

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Fact Sheet

The country's first SANE programs were launched in the late 1970s. In 1991, there were only 20 SANE programs in the United States; however, those numbers are steadily increasing. There are currently about 800 Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) programs in the United States and Canada. Of those SARTs, 330 have functioning SANE components.

The Role of the SANE

SANEs provide an objective medical forensic evaluation for sexual assault survivors which includes the following:

- Obtaining informed consent.
- Obtaining a medical history and history of the reported incident.
- Performing a physical examination.
- Collecting evidence.
- Offering medications and laboratory testing.
- Referring for follow-up medical treatment.
- Documenting and photographing findings.
- Interacting with survivors in a neutral manner to help them make informed decisions.
- Giving expert witness testimony in court trials as either a defense or prosecution witness.

Background

- SANEs are registered nurses or advanced practice nurses who have advanced educational and clinical backgrounds.
- International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) offers Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner-Adult/Adolescent certification (SANE-A) and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner-Pediatric/Adolescent (SANE-P) certification.
- IAFN has developed a forensic nursing core curriculum.
- More nursing schools are now providing forensic nursing courses to the BSN, MSN, and doctorate students.
- Along with forensic nursing, the SANE subspecialty is one of the fastest growing areas of nursing in the United States today.