

# ***HENNEPIN ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM***



## ***STAFF AND PROGRAM CHANGES***

In 1976, Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) moved out of a past-its-prime building lovingly referred to as "The Old General", and took up residence in the building that it now occupies. One year later, in 1977, the Sexual Assault Resource Service (SARS) was born. SARS was the first program of its kind, developed to care for patients reporting sexual violence. Now, as HCMC prepares to expand again,

into a brand new clinic and specialty center, the SARS program will follow suit. We are excited to announce that we are expanding the scope of our program to not only serve those affected by sexual violence, but intimate partner violence and child abuse, as well. With this change, the team of nurses formerly known as SARS will take on a new name: the Hennepin Assault Response Team (HART). To accommodate these changes, the HART department added five full

time equivalent nurse positions to the roster of casual, on-call nurses, as well as the position of principal office specialist. As 2018 progresses, the team will be undertaking new training and developing protocols in order to serve the patients that present for medical care following an assault. We will let our partners know when we are able to start responding to these cases.

## *2018 Q1 SERVICE STATS*

HART has performed a total of 277 medical-forensic exams so far in 2018.

- 180 Adult Exams
- 41 Adolescent Exams (13-17)
- 15 Pediatric Exams (0-12)
- 9 Suspect Exams
- 32 Non-Acute Medical Exams at CornerHouse Child Advocacy Center
- 47 of the patients seen were suspected to have been victims of human trafficking.

- HART prepared extensively for SuperBowl LII, working with local and national authorities to combat an expected rise in human trafficking. An extra on-call nurse was added for each shift during the weekend of the event, and some nurses even stayed overnight in the hospital to provide extra support.
- HART is part of a research study out of UNC that is examining the occurrence of PTSD and chronic pain in women that have been raped. Three participants have been enrolled in the study this year, and two participants have completed their one-year commitment to the study.





## ***COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS***

HART represents the medical-forensic point of view on the following groups and committees:

- Hennepin County SMART
- Rice County SMART
- Dakota County Coordinated Response Team
- CornerHouse Multidisciplinary Team
- SCANT (Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Team)
- No Wrong Door Advisory Committee
- Super Bowl Planning Committee
- Statewide Medical and Forensic Exam Access Committee
- MN Human Trafficking Task Force
- MNCASA/MN Hospital Association Medical Forensic Exam Billing Committee

## ***SUBPOENAS AND TESTIFYING***

HART nurses are frequently subpoenaed to testify about the evidence they collect during medical-forensic exams and provide expert testimony regarding sexual violence, strangulation, and intimate partner violence. In 2017, HART received 105 separate subpoenas for 62 unique cases. Six of these subpoenas were a direct result of having performed a suspect examination, something that many programs like HART don't do. At least 29 of the trials that HART nurses were subpoenaed for resulted in conviction, either through plea or guilty verdict in a jury trial.

Quarter 1 of 2018 has brought 35 subpoenas for 23 unique cases. Of these, six defendants have plead guilty, and one case resulted in a hung jury, with a new trial beginning in July. HART nurses are involved in six cases that are still pending, and 11 that have been continued for a later date.

# ***ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS***

In 2017, HART's coordinator, Kristi Jarvis (BS, RN, SANE-A, SANE-P) had many opportunities to speak to the media regarding the work done by HART. Some of these opportunities included:

- Hennepin Co. SMART Fights for Sexual Assault Survivors; Kare 11: Breaking the News with Jana Shortal
- Sexual Assault: Realities, Myths, & the Medical-Forensic Exam; The Gyno Show: 107.1 FM- My Talk
- Getting Real About Sexual Assault; A Woman's Place Radio Show- 950 AM
- Sexual Assault Basics; The Gyno Show: 107.1 FM
- Hennepin County SMART Protocol Press Release

In 2018, HART has written two proposals for presentations which were accepted for conferences:

- The Importance and Benefits of Suspect Exams; to be presented by two FNEs as well as a Minneapolis Police Department Sex Crimes Investigator and a Hennepin County Prosecutor at the MN OJP Conference on Crime and Victimization
- HART EPIC Documentation Development to be presented at the National XGM EPIC Conference



# ***PRESENTATIONS***

In addition to the medical care and evidence collection that HART provides, they also provide education to the community on a multitude of topics. In 2017, HART gave a total of 36 presentations:

**17 Trafficking**

**4 Domestic Violence/Strangulation**

**12 Sexual Assault**

**3 Child abuse**

In Q1 of 2018, HART has given 14 presentations:

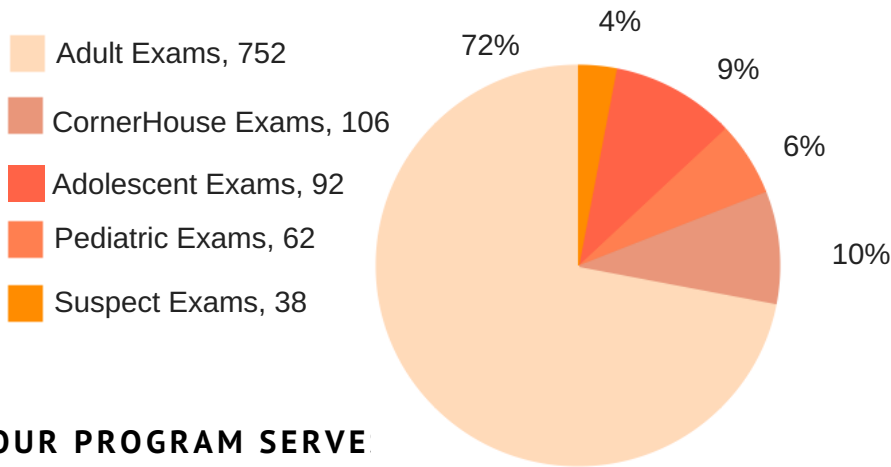
**7 Trafficking**

**7 Sexual Violence and the Role of Forensic Nurse Examiner**

- 4 to advocacy groups
- 2 to medical groups (U of M Medical Students/RN Students/Pediatric Residents)
- 1 to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office

# 2017 SERVICE STATS

## EXAM BREAKDOWN



**1,050**  
NUMBER OF EXAMS IN 2017



each person represents 20 exams

## OUR PROGRAM SERVE

**10**  
**HOSPITALS**  
IN 3 COUNTIES

- HCMC
- Fairview-Southdale
- Fairview-Ridges
- Maple Grove Hospital
- North Memorial Medical Center
- U of M West Bank Hospital
- U of M East Bank Hospital
- U of M Masonic Children's Hospital
- Methodist Hospital
- Northfield Hospital

Plus- CornerHouse Child Advocacy Center, and Regina Hospital for part of 2017

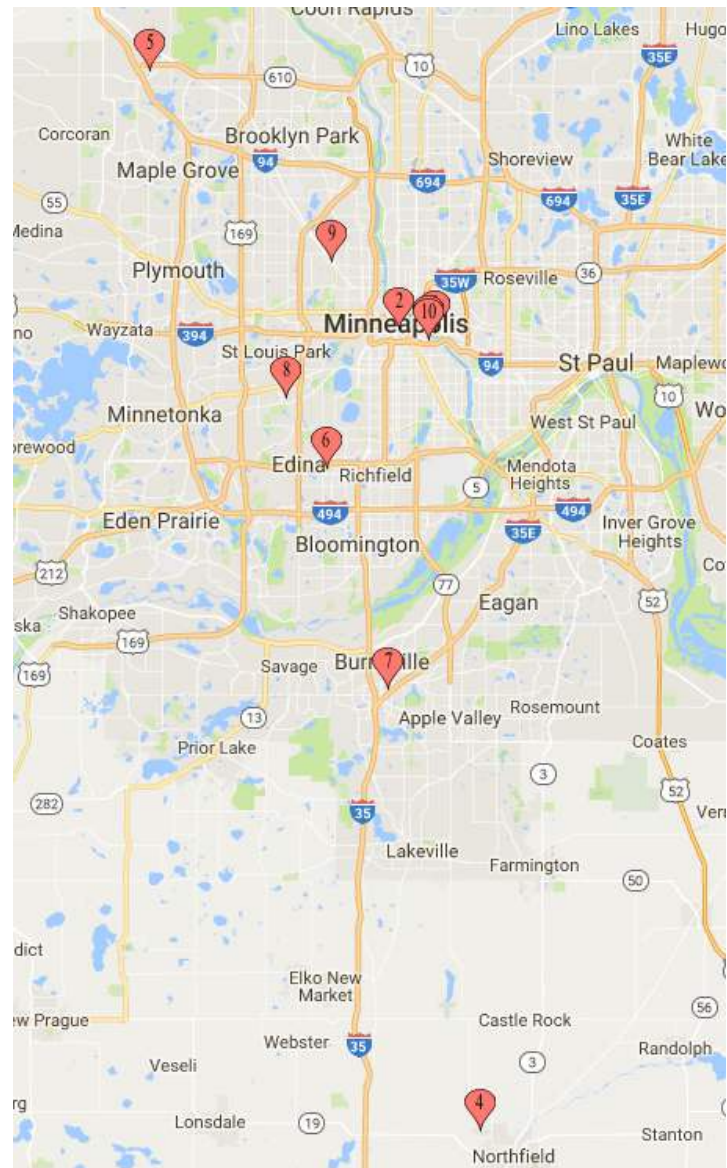
## WE EMPLOY

**18 NURSES**

Who provide around-the-clock care for individuals that have experienced assault.

**17 & 7**

Participants enrolled in the Women's Health Study, a research study based out of UNC of which Hennepin Healthcare is a clinical site & participants who completed the study- 12 months after enrolling



**OUR HOSPITALS**