those who have built the movement. And, I am hopeful for the next 30 years—there are many new people in the field who are energized, creative, and tenacious.

NJCASA continues its partnerships to advocate for policies, legislation, and resources that promote healing and the end of sexual violence. Here are a few highlights of NJCASA's work in 2011:

- The 2nd Year of the NJCASA AmeriCorps Program provided more than 18,000 additional hours in

advocacy, prevention, and outreach

- The 2nd year of the **Sexual Assault Services Program grants** in NJ provided \$300,000 in service grants including grants to a collaborative project in Hudson County—Bolo Behen (Speak Sister)—to provide outreach and victims services to Southeast Asian Women
- Premiered the **2-hr training DVD for Law Enforcement First Responders to Sexual Assault**—and distributed more than 400 copies nation-wide
- Implemented the **Sexual Violence Media Literacy Project** to counter-act media messaging around sexual objectification and promotion of violence
- Completed, with the Rutgers University Center on Violence Against Women and Children, a **state-wide survey** that measured NJ residents' attitudes and beliefs regarding gender roles, rape myths, media messaging, and bystander intervention
- Implemented the first **NJCASA 5K SAAM Walk** to initiate Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Continued the **College Consortium and Campus Chapters projects**
- Continued to support two pilot sites for **No Wrong Door** to provide seamless services to people with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness
- Collaborated with partners to combat **human trafficking** in NJ
- Researched the needs of **D/deaf survivors** of sexual violence, with

Applied Sociology Students at TCNJ

- Completed the second full year of the **Training Institute**
- Distributed emergency grants through the **Teresa's Truth and Courage Fund**
- Educated and advocated for numerous **policies and legislation** in NJ and nationally
- Collaborated with Prevent Child Abuse NJ to initiate an **end child sexual abuse project**

Our work is challenging, and will become more so as financial resources continue to decrease. Yet, we have had many successes over the years, and will continue to have many more. The health and wellness of our families, neighbors, and communities depend on it.

I thank you for your support of NJCASA, for your compassionate care of survivors and their loved ones, your audacity in raising awareness about sexual violence, and your determination to end sexual violence in our communities.

I hope that you will continue to join us in our work of transformation.

- Give generously.
- Volunteer.
- Contact legislators and policy makers.

I wish for you a happy holiday season and a new year bright with promise.



Andrea L. Spencer-Linzie
NJCASA Executive Director

Violence Against Women: An Urgent Public Health Priority

Violence against women has been described as “perhaps the most shameful human rights violation, and the most pervasive.” Addressing violence against women is central to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 3 on women’s empowerment and gender equality. It is also a peace and security issue. In spite of this recognition, investment in prevention and in services for survivors remains woefully inadequate.

Women suffer violent deaths either directly—through homicide—or indirectly, through suicide, maternal causes and AIDS. Violence is also an important cause of morbidity from multiple mental, physical, sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

When the cumulative impacts on mortality and morbidity are assessed, the health burden is often higher than for other, more commonly accepted, public health priorities. In Mexico City, for example, rape and intimate partner violence against women was estimated to be the third most important cause of morbidity and mortality.

In addition to the human costs, research also shows that violence has huge economic costs, including the direct costs to health, legal, police and other services. In 2002, Health Canada estimated that the direct medical costs of all forms of violence against women was 1.1 billion Canadian dollars. In low-resource settings, relatively few women may seek help from formal services, but because of the high prevalence of violence, the overall costs are substantial.

The broader social costs are profound but difficult to quantify. Violence against women is likely to constrain poverty reduction efforts by reducing women’s participation in productive

employment. Violence also undermines efforts to improve women’s access to education, with violence and the fear of violence contributing to lower school enrolment for girls.

This growing understanding of the impact of violence needs to be translated into investment in primary, secondary and tertiary level prevention: including both services that respond to the needs of women living with or who have experienced violence and interventions to prevent violence.

WHO has recently published *Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: taking action and generating*

evidence. The review highlights the urgent need for more evidence on effective prevention interventions and for integrating sound evaluation into new initiatives, both to monitor and improve their impact and to expand the global evidence base in this area. It recognizes how infant and early childhood experiences influence the likelihood of people later becoming perpetrators or victims of intimate partner and sexual violence, as well as the need for early childhood interventions, especially for children growing up in families where there is abuse. It also recognizes the importance of strategies to empower women, financially and personally, and of challenging social norms that perpetuate this violence. Laws and policies that promote and protect the human rights of women are also necessary, if not sufficient, to address violence against women. In addition, health and other services need to be available and responsive to the needs of women suffering abuse. Concerted action is needed in all of these areas.

This article is excerpted from the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2011;89:2-2. doi: 10.2471/BLT.10.085217 by Claudia Garcia-Moreno & Charlotte Watts.

For the full article and references go to: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/89/1/10-085217/en/> (accessed on 2/7/11)

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Gender Norms Research Completed

In 2009 the Center on Violence Against Women and Children (CVAWC) at the Rutgers University School of Social Work and the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA) partnered to develop a survey on attitudes and beliefs about gender norms. Three main constructs were used to define gender norms:

1. Attitudes about gender roles and sexual violence;
2. Attitudes about the media’s portrayal of women; and
3. Attitudes about bystander intervention in situations where inequality to women is apparent.

The survey instrument was subsequently implemented throughout the state of New Jersey by Abt SRBI, a full service research organization that administers surveys. Gender norms data were collected from 899 NJ residents and the Center on Violence Against Women and Children completed its analysis of the report in Spring 2011. Look for more info in our next newsletter.

Begin by believing that help is available for all survivors, their loved ones and significant others...

Since media occupies a vast cultural space, it is crucial we examine and understand the stories they tell us about gender roles and gender norms. 5

Gender, Race and Sexuality: How Media Shapes our Culture

Media Literacy Curriculum for Sexual Violence Prevention

How does viewing *Two and A Half Men*, or listening to music connect with sexual violence prevention?

Most of us consume media without critically questioning or analyzing it. Since media occupies a vast cultural space, it is crucial that we examine and understand the stories they tell us about gender roles and gender norms.

Generally defined, gender norms “are powerful, pervasive values and attitudes, about gender-based social roles and behaviors that are deeply embedded in social structures”.¹ Gender norms serve to maintain power and dominance by men over women. Belief in rigid gender roles and adversarial views of women have been consistently associated with sexual violence in the literature.²

What is the connection between gender norms and media literacy? Exposure to unfiltered, uncensored media messages, sexualized media messages in all forms, and a lack of media literacy creates community norms that define gender, race and sexuality through a narrow lens³. Media can serve as a vital tool by perpetuating stereotypes and norms that support a culture of violence and victim blaming, or by supporting norms of equity and intolerance of violence.

Countering norms that contribute to the production of a culture of violence is a key element in comprehensive sexual violence prevention. Media literacy is an important tool in combating sexism,

racism, homophobia and rigid gender roles that form core societal norms and contribute to the existence of all forms of violence including sexual violence.

Having the ability to understand how media influences our culture enables one to be a proactive consumer of media and to challenge negative or degrading norms.

Sample Deconstruction Activity (taken from the curriculum)

Discussion questions that readers can reflect upon:

1. What are some differences you see between the magazine covers of boys and the magazine covers of girls?
2. Which covers depict someone showing one of their talents or skills? Which magazines don't depict someone showing a talent or skill?
3. Which covers show people from a position of power? Which magazines show people who are depicted as more passive and less powerful? Explain.

Suggested answer: Two of the three male-targeted magazines depict people doing athletics (basketball and boarding).

1. (Keleher, H. & Franklin, L. (2008). Changing gendered norms about women and girls at the level of household and community: A review of the evidence. *Global Public Health*, 3 (S1), 42-57.
2. Carr, J.L. & VanDeusen, K.M. (2004). Risk factors for male sexual aggression on college campuses. *Journal of Family Violence*, 19 (5), 279-189.
3. Gender Oppression in Cinematic Content: A Look at Females On-Screen and Behind the Camera in Top Grossing 2007 Films. http://www.thegeenadavisinstitute.org/downloads/2007Films_GenderReport.pdf



The other magazine, *Spin*, shows the band U2 looking confident as the camera angle suggests power by being below the subjects and looking up to them. All three of the female-targeted magazines don't show the women on the cover doing anything except smiling at the camera. This depicts a passive rather than an active role as well as an emphasis on beauty and sexual objectification.

NJCASA has launched its media literacy curriculum. Some of NJCASA's member Sexual Violence Programs have been implementing it within their communities. The feedback has been very positive. NJCASA, along with the Sexual Violence Programs, is now working to create evaluation tools that will help us measure how well we are implementing the curriculum (process) and if we reached the goals of the curriculum (outcomes).

To learn more contact NJCASA Prevention Director, Jyoti Venketraman at jyvenketraman@njcasa.org

NJCASA's 30th Anniversary Gala Highlights

NJCASA celebrated three decades of work to ensure just and compassionate treatment of survivors and to end sexual violence during our 30th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, September 24th. The Gala was held at the Moorestown Community House where advocates, honorees, friends and supporters, including New Jersey Senators Diane Allen, Linda Greenstein, and Loretta Weinberg, celebrated our accomplishments.

Senator Allen presented NJCASA Executive Director Andrea Spencer-Linzie

with a proclamation from the State Senate recognizing NJCASA's contributions to the anti-sexual violence field in New Jersey. During the evening's award ceremony, NJCASA honored several individuals and collaborative partnerships that have made significant contributions to the field.

NJCASA named three of this year's awards in memory of Melissa Nazario, Janet Russell and Claire Riley, all fierce and compassionate advocates in the sexual violence field who truly embodied NJCASA's mission.



From left to right: Julie Roebuck, Chair of NJCASA Board of Trustees; Laura Luciano, Gala Co-Chair; Patricia Tefsenhart-Maikos, Gala Co-Chair; Andrea Spencer-Linzie, NJCASA Executive Director

The New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault Is Proud to Announce Its 2011 Award Recipients (See the NJCASA website for more information on the awardees):

Lifetime Achievement Award: Ruth Anne Koenick, Domini Oreski

Excellence in Advocacy Award: Laura Luciano

Claire Riley Prevention Award: Jacqueline Deitch-Stackhouse

Melissa Nazario Public Servant Award: Loretta Weinberg, Julia McClure

Trailblazer Award: Lismarie Vega

Community Collaboration Award: Project Bolo Behen (Speak Sister)

Janet Russell Allied Professional Award: SFC Alyson Honrath

Media / Corporate Responsibility Award: Donna Roman-Hernandez



2011 NJCASA Awardees (from left to right): Julia McClure, Jacqueline Deitch-Stackhouse, SFC Alyson Honrath, Donna Roman-Hernandez, Saliame Walo-Roberts, Manishe Shah, Domini Oreski, Ruth Anne Koenick, Lismarie Vega, Laura Luciano (missing NJ State Senator Loretta Weinberg).

Gala attendees celebrate 30 years of NJCASA progress.



Legislative Update October 2011

Forensic Exam Bill A2597/S972

This bill clarifies that sexual assault survivors are not responsible for any costs of forensic sexual assault examinations or related services. It passed both the New Jersey Senate and the Assembly and became law in August 2011.

Repeal of laws concerning the obsolete status of women A3841/ S2665

This bill repealed several New Jersey laws which reflected outdated and archaic views on women. Included in the laws that were repealed were laws around the property of married women and laws dictating women's ability to receive a dowry after being "ravished." This bill became law in September 2011.

Diversions Program for Juvies Charged with Sexting A1561/S2700

Under this law, juveniles engaged in "sexting", i.e. sending sexually suggestive pictures via the internet or cell phones, may be able to participate in an education program on sexting and bullying, as an alternative to prosecution. This bill became NJ law in September 2011.

Trafficking bills S2599/ A3700 & S2763/ A3934

The bill would amend various sections of current NJ law to insure that juveniles receive appropriate services and are diverted from prosecution. For juveniles under 18 years old the bill created an affirmative defense against a charge of prostitution based on age. The bill passed the State Senate Judiciary

Committee in September 2011 and was referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Federal Funding

As of early October, the federal budget for the current year had not been passed. Both the Senate and the House were still in negotiations over the budget amounts. Sexual violence programs have seen both good and bad news from the budget negotiations. The good news is that the Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) under VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) had an increase in both the Senate and House versions of the budget. The House version funded SASP at \$20 million and the Senate version funded SASP at \$25 million. SASP had been funded at \$15 million in the previous year. NJCASA and our national allies are advocating for SASP to be funded at the higher amount of \$25 million.

The bad news is that sexual violence prevention funding under VAWA appears to be headed for a cut. The House version of the federal budget included an overall cut to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), that administers federal sexual violence prevention funding. The House did not specifically mention cuts for the Rape Prevention and Education funding (RPE) that is the primary funding source for sexual violence prevention in New Jersey and throughout the

country. The Senate bill included an increase to RPE funding but cut a block grant that many states, including New Jersey, used to fund sexual violence prevention. NJCASA and other advocacy groups expect the federal budget to be passed by the end of 2011.

FBI Proposes Revised Definition of Rape

In October, an FBI subcommittee recommended that the definition of rape used by the agency be revised and expanded. The FBI uses a very narrow definition of rape, which requires vaginal penetration against the victim's will, in its Uniform Crime Report. This definition is much more narrow than New Jersey's definition of sexual assault, which includes oral, anal, and vaginal penetration of males or females. By expanding the definition of rape to include the range of sexual assaults that occur, NJ and the rest of the United States can get a better picture of the number of sexual assaults reported. The subcommittee recommendation must be approved by a larger advisory group before the changes can take effect.

Collection Box for Old Toners and Ink Cartridges

Looking for a way to recycle your old toners and ink cartridges AND raise money for NJCASA? Stop by and drop them off in our collection box at our office:

2333 Whitehorse Mercerville Rd,
Suite J, Trenton, NJ 08619.

Basic Media Literacy— Deconstruction questions

- Whose message is this?
- Who is the target audience?
- What tools of persuasion are used?
- What part of the story is not being told?

THUMBS Up: VP Joe Biden launched his *1 is 2 Many* campaign to reduce violence against women, particularly teens and young women ages 16-24. 9

Upcoming Training Institute Events

November 9, 2011—Evaluation 102

December 14, 2011—Evaluation 103/Data

■ **Evaluation 102 Workshop: Outcome Evaluation—Did we reach our goal?**

Learn and explore outcome evaluation, connections between outcome evaluation and continuous quality improvement and how to make outcome evaluation culturally relevant.

Presenters: Jyoti Venketraman & Regina Podhorin

Time: 10:00 AM–1:00 PM

Location: Lawrence Headquarters Branch Library, Rm. 1
2751 Brunswick Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Fee: Free

November 21, 2011

■ **Rescheduled Sexual Violence and the Military**

Military policies and procedures create unique circumstances for sexual violence survivors who are also active duty members. They may create barriers

and impact military service in a number of ways. To best serve survivors, sexual violence programs must understand these policies and their implications.

Presenter: Steve McAllister, Military Trainer

Time: 1:00 PM–4:00 PM

Location: American Legion Eden-Stanley Post 294
39 Fort Dix Road, Pemberton, NJ 08068

Fee: \$30.00 Public/\$20.00 SVP Members

November 30, 2011

■ **Tapestries of Hope Film Presentation**

A feature length documentary that exposes the Zimbabwe myth that raping a virgin cures a man of HIV/AIDS.

Presenter: Jenn Nix

Time: 6:00 PM–9:00 PM

Location: Cherry Hill Library
1100 Kings Highway North, Cherry Hill,
NJ 08034

Fee: \$10.00

Thumbs Up

- NJ Governor Chris Christie signed into law legislation that ensures sexual assault survivors are not responsible for the cost of services associated with the collection of forensic evidence—effective immediately. The bill received bipartisan and overwhelming support from both the Assembly and the Senate.
- Vice President Joe Biden launched his *1 is 2 Many* campaign to reduce violence against women—particularly teens and young women ages 16-24—through changing attitudes, educating the public and facilitating discussion.
- NJ passes the strongest anti-bullying law in the nation.
- Baltimore City launched an outreach campaign—“Rape is not your fault”—to encourage survivors to reach out for support. The campaign is a part of the city’s reform efforts after it was reported that the Baltimore police discarded rape reports at the highest rate in the country.

Thumbs Down

- The Department of Veteran Affairs finds that 20% of female Iraq and Afganistan veterans have experienced Military Sexual Abuse.
- Baseball’s Lenny Dykstra is charged with indecent exposure.
- Charges dismissed in the sexual assault case against Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

Begin by believing that all of us have a role in working toward the elimination of sexual violence in our communities

This newsletter was supported by Grant No. 10 VAWA 33, awarded by the Office of Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

AmeriCorps' Day of Service in Commemoration

On Friday September 9th, NJCASA AmeriCorps members gathered with Jersey Cares volunteers to commemorate the ten-year anniversary of September 11th through a day of service. The selected project was gardening at Frederick Cook Elementary School, located in Plainfield, NJ. Upon arrival, a Jersey Cares representative read a statement of remembrance aloud to the group, and everyone observed a solemn moment of silence for both New Jersey victims and every other individual had who lost their life or a loved one ten years prior. Soon after, the volunteers were hard at work. Pansies, marigolds, colorful flowering shrubs, and truckloads of mulch had been donated to the school, and NJCASA members were integral in the beautifying process. The entire entrance area of the elementary school had been noticeably improved by the project's completion. While covered in dirt, sweat, and mulch, the



From Left to Right: Megan Gluchoski, Emily Durison, Megan Tantum, Nancy Orloski, and Bryanna Johnson.

NJCASA AmeriCorps volunteers were happy to know that Cook Elementary's students would have a colorful, welcoming sight as they arrived for school the following day.

Gender/Health

Continued from page 1

Gender-based inequities in health "are not only unequal and unjust, but also ineffective and inefficient." Growing numbers of governmental and non-governmental agencies are challenging these injustices and working to transform beliefs and practices in order to improve people's health and lives.³

NJCASA is doing its part to diminish health inequity for women through its media literacy curriculum to combat negative and disempowering messages about girls and women and hyper-masculine messages of entitlement and aggression for boys and men. NJCASA advocates for sufficient resources so that effective support services are in place for survivors. NJCASA develops training for law enforcement officers so that they are ready to recognize and acknowledge acts of sexual violence, respond with compassion to the survivors and be tenacious in their investigations.

Social determinants of health are products of what a society cares about, how it structures its relationships, and how it organizes its resources. Health inequities can be eliminated through organized design and action.

"Health equity is when everyone has the opportunity to 'attain their full potential' and no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of their social position or other socially determined circumstances."⁴

Together we CAN choose health equity. We CAN choose gender equity. We CAN choose to end sexual violence.

1. MM. Whitehead, "The Concepts and Principles of Equity and Health," *International Journal of Health Services* 22(3), 1992: 430.
2. <http://healthexchangenews.com/2009/06/18/social-determinants-of-health-time-to-act-for-health-equity/> (accessed 10.10.11)
3. G. Sen and P. Ostlin, "Unequal, Unfair, Ineffective and Inefficient Gender Inequity in Health: Why it Exists and how we can change it." World Health Organization; September 2007; xviii.
4. <http://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/FAQ.html> (accessed 10.10.11)

Begin by believing that the victim is never to blame for an attack...

Grantors

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Rape Care & Primary Prevention Grant, Rape Prevention Education & Crisis Hotline Grant and EMPOWER Grants administered by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division on Women

Corporation for National & Community Service, AmeriCorps State Grants administered by the New Jersey Department of State, Commission on National Community Service

US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence Against Women,

State Coalitions Grant and Recovery Act Grant to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions.

US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence Against Women, STOP Violence Against Women Act Grant, administered by NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, State Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy

A Sincere THANK YOU to Our Donors!

NJCASA DONORS (6/1–9/30)


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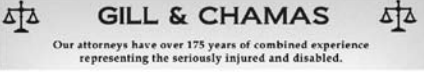


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Our attorneys have over 175 years of combined experience representing the seriously injured and disabled.





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