



Jane Doe Inc (JDI) was honored to participate on the Special Commission to Address Sex Offender Recidivism. Our charge was complex and the path to consensus challenging. While the Commission membership held diverse beliefs about strategies and processes to address recidivism, the shared commitment to the prevention of sexual violence was strong. The only unanimous recommendation of the Commission is to significantly and intentionally address sexual violence primary prevention. JDI and the rape crisis centers in Massachusetts that work daily to serve survivors of sexual violence and to prevent sexual violence are emboldened by the consensus on this issue.

Sexual violence is both a public health and public safety problem. In MA, **nearly 1 in 2 women and 1 in 4 men** have experienced sexual violence other than rape; **nearly 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men** experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner; **nearly 1 in 7 women** have experienced rape over the course of their lifetimes.<sup>1</sup> In FY2015, rape crisis centers in Massachusetts answered more than 14,000 hotline calls related to sexual violence.<sup>2</sup> Rape remains one of the most under-reported crimes.<sup>3</sup> Most individuals who perpetrate sexual violence are not identified by law enforcement, successfully prosecuted and placed under the purview of the criminal justice and the Sex Offender Registry system.

JDI joined in Commission report sections that reflect the position broadly supported by the sexual violence movement, including the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence. This position advocates the use and continuous evaluation of the most accurate, evidence-based tools available to identify risk, and to collect the necessary data to evaluate their effectiveness. We must also pay special attention to the variables that could impact risk assessment and understand that juveniles, women, and individuals with disabilities may need to be assessed and responded to in a different way than subjects of current research. Research will continue to grow and should be constantly reviewed and integrated into practice. JDI's support of these sections is not meant to undermine the SORB's efforts, but rather reflect support for considering additional options. Further, while JDI supports the concept of data collection/evaluation, we are not prepared to endorse any specific research design at this time.

JDI joined in the collateral consequences portion of the report as recognition of the broader scope of the issue and impacts of the systems currently in place. We strongly support offender accountability and also recognize that poorly conceived or poorly implemented consequences might increase risk and have implications for survivors' lives. This section makes no specific recommendations and simply highlights the areas that should be considered as we review current systems. Any such review should reflect the complexity and diversity of survivors' experiences and perspectives.

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<sup>1</sup> National Intimate Partner Sexual Violence Survey, 2010

<sup>2</sup> MA Department of Public Health, 2015

<sup>3</sup> National Crime Victims Survey, 2008