

Urban and NSVRC: How We Work Together

Transforming evidence-based research into actionable guidance for changemakers

Recognizing that sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual assault are among the defining issues of our time, the Urban Institute and National Sexual Violence Resource Center are working together to empower decision makers with the information they need to make smarter, more effective choices in their policy and practice.

The Urban Institute and NSVRC are a proven team of experts that have collaborated on projects for more than 15 years. Combining the rigorous, independent research from the Urban Institute with the leadership NSVRC has taken around issues of sexual violence, we're able to transform evidence-based research into actionable guidance for changemakers in this space.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT EXAMPLES

How state prisons are implementing the Prison Rape Elimination Act requirements

- One year after the passage of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, Urban conducted a review of how state prisons were addressing sexual violence for both staff and those who are incarcerated. NSVRC guided data collection efforts to ensure that all relevant intervention and prevention efforts could be identified, and how best to report findings to be useful to the field.

How businesses can use data to address the impact of sexual violence on their work

- NSVRC and Urban partnered with Uber to develop a new, evidence-based taxonomy that will help collect and categorize information on sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual assault experiences that occur on the Uber platform.
- Information collected through this taxonomy will be shared in a transparency report.
- We hope to encourage and empower other companies to follow an evidence-based approach to better understand the scope of these issues and minimize experiences of sexual violence across their platforms.

"Uber partnered with the National Resource Center and Urban Institute because of their expertise in preventing sexual violence and reputation for rigorous research methodology. Together we created a first-of-its-kind taxonomy to allow companies like ours to consistently categorize and count sexual misconduct and sexual assault reports. This framework is a major step forward that will help companies better respond to and develop best practices to prevent sexual violence."

—TONY WEST, Chief Legal Officer at Uber

How states comply with Violence Against Women Act requirements

- Each state identifies a designated payer of sexual assault medical forensic exams so that survivors are able to access exams without being billed and without being required to report their assault to police. Urban conducted the first ever national review of state payment practices and NSVRC provided guidance and insight on how best to collect and report on this information to ensure actionable results for state policymakers and local communities.
- We provided evidence-based direction on exam payment, drawing on survivors' experiences as one focus of the guidance.

"Combining the unbiased rigor that the Urban Institute is known for with the victim-centered policy perspective of NSVRC resulted in work that made incredible strides around understanding how the country pays for sexual assault medical forensic exams without charging victims. This partnership increased my confidence that this project would be done well, with an eye toward learning what is really happening across the country on this critical issue."

—**BETHANY BACKES**, Director of Research and Evaluation, UT-Austin Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault; former Social Science Analyst at the National Institute of Justice

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS

Urban Institute

The nonprofit Urban Institute is a leading research organization dedicated to developing evidence-based insights that improve people's lives and strengthen communities. For 50 years, Urban has been the trusted source for rigorous analysis of complex social and economic issues; strategic advice to policymakers, philanthropists, and practitioners; and new, promising ideas that expand opportunities for all. Urban's work inspires effective decisions that advance fairness and enhance the well-being of people and places. Urban is committed to following the evidence wherever it goes, regardless of the project or funder, sharing the results of our research to inform decision-making. Urban is independent and does not engage in lobbying efforts of any kind.

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) is the leading nonprofit in providing information and tools to prevent and respond to sexual violence. NSVRC translates research and trends into best practices that help individuals, communities and service providers achieve real and lasting change. The NSVRC's mission is to provide leadership in preventing and responding to sexual violence through collaboration, sharing and creating resources, and promoting research. NSVRC also is one of the three founding organizations of RALIANCE, a national, collaborative initiative dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation.

For more information about the Urban Institute and NSVRC partnership, please contact:

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