

Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program: Providing Comprehensive and Compassionate Care to Patients of All Ages and Contributing to Public Safety



In FY 2009 SANEs Cared for:
918 Adult and Adolescent Patients
660 Pediatric Patients
Who had been Sexually Assaulted



The **Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program** provides direct patient care to Adults, Adolescents, and Children who disclose sexual assault and present to SANE designated Emergency Departments and Children's Advocacy Centers across the Commonwealth. Since the Program's inception in 1997, the MA SANE Program has provided care to over 8,500 sexual assault patients statewide. In FY 2009 alone, the SANE Program provided direct services to **1,578 patients, 660 of them children**. MA SANEs deliver coordinated, expert forensic nursing care necessary to ensure essential medical intervention to patients of all ages and provide reliable forensic evidence that contributes to law enforcement's response. There are **27 SANE-designated hospitals** and **7 SANE-designated Children's Advocacy Centers** providing direct patient-centered SANE services. The SANE Program provides over **70% of the forensic evidence** delivered to the Boston and State Crime labs, evidence and SANE testimony has contributed to a **90%-100% successful prosecution rate**.

SANE FACTS: MDPH LINE ITEM 4510-0810

Adult and Adolescent SANEs in Action

- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are specially trained and certified nursing professionals skilled in performing quality forensic medical-legal examinations and patient-centered care. Should a case go to trial, the SANEs are then available to provide court testimony.
- SANEs are available by pager 24 hours, 7 days a week and respond within 40-60 minutes to designated SANE sites, ready to care for a patient who has been sexually assaulted
- SANEs will document the account of the assault, perform necessary patient assessments, coordinate medical care and treatment, and collect crucial, time sensitive evidence using the Massachusetts Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit distributed by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- A forensic exam performed by a SANE allows the sexual assault patient expert, comprehensive, efficient and expedited care that busy Emergency Department Physicians and Nurses alone cannot provide while taking care of other patients.

Pediatric SANEs in Action

- Pediatric SANEs provide direct forensic medical services to children, up to 17 years of age, who have experienced either acute or chronic sexual abuse
- The Pediatric SANEs provided care to 660 children and their non-offending caretakers during FY'09
- The Pediatric SANE Program uses quality forensic evidence procedures including peer-reviewed photo-documentation of physical injuries.
- Pediatric SANEs uncovered and documented physical injuries in 30% of children with an acute sexual assault. In addition, Pediatric SANE identified many unmet medical needs of children
- Pediatric SANEs provide critical nursing services focused to the child's health and safety while also reassuring the child and family of the child's well being.



SANE Enhances Public Safety Through Increased Prosecution of Rapists And Child Sex Offenders

- **SANEs have testified and provided quality forensic evidence in many cases throughout the Commonwealth. Sound forensic evidence collection practice, along with SANE testimony, were important elements in achieving convictions in 90% – 100% of cases.**
- Massachusetts DA's report alleged perpetrators are more likely to plead guilty before trial when the prosecution presents evidence collected by SANEs, saving enormous prosecution costs.
- The SANE Program advises the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security on forensic principles and standards to keep the Massachusetts Adult and Pediatric Evidence Collection Kits current with SANE Program protocols
- The SANE Program has impacted the standardization of the preservation of evidence by:
 - Providing expertise in incorporating the most advanced forensic evidence collection techniques
 - Ensuring that SANE evidence is transported properly to the designated crime lab
 - Monitoring and performing quality assurance on SANE documentation and evidence submitted to the crime labs.

The Massachusetts SANE Program produced the "first of its kind" Pediatric Evidence Collection Kit

Forensic evidence (sperm, blood and saliva) was recovered in 38% of Pediatric Evidence Collection Kits completed by Pediatric SANEs. This critical evidence increases the likelihood of a plea agreement thereby saving the Commonwealth significant dollars required for trial proceedings

The Pediatric SANE Program has spearheaded the MA PEDI Kit Task Force to improve systems for transport of forensic evidence and communication among hospitals, police, DCF and the DA's Office upon completion of an evidence collection kit

A form titled "Massachusetts Pediatric Evidence Collection Kit for Children under the age of 12". It includes fields for "Disclosed Reported to Police?" (Yes/No), "Disclosed Reported to DCF?" (Yes/No), "City/Town in which Incident occurred", "Hospital/ Clinic", "Phone Numbers", "Clinician", "KIT Sealed By", "Placed By", "Date", "Time", "For Police Personnel/ Court of Probation", "Received From", "Received By", "Date", "Time", "Agency", "Received From", "Received By", "Date", "Time", "Agency". It also features a small cartoon cat icon and the text "PLACE KIT IN LOCKED REFRIGERATED SAFE". The form is signed by "The Commonwealth of Massachusetts" at the bottom.

RECENT SANE PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

This multi-disciplinary, statewide collaboration has resulted in numerous advancements in the quality of care for victims of all ages. Most notably, are significant improvement in the standard of victim care and the quality of evidence being collected and preserved.

- The SANE Program has greatly improved the statewide standard of victim care by providing hundreds of trainings to physicians and nurses regarding evidence collection procedures and forensically sound documentation practices
- The Pediatric SANE Program is currently developing a training DVD to educate emergency department doctors and nurses regarding the use of the MA Pediatric Evidence Collection Kit and the importance of “do no harm principles” when providing care to children who have been sexually abused
- In collaboration with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), new date rape drug testing guidelines for sexual assault victims are being implemented statewide at the Massachusetts State Police Crime lab.
- In collaboration with the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, a toll free hotline was established for victims who wish to obtain toxicology results from unreported cases: (1-866-269-4265). Victims who wish to receive results from reported cases can contact their local DA’s office.
- The MA SANE Program has seen a marked increase of victims with traumatic physical injuries and has developed protocols allowing SANEs to care for these victims in Intensive Care and Operating Room settings.
- Many persons with Physical and Intellectual Disabilities have been sexually assaulted. The SANE Program is working in collaboration with the MA Disabled Person’s Protection Commission to ensure quality sexual assault care and services to this population of patients.
- In accordance to the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act, the MA SANE Program provides the only statewide system of SANE care for inmates who have been sexually assaulted in correctional facilities, impacting the MA Department of Youth Services, MA Department of Corrections and MA County Correctional Facilities.

RAPE CRISIS CENTER COMMUNITY-BASED COUNSELORS

The **Rape Crisis Center Community-Based Counselors** deliver immediate crisis intervention and support to sexual assault victims in hospital emergency departments. In addition, the Rape Crisis Centers provide on-going counseling and advocacy for sexual assault victims who help to facilitate emotional healing and resolution related to this traumatic event

MEMBERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SANE BOARD

Office of the Attorney General
Boston Police Sexual Assault Unit
Department of Children and Family
MA District Attorney’s Association
MA Office for Victim Assistance
Emergency Nurses Association
Boston Police and State Crime Labs
MA Children’s Alliance (MACA)

Children’s Hospital/Mass General Hospital
Jane Doe Inc.
Governor’s Council on Sexual and Domestic Violence
Disabled Persons Protection Commission
Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians
Massachusetts Nurses Association
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Programs Division
MA Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children

**The SANE Program is supported through an interagency
partnership of MDPH and MOVA**

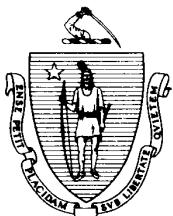
For more information, please contact:

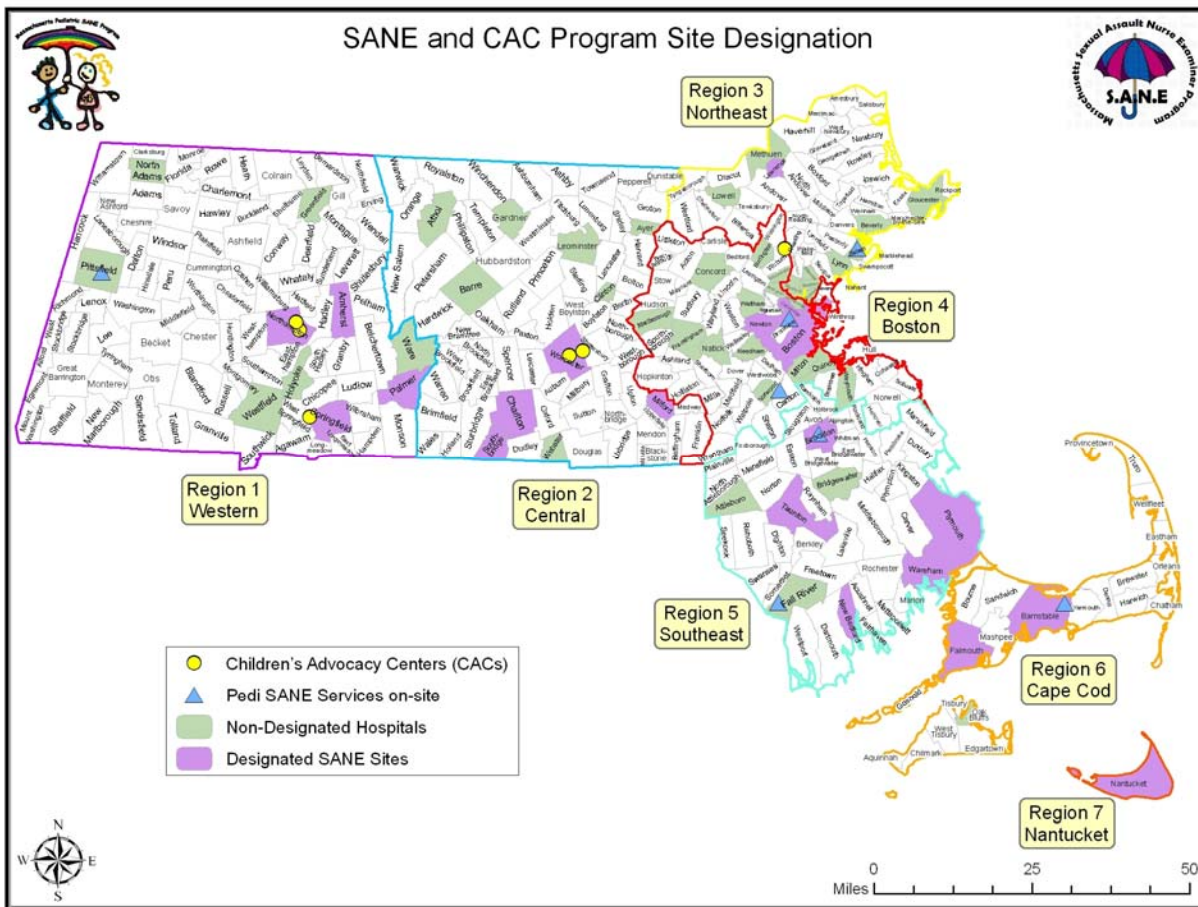
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www.mass.gov/dph/sane





Pediatric SANE Services in Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs)

The SANE Program has worked closely with the MA Children's Alliance (MACA) to advance medical services in the state's Children's Advocacy Centers by employing Advanced Practice Pediatric SANEs to provide forensic medical examinations and to meet accreditation standards.

Pediatric SANE services are currently in place in the following counties:

- Berkshire County – Berkshire County Kid's Place – Pittsfield, MA
- Bristol County CAC – Bristol County CAC, Fall River, MA
- Cape and Islands – Children's Cove, Barnstable, MA
- Essex County CAC – Lawrence (Lawrence General Hospital)
- Norfolk County CAC – Children's Advocacy Center of Norfolk County – Canton, MA
- Plymouth County – Conway CAC of Plymouth County – Brockton, MA
- Suffolk County – Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County – Boston, MA

Emergency Departments Pediatric SANE Services

Pediatric SANE services are currently available on a 24 hr, 7 day/week basis in the following ED:

- **Lawrence General Hospital** Phone (978) 683-4000 ext 2500

Adult and Adolescent SANE Services

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| Baystate Medical Center | Falmouth Hospital | Nantucket Cottage Hospital |
| Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital | Harrington Hospital | Newton Wellesley Hospital |
| Boston Medical Center | Jordan Hospital | St. Luke's Hospital |
| Brigham & Women's Hospital | Lawrence General Hospital | Tobey Hospital |
| Brockton Hospital | Massachusetts General Hospital | UMass Memorial Hospital |
| Cambridge Hospital | Mercy Medical Center | UMass University Hospital |
| Cape Cod Hospital | Milford-Regional Medical Center | UMass Amherst Health Services |
| Charlton Memorial Hospital | Morton Hospital | Wing Memorial Hospital |
| Children's Hospital | | Worcester Medical Center |
| Cooley Dickinson Hospital | | |