



# Increasing Access to Quality Pediatric Sexual Abuse Care

## Secretaries' Innovation Group

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**PennState**  
Ross and Carol Nese  
College of Nursing



**SAFE-T**  
SYSTEM™

Sexual Assault Forensic  
Examination Telehealth

# Disclosure

Dr. Miyamoto has a financial interest in SAFE-T System, LLC., a company which could potentially benefit from the results of this research. This interest has been reviewed by the University in accordance with its Individual Conflict of Interest policy, for the purpose of maintaining the objectivity and the integrity of research at The Pennsylvania State University.



# Sexual Violence: A Persistent Crisis



Global health threat with limited progress in prevention and healing in the last 30 years.

1

> 50%

of US women will experience sexual violence in their lifetime.

2



Sexual violence disproportionately affects marginalized groups.

3-9



Over 30% of girls and 10% of boys experience child sexual abuse.

10



Survivors require trauma-informed care for healing and justice. Only 21% access care.

11

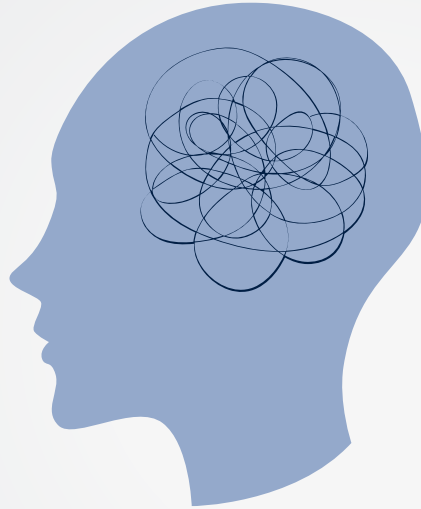


# The Consequences: Devastating Outcomes

Sexual assault survivors experience higher rates of:

- PTSD
- Anxiety
- Suicidal thoughts
- Chronic disease
- Premature death
- Loss of productivity

11-19



Survivors are more likely to experience mental, physical, and socioeconomic challenges.



Sexual violence has steep societal costs with an estimated economic burden of \$3.1 trillion over the victimized individuals' lifetime.

20



# The Problem is Not Easy to Solve

Few trained examiners

High turnover and burnout

No Peer Review (gold standard)

Disparities in quality of care

## Specialists:

**425 Child Abuse Pediatricians  
ever certified in the US**

**907 Certified Sexual Assault  
Nurse Examiner- Pediatric  
(SANE-P)**

Slingsby et al., 2024; IAFN, 2025





# Purpose of the Medical Exam

- Assess overall child health and well-being
- Assess for injury
- Collect evidence if disclosure of recent contact (<72 hours)
- Refer for services (counseling, medical follow-up)
- Reassure child and family



# Child-Focused

- Emphasize “whole child” during examination
- Allow them to touch items used during exam
- Give them some control (take their own pictures)
- Able to withdraw assent/consent at any time



# Examination is NOT painful



## No child is ever forced to have an exam



# SAFE-T System™ Program



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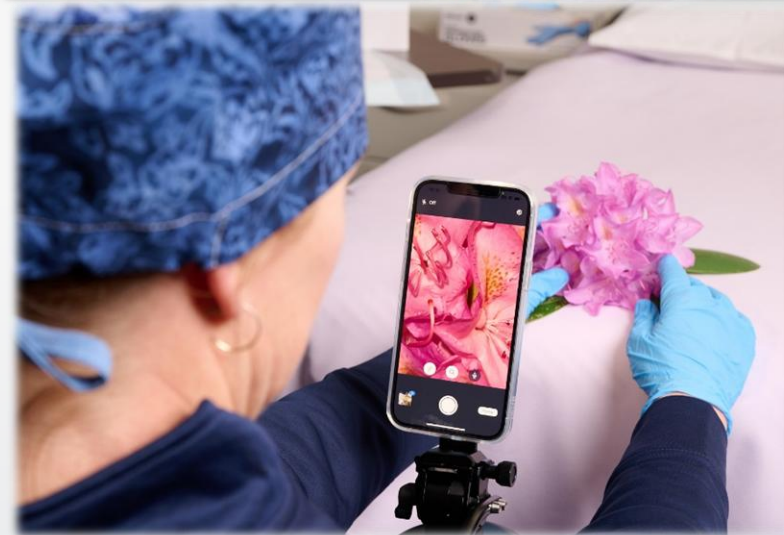
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# SAFE-T System's Mission

To partner with underserved communities  
to enhance compassionate, high-quality  
sexual abuse care



# SAFE-T System: A Telehealth Solution

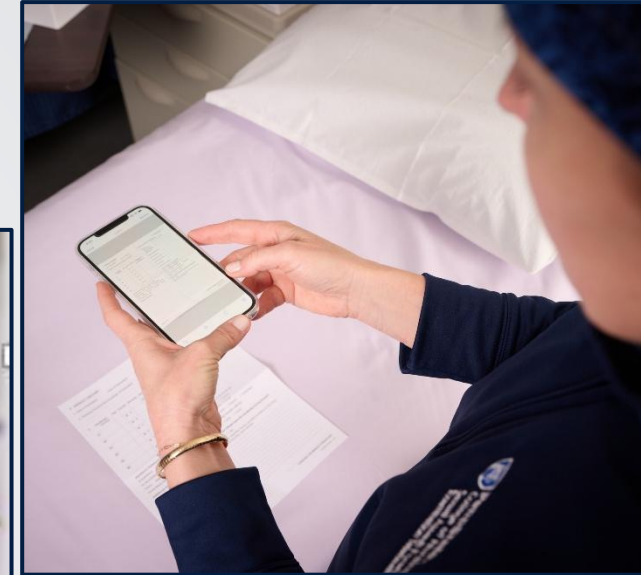




# SAFE-T System Technology

*Designed for SANEs by SANEs*

- Magnification up to 10x
- Hands-free photo capture
- Body & genital photography in one
- Scan & upload report documentation
- TeleSANEs can see in real time
- Instant, secure image transfer
  - No accidental deletion or overwriting
  - No misplaced SD cards





# SAFE-T Program Components

## Team Training



## SAFE-T Telehealth Technology



## Community Engagement & Recognition



## 24/7 Live Exam TeleSANE Mentoring & Consultation



# Partnership to Enhance Access and Grow Local Expertise



- Customized response honors community strengths and addresses gaps
- Community coordination
- 24/7 access to live pediatric teleSANE expertise
- Local nurses join our SANE Practice Network
- Sustainability plan to ensure program longevity







# Partner Sites



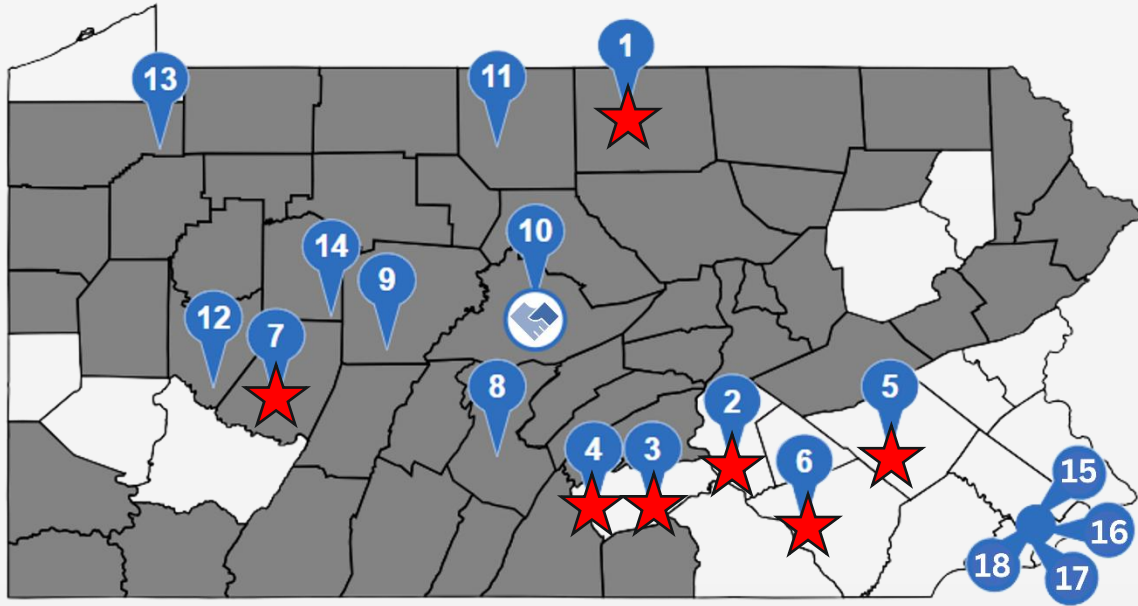
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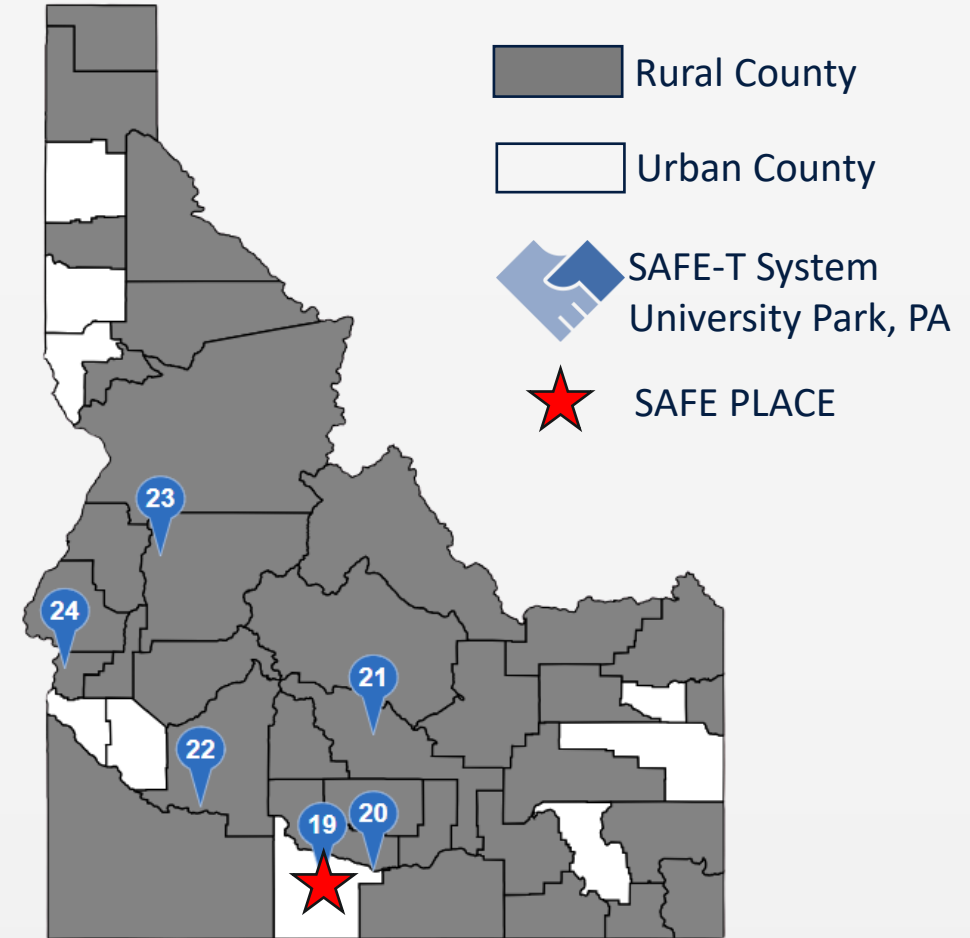
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# SAFE-T System Partner Sites



## PA Health System Partners

Penn State Health – 5 sites  
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center – 2 sites  
Penn Highlands – 3 sites  
Pennsylvania Mountains Care Network – 3 sites  
Titusville Area Hospital – 1 site  
Main Line Health – 4 sites



## Idaho Health System Partners

St. Luke's Health System – 6 sites



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# Program Impact & Outcomes



**Together we are delivering the  
new standard of sexual assault care**

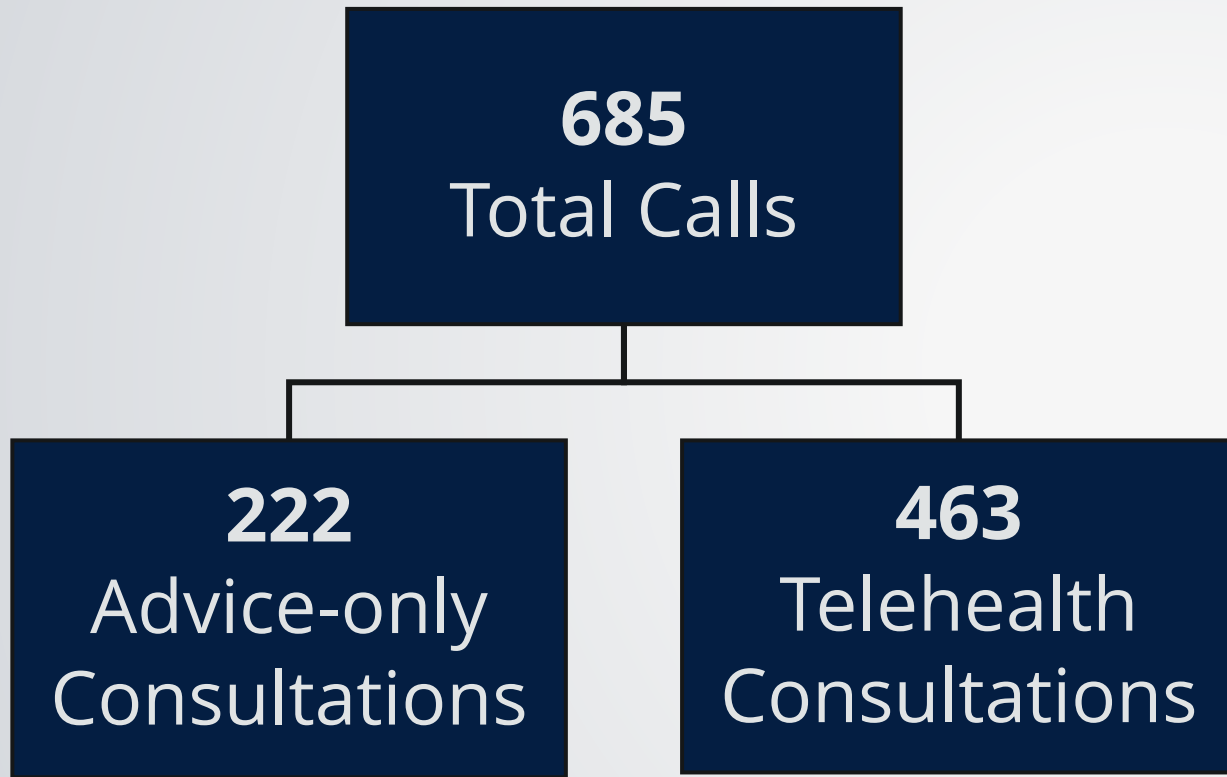


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# Telehealth Consultations



# Impact on Quality of Care

- ✓ Significantly higher quality examinations
- ✓ More complete examinations
- ✓ More accurate diagnoses

Impact of telemedicine on the quality of forensic sexual abuse examinations in rural communities ☆

Sheridan Miyamoto<sup>a</sup>, Madan Dharmar<sup>b</sup>, Cathy Boyle<sup>c</sup>, Nikki H. Yang<sup>d</sup>, Kristen MacLeod<sup>e</sup>,  
Kristen Rogers<sup>f</sup>, Thomas Nesbitt<sup>g</sup>, James P. Marcin<sup>b</sup>

## PEDIATRICS®

Using Telemedicine to Improve the Care Delivered to Sexually Abused Children in Rural, Underserved Hospitals ✓

Kristen J. MacLeod, MD; James P. Marcin, MD, MPH; Cathy Boyle, MS; Sheridan Miyamoto, MS; Robert J. Dimand, MD;  
Kristen K. Rogers, PhD



## Barriers to Quality SA Care

# Prior to the SAFE-T System™...

- Missed opportunities
- Lack of confidence
- Staffing issues
- Lack of equipment
- Limited support

*“We had at least two patients that were transferred to other hospitals because we were unable to provide the SANE exam.”*

Partner site ER nurse





# Local Nurses & SAFE-T System™

## “Priceless Partnership”

- Increased confidence
- Empowers local nurse expertise
- Pride in SANE role
- Community network of SANEs



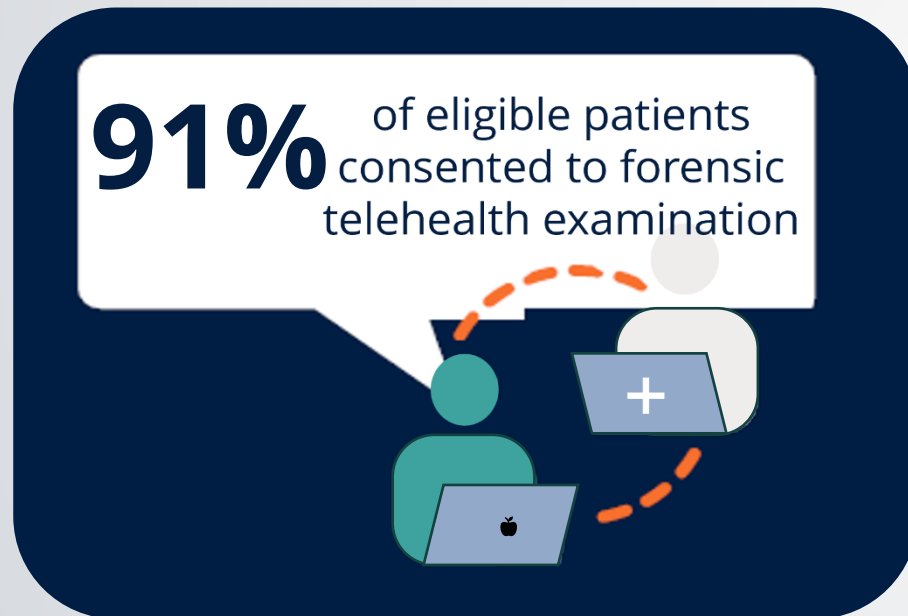
# Increased Patient Volume

The number of patients cared for **doubled or tripled** in first year of SAFE-T program at partner hospitals.



# Telehealth Acceptability

188 SAFE-T Telehealth Consultations (12 – 21 years old)



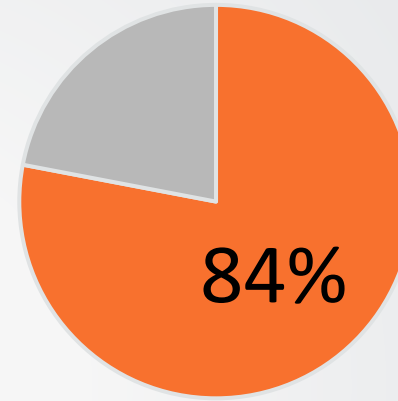
Miyamoto, S. et al (2022). Pathway to healing and recovery: Alleviation of survivor worries in sexual assault nurse examiner-led sexual assault telehealth examinations. Journal of Emergency Nursing, 48(6), 709–718.



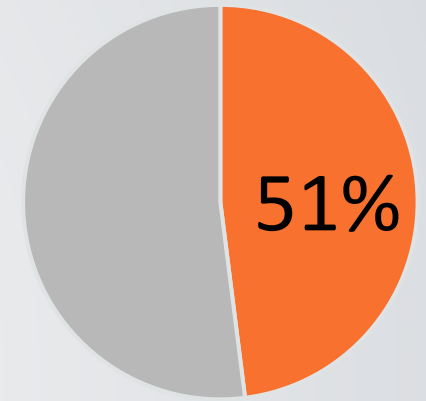
# Pre-Examination Worries

## I was worried about:

- Lack of control
- Being believed
- Being judged
- Being blamed
- The genital examination would be physically painful
- The examination would be embarrassing



of patients had at least  
**ONE** worry



of patients had at least  
**THREE** worries





# Patient Experience: During the Exam

Survey Question	n (%)
I felt in control	57/72 (79%)
I understood what was happening	64/73 (88%)
I felt believed	60/72 (83%)
I did NOT feel judged	64/73 (88%)
I did NOT feel blamed	64/72 (89%)
The genital exam was NOT painful	35/72 (49%)
I felt less embarrassed	49/72 (68%)



# Patient experience

Survey Question	n (%)
I could say no to any part of the exam	70/73 (96%)
My questions were answered	69/73 (95%)
The exam helped me feel better	70/73 (96%)
Having a telehealth consultation IMPROVED the care I received	66/72 (92%)



# Patient Experience

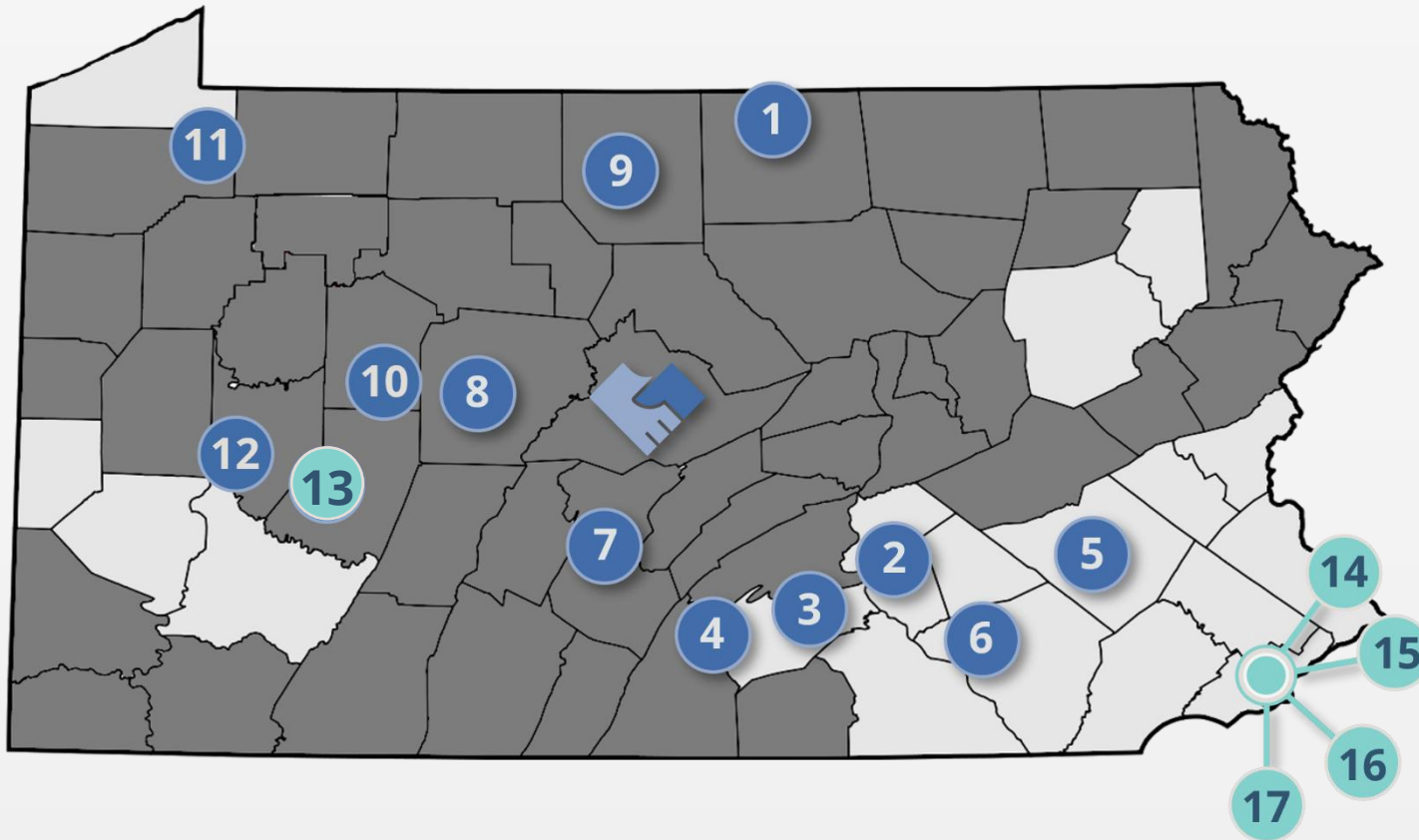
"She [teleSANE] did an amazing job and made me feel better at one of the worst times of my life."

"Everyone [teleSANE and on-site nurse] assured me that I wasn't to blame."

"I felt cared about and heard."



# SANE Workforce & Survivors Seeking Care



**367%**  
156 new SANEs  
across the SAFE-T  
System service area.

**167%**  
Increase in survivors  
seeking immediate  
care

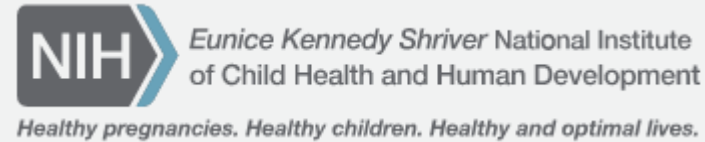




# Acknowledgments



We are grateful to the survivors who have trusted us with their care and whose courage inspires our commitment to excellence.



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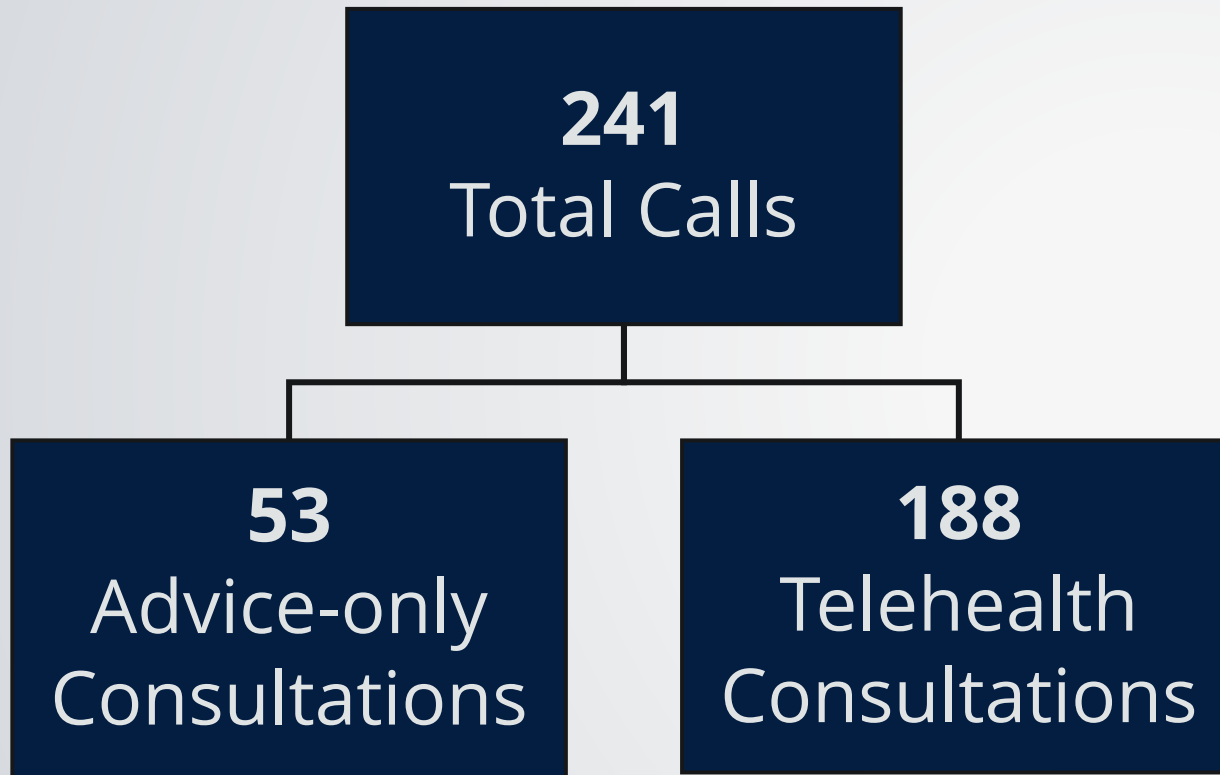
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# Extra slides



# Telehealth Consultations, Ages 12 -21



# SAFE-T Pediatric Telehealth Program



- Penn Highlands State College
- UPMC Wellsboro
- Penn State Health Holy Spirit
- Meadville Medical Center

