

SANE Care Collaborative & Innovation Network

Year 1 Report | 2024-2025

Rural Northern Border Region Outreach Program

A 3-Year Federal Grant | HRSA-Funded | Grant Period: October 2024 - September 2027

Strengthening Access in Rural Vermont

In 2024, Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (VT Network) and Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care (VPQHC) launched a 3-year initiative to strengthen Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs across five rural hospitals –addressing barriers to access and supporting high-quality, timely care.

Together with consortium members and hospital teams, the SANE Care Collaborative & Innovation Network strives to ensure a system where pediatric and adult patients who are seeking SANE exams and treatment after sexual harm receive high quality care, when they need it, where they need it.

Nationally...

1 in 2
women

1 in 3
men

experience contact sexual violence
.....

In Vermont...

156,000
women

103,000
men

experience contact sexual violence

Vermont's Bill of Rights for Sexual Assault Survivors (13 V.S.A. § 3281) ensures that survivors have access to free, timely and confidential medical forensic exams.

Annually in Vermont...



90
forensic nurses
provide



~400
exams



in **16**
hospitals across
the state

The Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence houses and manages the Vermont Forensic Nursing Program (VFNP).

Lead by a team of clinical and program coordinators, VFNP trains, supports and certifies forensic nurses (known as FNEs or SANEs,) who provide specialized and trauma responsive medical care, collect and document forensic evidence, and provide referrals for follow-up care after a sexual assault, intimate partner violence, or child abuse.

Program Snapshot



Goals

- Expand capacity for SANE services
- Enhance quality of care
- Increase collaboration and innovation



Hospital Partners

- Brattleboro Memorial Hospital
- Copley Hospital
- Grace Cottage Hospital
- North Country Hospital
- Northwestern Medical Center



Consortium Members



Participation Requirements

- Submit a Letter of Intent to participate
- Complete SANE program needs assessment
- Attend professional development conferences
- Participate in SANE simulation lab training (SIM lab)
- Identify and conduct quality improvement initiative and develop sustainability plan

What Hospitals Gain

- Annual access to Vermont SANE SIM lab and national educational conferences, contributing to enhanced competency of providers and quality of services
- Membership in peer learning community to create rural hospital networks and increase sharing of best practices
- Access to high-quality QI training and technical assistance from VPQHC and VT Network to support SANE program integration with hospital quality improvement processes



Being able to bring a full-time forensic team that offers trauma-informed care in our rural community has meant completely broadening access to forensic services over a large rural area in northern Vermont. It is incredibly important and rewarding to be able to offer services to a community that would otherwise be inaccessible. - Michaela Lanou, RN, BSN, FNE, North Country Hospital



Building a more connected, sustainable system of care for rural communities