

End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI)

FBI Advisory Policy Board Votes to Revise UCR Definition of Forcible Rape

The FBI announced that the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Subcommittee of their Criminal Justice Information Services Division Advisory Policy Board (APB) met on October 18, 2011 to discuss proposed revisions to the definition of forcible rape (<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/advisory-policy-board>). The current definition (<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/violent-crime/rapemain>) of forcible rape that is used in the UCR program was written in the 1920's:

Carnal knowledge of a female, forcibly and against her will.

Critics (http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/29/us/federal-rules-on-rape-statistics-criticized.html?_r=4) have long held that this definition is overly restrictive and confusing, because it excludes:

- sexual assaults facilitated with drugs and/or alcohol
- sexual assaults of unconscious victims
- sexual assaults involving male victims
- sexual assaults involving victims with severe disabilities (when the disability precludes the individual from legally being able to give consent)
- sexual assaults of children under the age of 12 (crimes that are generally reported by law enforcement to the UCR program as child sexual abuse), and
- all other forms of sexual assault such as anal penetration, oral copulation, penetration with a finger or foreign object, and sexual battery

Because of these many exclusions, most of the sexual assault cases reported to law enforcement are not included in UCR data. Yet UCR data is routinely cited as an estimate of the actual number of reported rapes. Other types of sexual assault thus remain invisible in official statistics. The proposed revision is designed to fix this by expanding the definition to:

Penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.



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SAVE THE DATE

EVAW International
presents an

***International Conference on Sexual
Assault,
Domestic Violence and Stalking***

April 23-25, 2012
San Diego, California

Visit
<http://www.evawintl.org/conferencedetail.aspx?confid=11>
for more information.

This expanded definition is more in line with both state statutes and public understanding. In fact, a recent study was conducted by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) (<http://www.policeforum.org/>), which found that 80% of responding police departments agreed that the definition should be changed.

According to the FBI, the APB will forward the following proposed definition for a vote at their December 6-7, 2011 meeting to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. If approved, it will be forwarded to FBI Director Robert Mueller who will make the final decision.

OnLine Training Institute (OLTI) Offers Guidance

More information on the legal definitions and UCR data collection program are available in the OnLine Training Institute

(<http://olti.evawintl.org/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>) modules on *Law and Preliminary Investigation, Reporting Methods, Clearance Methods*, and others.

Registration in the OLTI is now FREE, thanks to a generous grant awarded to EVAW International by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Grant funds will also be used to update OLTI modules, to reflect emerging best practices and developments such as this one.

End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI)

Vision Statement: We envision a world where gender-based violence is unacceptable; where perpetrators are held accountable, and victims receive the compassion, support, and justice they deserve.

Mission Statement: We inspire and educate those who respond to gender-based violence, equipping them with the knowledge and tools they need to support victims and hold perpetrators accountable. We promote victim-centered, multi-disciplinary collaboration, which strengthens the response of the criminal justice system, other professionals, allies, and the general public -- making communities safer.