



2025

SATU Annual Report

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Introduction

I. WELCOME FROM THE CLINICAL LEAD

2025 was the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the first SATU in Europe, SATU Rotunda. It is empowering to think how far we have come, and how the quantity and quality of services and staffing models have evolved over that time. While it is disappointing that a massive need for SATU still exists and when we find ourselves frustrated by resource or infrastructure limitations, we must reflect on the positive impact of our presence and what supports exist now that were not available forty years ago. And doesn't time fly – this is the 17th Annual Report of Key Service Activities from the six HSE funded Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs), a period of time over which the service has demonstrated growth and development in order to respond to the needs of people who need to access it. The SATUs are located in Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Mullingar, Galway and Letterkenny and, in 2025, these units provided care for 1077 people. This metric represents a 5% increase in number of attendances compared with 2024, with four SATUs being significantly busier in 2025 than the previous year, highlighting the importance of ongoing data collection to inform service and patient needs. It remains imperative that people can access responsive care in a timely fashion and that all aspects of society are aware of the prevalence and potential impacts of sexual violence, and the location and type of services available.



In 2025 all six SATUs continued to build on a range of initiatives including education and outreach while remaining committed to provision of high-quality patient care. Each SATU has a blended team, with an Advanced Nurse Practitioner (or candidate ANP), Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS), administrator(s), support staff and on-call forensic examiners, as well as a clinical lead in place. Our team continues to collaborate closely with other members of the Sexual Assault Response Team, including colleagues from Cuan, An Garda Síochána, allied Rape Crisis & Sexual Violence Centres and Forensic Science Ireland as well as with colleagues who provide care for people under 14 years.

SATU Updates

In 2025 we were delighted to welcome six aspiring clinical nurse specialists (CNS) to the SATU services. They commenced their RCSI based level 9 training, and we look forward to having them in the SATUs in 2026. We need to continue to train nurses and midwives in this area and look forward to ongoing work with RCSI in terms of modularising this programme to make it accessible to more nurses as well as other stakeholders. Sincere thanks to Connie McGilloway, Sarah O'Connor, Bridget Murray and all the RCSI School of Nursing and Midwifery for their support for the academic components of this programme. Thanks

also to all SATU staff and local management for providing invaluable clinical support and mentorship.

Just as a new team of nurses enter the service; it would be remiss not to acknowledge the wonderful Deirdra Richardson, the very first Clinical Midwife Specialist in SATU who worked with SATU Rotunda from 2009 until her retirement in 2025. She will be greatly missed, by not only staff and patients at the Rotunda, but also within the national SATU network where her wealth of experience was immensely valuable to every member of the team.

We were delighted to welcome Waterford SATUs new premises this year. It is a really positive development, a fit for purpose facility that will enhance the care options and support, and ultimately the patient experience, for all those who use it. We acknowledge everyone who worked so hard to drive this redevelopment and make it a reality, particularly Sinead Boyle, Ann Folan and Dr Susie Ui Bhroin. We continue to advocate for capital investment in the Dublin, Cork and Mullingar SATUs and look forward to commitment in this regard in 2026.

Unfortunately, these infrastructural issues impacted on KPIs in 2025. Where appropriate, only 87% (490/561) of patients were seen within 3 hours of a request for urgent attendance and in 42% of cases this was because the SATU was unavailable for use (in 36% of cases this was due to an absence of availability of relevant SATU personnel). This highlights the infrastructural need for additional forensic suites, particularly in busier units.

In this context, the Rotunda SATU (in conjunction with the Rotunda Hospital and the Rotunda Foundation) had a very successful fundraising drive in 2025. The impetus behind this was to fund refurbishment costs for an expanded SATU footprint, which we hope to deliver in 2026. Many thanks to all who contributed to this, particularly Eleanor Power and the organising committee, as well as our impactful speakers Ciara Mangan and Paula Doyle who so generously and eloquently shared their lived experiences to highlight why responsive and accessible services are required.

We were delighted to continue to offer our SATU staff emotional support programme in 2025 and acknowledge Dr Nicola O'Sullivan and Dr Anne Golden for their commitment to this. This programme focusses on reflective practice, wellbeing and emotional support at work and its link to staff development, wellbeing and retention. We now offer a blended programme of some group workshops, but mainly individual, online Professional Therapeutic Spaces to support wellbeing at work.

SATU Research and Education

Training of aspiring forensic medical examiners is also ongoing, but currently separate from forensic nurse examiner training. This programme now takes the form of a suite of online resources, in conjunction with onsite observation in a host SATU combined with a day of simulation-based training hosted at The Irish Centre for Applied Patient Safety and

Simulation (ICAPSS) at the University of Galway in order to support participants to achieve the relevant competencies. Thanks, as always, to Dr Andrea Holmes, clinical lead for the Galway SATU for her ongoing commitment to this significant project. In time we hope to integrate this module as a portion of the programme traditionally undertaken by nurses and midwives, to reap the efficiencies and benefits of multiprofessional training.

Dr Daniel Kane completed his award winning and widely published SATU based research programme in 2025 and also was awarded his PhD. Over the course of the PhD programme he published 12 papers, many of which represented the first, or largest, datasets on the research area. This body of work has greatly contributed to the national and international evidence base in this area and will continue to drive SATU progress and service development, and improvements in patient care.

The Rotunda SATU team were delighted to complete a quality improvement programme on the introduction of Cortexflo camera system to the service in 2025, a summary of which has been submitted for publication. This has been a very positive initiative, which we aspire to roll out in all SATUs over the coming years. Sincere thanks to the HSE Spark programme and Catherine Marsh for their commitment to this.

As well as the Annual Study Day, which takes place in the Autumn every year (see Section 3), each SATU offers significant educational outreach in their locality – in terms of professional education (e.g. emergency and other healthcare departments, interagency education (An Garda Síochána, Embassy and Consular staff) as well as outreach education to local schools and colleges. After many years' discussion, we were delighted to offer HSEland training on SATU care for the wider health service twice in 2025. Thanks to Louise Tiernan, Salia Kuriakose and all speakers for their commitment to this popular event. These programmes are valuable in highlighting the work of SATU, signposting how and where to access services as well as providing plentiful opportunities for discussions on consent, health promotion and risk reduction.

This year, SATU outreach continued to include attendance at a number of concerts and festivals, including Electric Picnic. Engagement and collaboration in our communities is increasingly recognised as an important factor in creating awareness, reducing incidents, facilitating disclosure, and providing a swift care response for those who have experienced sexual violence, and we look forward to continuing and expanding this initiative. Thanks to a number of CNSs and ANPs for leading and contributing to this in 2025.

Thanks and Acknowledgments

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of the SATU team. This report of key service activity is only possible because of the commitment to collation and inputting of relevant data into the database to ensure accurate presentation of service activities and key performance indicators. 92% of first SATU visit attendances were entered on the database within 10 working days of the first visit, which demonstrates the commitment of the entire team.

I would also like to thank a number of key personnel within the Health Service Executive, including Killian McGrane, Tracy McAuley, Davinia O'Donnell and Dr Cliona Murphy (NWIHP). Their commitment to SATU services despite multiple demands on their time and resources is greatly appreciated. Regular SATU network and interagency meetings, moderated by NWIHP, are really valuable to ensure transparent communication between groups. Kind thanks to the NMPDUs across Ireland in particular Anne Brennan and Deirdre Duggan for their continued support for SATU staff in continuing professional development. Furthermore I acknowledge the support we receive from Masters, Clinical Directors, Directors of Midwifery/ Nursing and hospital & network managers who advocate for us despite frequent, competing and important demands on their valuable resources. Colleagues in the Departments of Health and Justice, including the Ministers, were all very supportive of the services in 2025, and ongoing engagement with Cuan, the statutory agency, has been really productive.

As always, it is important to acknowledge the people who attend SATUs around the country. Nobody ever 'wants' to attend a SATU and we never cease to be amazed by the strength that people display, despite the significance of the events they have experienced. We really value the feedback that they provide, in order that we can critically appraise our service through the lens of a service user. This underpins continuous quality improvement and is valuable in informing ongoing staffing and infrastructural developments.

Please contact me directly or nwihp.corporate@hse.ie if you have any questions or comments on this Executive Summary of Key Service Activity.



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II. FOREWORD



I am honoured to present the 17th Annual Report highlighting the work and key service activities of the six HSE-funded Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs). Under the leadership of Professor Maeve Eogan, the SATU Network has continued to strengthen and develop over the past year, demonstrating its ongoing commitment to supporting individuals affected by sexual violence. In 2025, the SATUs provided care to more than one thousand individuals. This report reflects the breadth and depth of work undertaken over the course of the year, not only in terms of addressing the clinical care needs of those who attended SATU service, but also including infrastructural developments, quality improvement, education, training and outreach initiatives. These developments are a testament not only to the dedication of the SATU teams but also to the strong collaboration with partners across the wider Sexual Assault Response network.

In many ways, 2025 was an important year in Ireland's response to sexual violence. A series of legal, policy, and research developments signalled both a growing societal awareness of the issue and a stronger commitment to accountability and victim protection. Central among these was the government's approval of the drafting of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences, Domestic Violence and International Instruments) Bill 2025¹. This landmark legislation will strengthen the law on sexual consent and ensure consistency in relation to the consent component across rape offences and sexual assault offences. In the same Bill, "Jennie's Law", will allow those convicted of domestic violence against a partner or former partner, to be publicly included on a Domestic Violence Register of Judgments.

Alongside these legislative developments, new research published in February 2025 by the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre² highlighted the stark and complex reality of sexual violence in Ireland. The study found that 71% of victims did not report the incident(s) to the Gardaí and it highlighted that there are significant challenges faced by victims in reporting incidents and seeking support. There is a high level of public awareness and concern, with 31% of Irish adults stating they are extremely concerned about the issue of rape or sexual violence.

Taken together, these developments emphasise why the work of the Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs) is more important than ever. In a context where sexual violence remains widespread but underreported, SATUs provide a vital, immediate point of care, offering medical treatment, forensic examination, and compassionate support in a safe

1. <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-justice-home-affairs-and-migration/press-releases/minister-jim-ocallaghan-secures-government-approval-to-progress-the-criminal-law-sexual-offences-domestic-violence-and-international-instruments-bill-2025/>

2. <https://www.drcc.ie/news-resources/resources/briefing-note-unveiling-public-perceptions-on-sexual-violenc/>

and confidential environment. The SATU teams meet individuals at a moment of acute vulnerability and the care the service provides helps lay the foundations for recovery and, where chosen, engagement with the justice system.

Ensuring the sustainability of SATU services must, therefore, remain a core priority for the NWIHP. With that in mind, it was encouraging to see that in 2025, six student Clinical Nurse Specialists began the SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Examination) training programme and are expected to complete their training and join the service in early 2026.

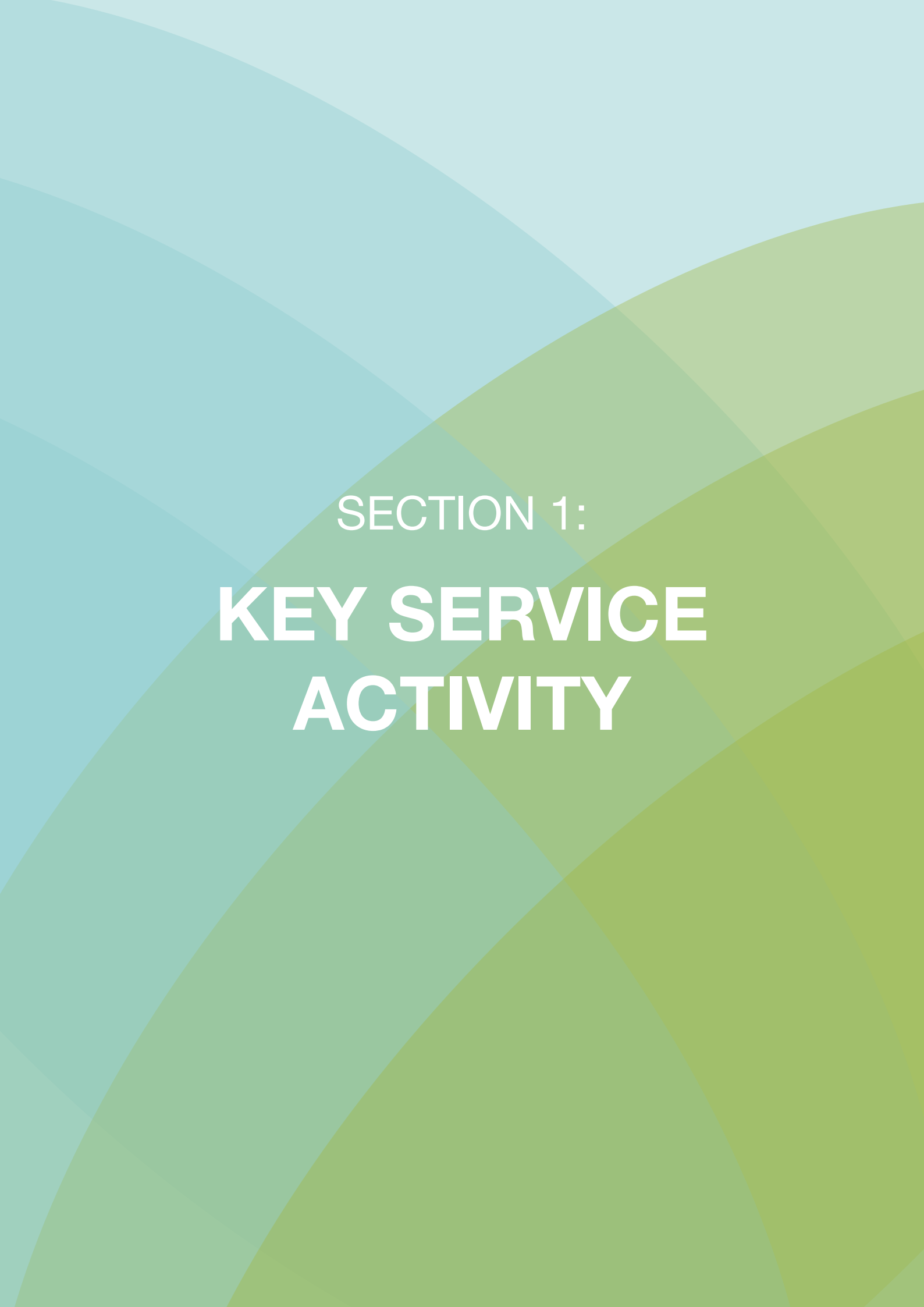
At NWIHP, we remain extremely proud of our ongoing partnership with the SATU Network. I would like to again acknowledge and thank Professor Maeve Eogan, our National Clinical Lead, along with the dedicated SATU teams across the country, for their unwavering commitment to providing specialist, compassionate, and professional care, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to those who have experienced sexual violence.



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SECTION 1:

KEY SERVICE ACTIVITY

Section 1: Key Service Activity

This section presents an analysis of key service activities throughout 2025, including attendance numbers, incident characteristics, referral pathways, types of attendance, substance use (including drug and alcohol involvement), and the provision of pregnancy and STI prophylaxis.

The data can be used to identify emerging trends, highlight operational challenges, and inform areas for ongoing service improvement, supporting the continued delivery of responsive, evidence-based, and person-centred care.

i. Attendance

The first set of metrics relate to attendances at the 6 SATUs as well as the attendance type.

Year	Attendances (number)	Difference from previous year (number)
2025	1077	+56
2024	1021	-41
2023	1062	-10
2022	1072	+213
2021	859	+125

National Attendances:

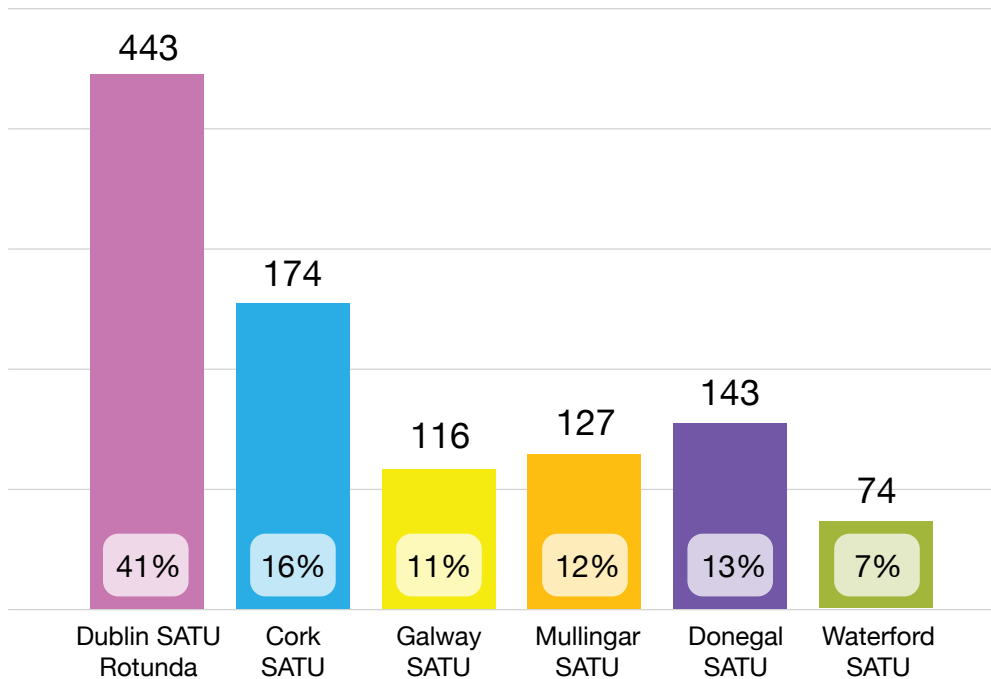
In 2025 there were a total of 1077 attendances to the 6 SATUs. This is an increase of 5.5% (56) on the previous year. The table outlines attendances over the last 5 years.

Local Attendances:

A total of 1,077 attendances were recorded across the six SATUs. There was an overall 5% increase in attendances with increased numbers of attendances in 4 of 6 units (Dublin, Cork, Letterkenny, Mullingar).

- The Rotunda SATU saw the biggest increase of 12.5% (49) compared with the previous year. The Donegal SATU also experienced an increase of 11.5% (15) in 2025.
- The Waterford SATU saw a reduction in attendances of 16% (14) and attendances at Mullingar SATU fell by 4.5% (6) in 2025.

The chart below illustrates the number of attendances at each site in 2025



The following chart shows attendances at the SATUs over the past five years.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Dublin SATU - Rotunda	309	427	451	394	443
Cork SATU	148	190	152	165	174
Donegal SATU	101	125	117	128	143
Mullingar SATU	120	148	124	133	127
Galway	100	107	137	113	116
Waterford SATU	81	75	81	88	74
	859	1072	1062	1021	1077

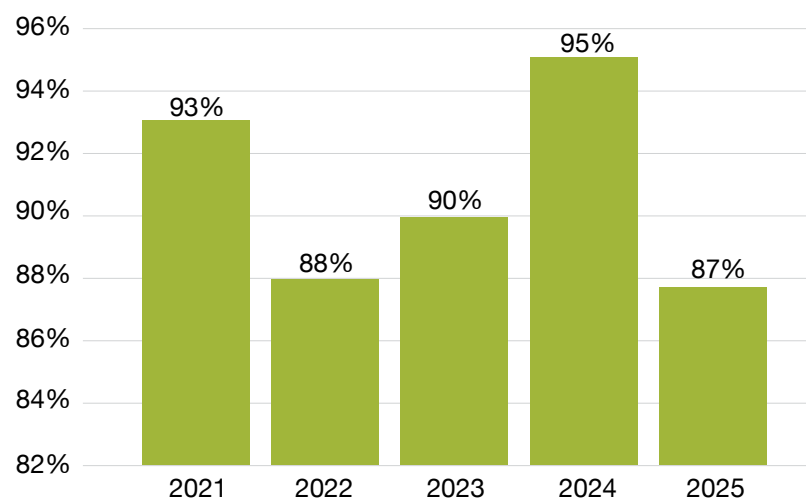
Seen within 3 hours:

Where appropriate, 87% (490/561) of patients were seen within 3 hours of a request for urgent attendance. The KPI target is 90%. In 42% of cases where this KPI was not achieved, it was because the SATU was unavailable for use, and in 36% of cases this was due to an absence of availability of relevant SATU personnel.

This once again highlights the need for additional forensic suites and sufficient staffing, particularly in high-demand units.

Section 1: Key Service Activity

% Seen within 3 hours



Attendance type:

The SATU provides individuals with a health check, medication, and forensic examination services, as well as providing psychological support. A health check is always offered, regardless of whether a forensic exam is chosen. The service currently offers **three core options of care**:

Option 1: When a person is aged 14 years or over, discloses sexual violence and wants to make a complaint to An Garda Síochána. A forensic clinical examination will be offered by SATU if the incident happened within 7 days of the disclosure.

Option 2: When a person is over 16 years of age, has experienced unwanted sexual activity either within the last 7 days, in recent weeks, months or years but does not want to report to An Garda Síochána and is requesting a health check. Depending on the duration of time since the incident, a sexual health screen is offered. No forensic samples are taken.

Option 3: When a patient is over 16 years of age, has experienced sexual violence in the last 7 days and is undecided if they want to report to An Garda Síochána (Storage of Evidence). Patients can attend for a forensic clinical examination and the forensic samples are securely stored for a period of up to one year in SATU.

In all options, patients are offered medications such as emergency contraception and preventive treatment for infectious diseases. They are also provided with follow-up appointments for sexual health screenings and psychological support from the RCC where applicable. Child safeguarding obligations are adhered to, regardless of the chosen care option.

A breakdown of the national attendance type can be seen below:

	Number	Percentage
Option 1: Garda Forensic Exam Kit	515	48%
Option 2: Health check	302	28%
Option 3: No Garda - Forensic exam & stored evidence	145	13%
Garda no kit	65	6%
Other / Advice	49	5%
Not Recorded	1	0%
Total	1077	100%

Rape Crisis Centre (RCC) Input:

63% of patients had the opportunity to speak with a Psychological Support Worker, at the first SATU visit which represented an increase of 7% from the previous year.

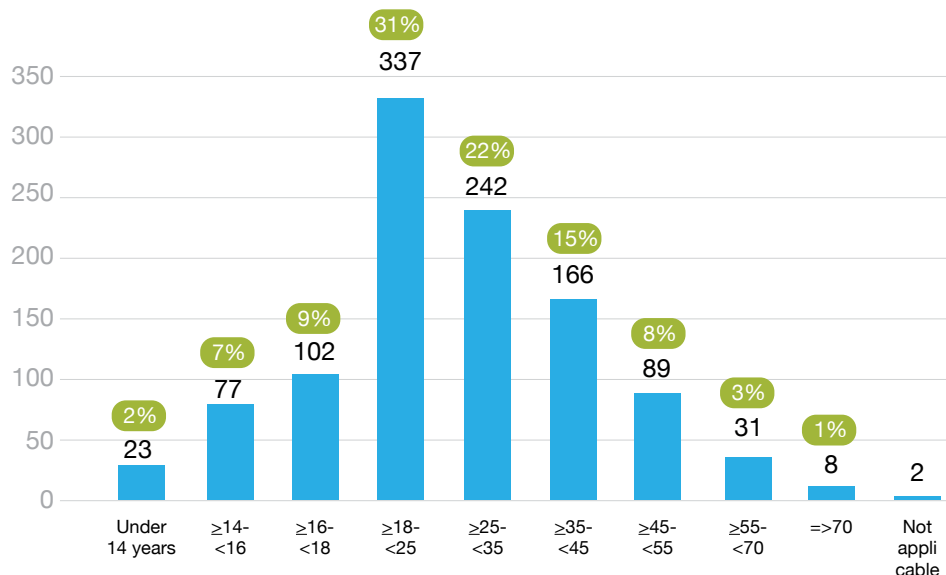
ii. Gender/Age/Nationality/Occupation

Almost identical to the previous year, attendees under 25 years of age accounted for 539 (49%) of cases, representing half of all attendees. The 18-25 age cohort once again remained the largest at 337 (31%).

The proportion of patients in the 45-55 age bracket increased from 6% to 8% in 2025, while the 25-35 age bracket decreased from 26% to 22%.

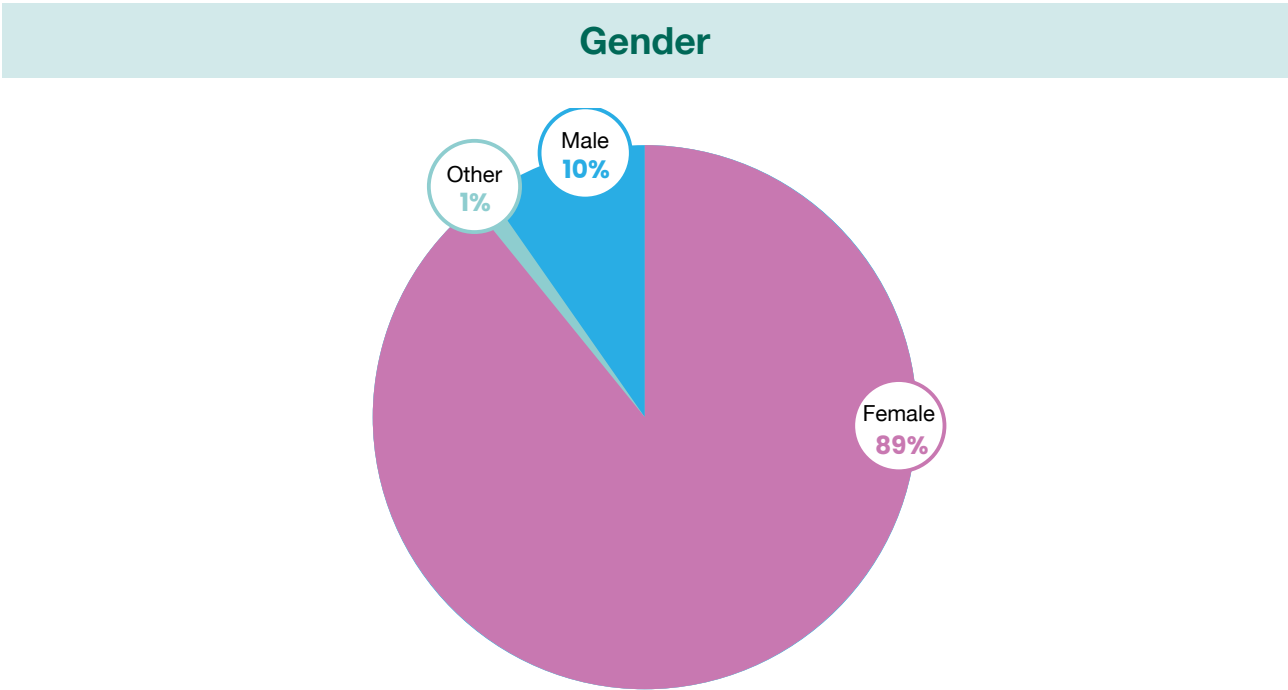
The mean age of attendees was 29 years.

Age of Attendees at time of Incident

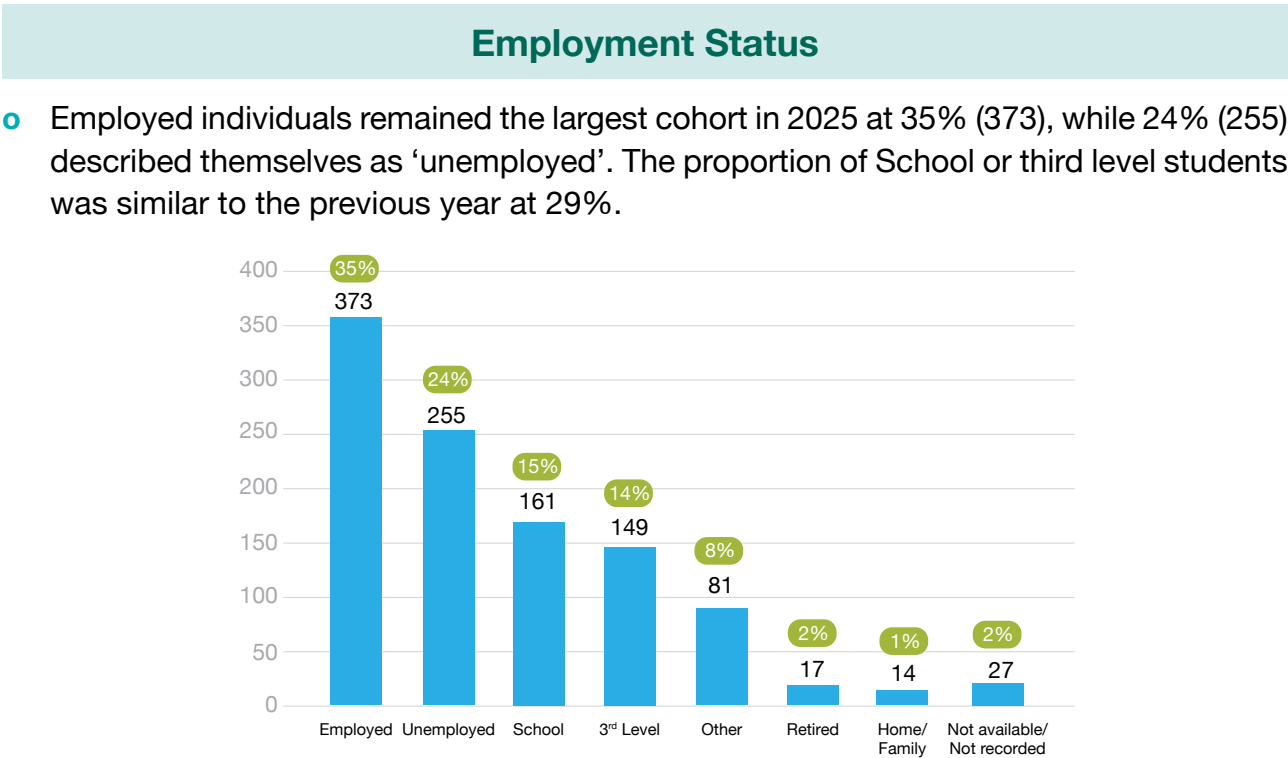


Section 1: Key Service Activity

- Where recorded, 89% (959) of attendees were female, 10% (111) were male and 1% identified as another gender or none. This represents a 2% increase in male attendees in 2025, a factor which has previously been noted in published data from the service³.



- 72% (773 people) identified as Irish. Attendees of 64 other nationalities were recorded in 2025 with interpreters required for 5% (59) of patients. French, Portuguese, Russian and Polish were the commonest languages for which translation was required.



3. Kane D, Kennedy KM, Flood K, Eogan M. Male patient attendances at Sexual Assault Treatment Units in Ireland: An analysis of 381 cases and a comparison with female patients. J Forensic Leg Med. 2024 Feb;102:102643. doi: 10.1016/j.jflm.2024.102643. Epub 2024 Jan 9. PMID: 38224652.

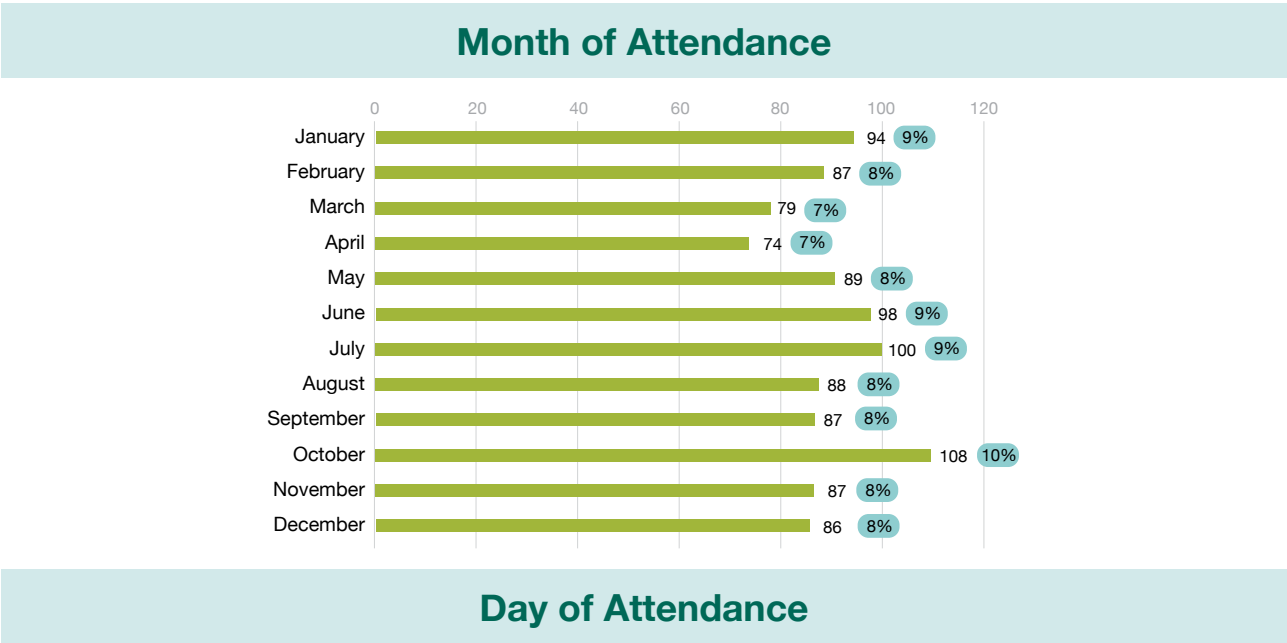
iii. Details of incident

The next set of metrics look at the details of the incident, including the location, time, relationship with assailant and presence of injury.

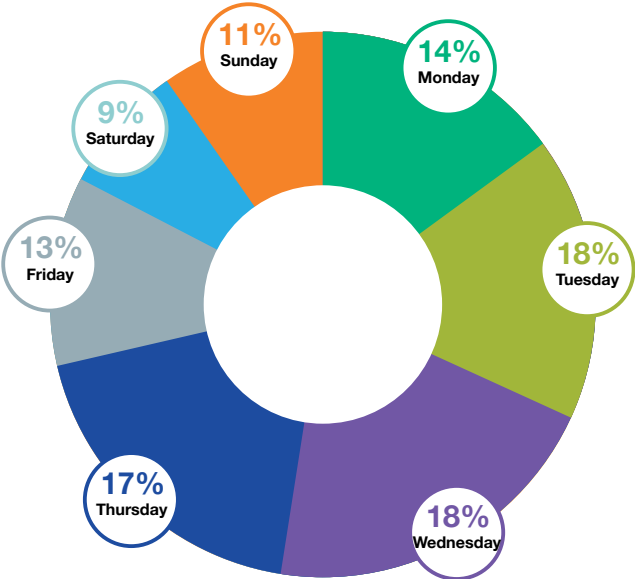
Mirroring the previous year 83% of incidents were described as occurring in Ireland, with incidents in 45 other countries described. 31% of incidents (280) occurred in Dublin, and 13% (113) in Cork. Incidents in 30 other counties were documented, nobody attended a SATU following an incident that had occurred in either Armagh or Fermanagh in 2025.

Timing of SATU attendance:

October recorded the highest number of SATU attendances with 10% of attendances (108 cases).



Tuesday (18%), Wednesday (18%) and Thursday (17%) were the busiest days for attendances to the SATUs with 573 cases. The weekends (Friday through Sunday) saw (34%) 354 cases.

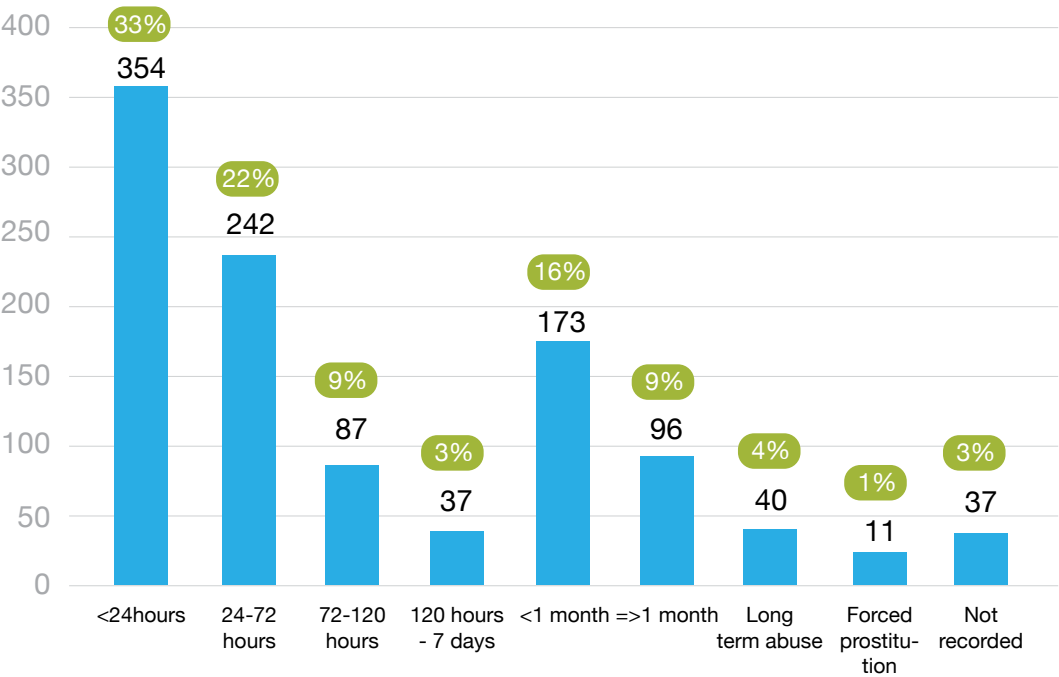


Section 1: Key Service Activity

Almost a quarter (24%, 258) of presentations to the SATUs occurred between 8 PM and 8 AM. This demonstrates the critical need for round-the-clock availability of the SATUs.

Time of Attendance	No	%
Day 08:00 - 19:59hrs	819	76%
Night 20:00 - 07:59hrs	258	24%
Total	1077	100%

Duration of time between the incident and the attendance at SATU (all cases)

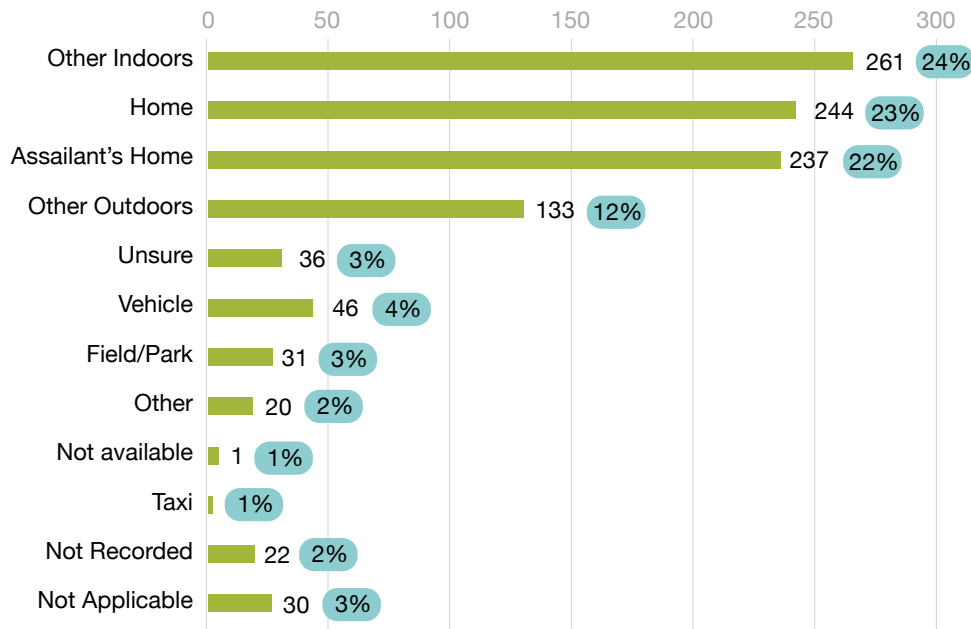


The graph above illustrates the duration of time between an incident and attendance at SATU. Early attendance facilitates prompt access to forensic sampling, as well as health services, including emergency contraception and infectious disease prophylaxis. In 2024, 60% reported within 72 hours of the incident but this reduced to **55%** in 2025, although there was a trend towards a higher proportion of people presenting within 24 hours in 2025.

Location of incident:

The statistics from **2025** aligned with the data from the previous three years, where the majority of incidents (69%) occurred indoors, predominantly in the victim's (23%) or assailant's home (22%). **15%** occurred in various outdoor settings.

Location of the Incident



Description of assailant:

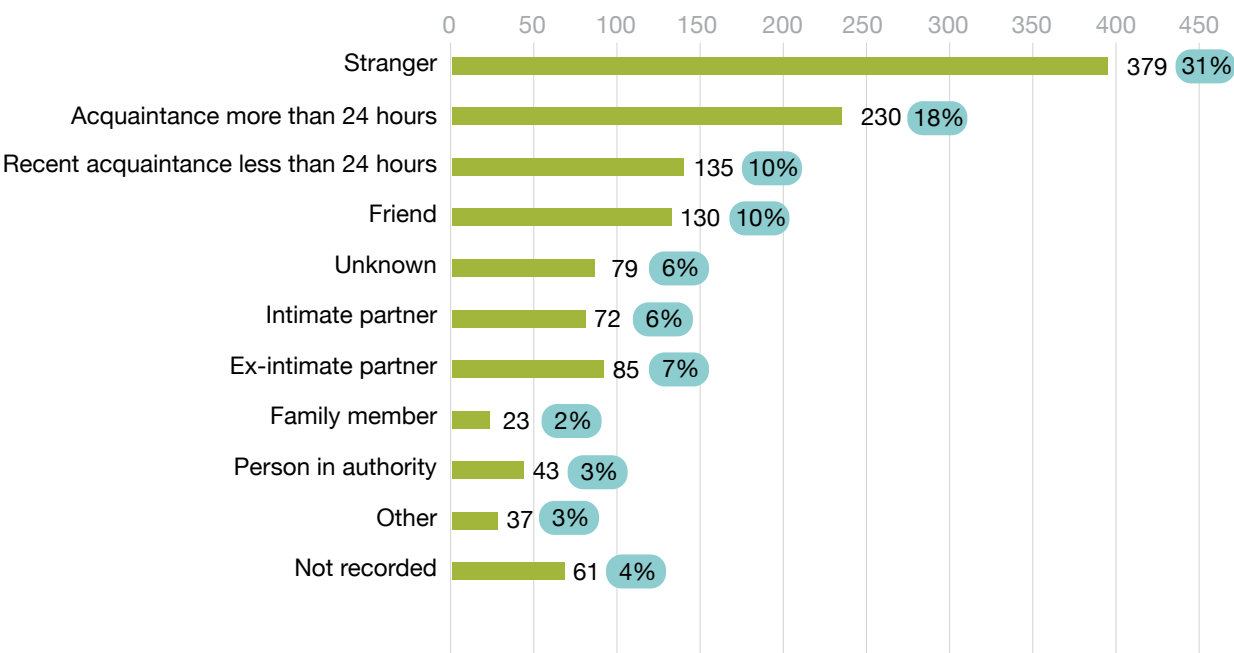
The data shows that in 2025 there was an increase in incidents involving multiple assailants, this statistic worryingly continues to rise year on year. **87%** of assaults (935 cases) were perpetrated by a **single assailant** while, **11%** of assaults (115 cases) involved multiple assailants. This is an area worthy of ongoing review.

There were 40 female assailants reported in 2025, which is an increase from the previous year. This is an area the service has previously published on⁴, and the trend in this context will continue to be analysed.

In 2025, the perpetrator was described as a stranger in **31%** (397) of cases. There was an increase in ex-intimate partner incidents up 2% to 7% (85 cases) in 2025, although the overall proportion of assaults perpetrated by family members, intimate partners and ex-intimate partners was relatively stable.

4. Kane D, Eogan M. Female perpetrated sexual assault: a review of attendances to the national sexual assault treatment units in the Republic of Ireland. *Int J Legal Med.* 2024 May;138(3):1157-1164. doi: 10.1007/s00414-023-03134-7. Epub 2023 Dec 14. PMID: 38092893.

Section 1: Key Service Activity



Physical restraint use:

The use of restraints increased in 2025 to 44% of incidents. Throat restraint was recorded in **91 (8%)** of attendances, which is a significant concern. Weapons were used in 6% of incidents, which is in line with the previous year.

Injury at time of examination:

In 2025, fewer people (46%, 499 people) had a complete absence of injury noted, a reduction by 14% from 2024. Whilst there was a significant increase in the number of incidents where injury occurred there was a decrease in the proportion of people requiring **referrals for injury follow-up care, 1% (14 cases)** and the incidents of injury with no follow up required increased by 12% to 36% (386 cases). These changes may relate to the significant focus on consistent documentation of injury over the past number of years and we will continue to observe trends in this context.^{5,6,7}

5. Kane D, Kennedy KM, Eogan M. The prevalence of genital injuries in post-pubertal females presenting for forensic examination after reported sexual violence: a systematic review. *Int J Legal Med.* 2024 May;138(3):997-1010. doi: 10.1007/s00414-023-03117-8. Epub 2023 Nov 16. PMID: 37971512.

6. Kane D, Daly R, Walshe J, Maher N, Pucilio C, Richardson D, Flood K, Eogan M. Physical injury in men after sexual assault: An analysis of 137 cases. *Forensic Sci Int.* 2025 Feb;367:112340. doi: 10.1016/j.forsciint.2024.112340. Epub 2024 Dec 9. PMID: 39672034.

7. Kane D, Walshe J, Richardson D, Pucilio C, Ferguson W, OConnor S, Maher N, Flood K, Eogan M. Genital and anal injury in women after sexual assault: prevalence rates and associated risk factors in 294 cases. *Int J Legal Med.* 2025 May 24. doi: 10.1007/s00414-025-03522-1. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40411593.

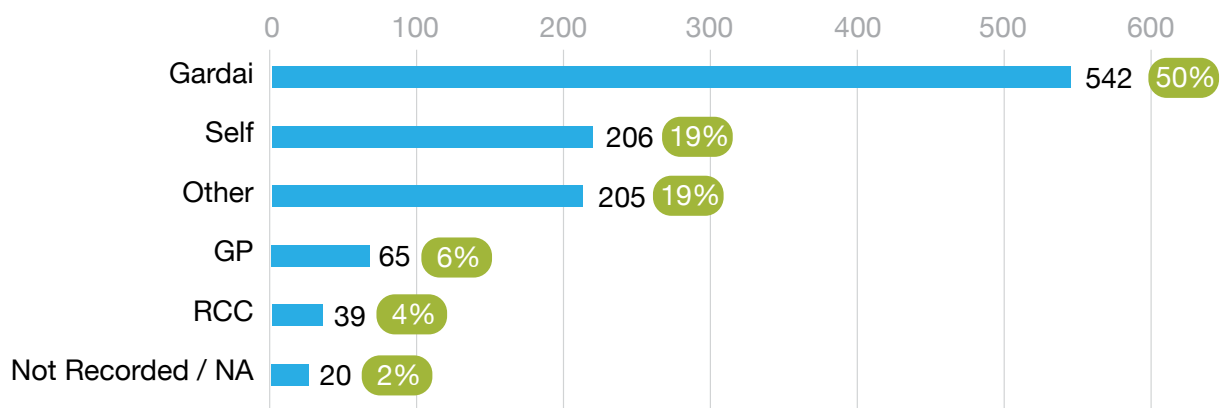
Physical Injury Outcome	Number	Percentage
No injuries	499	46%
Injury - No follow up	386	36%
Referral - Injury follow up required	14	1%
Hospitalised due to injury	10	1%
Pre-existing injury	4	0%
Other	22	2%
Hospitalised due to Mental Health	5	0%
Not recorded / Not applicable	137	12%

iv. Referral Source and Options of Care

The next set of metrics examine the referral sources to the SATU, and the care options chosen by patients.

The majority of cases – **50%** were referred to SATU by An Garda Síochána, while self-referrals were the second most common, accounting for **19%** of presentations.

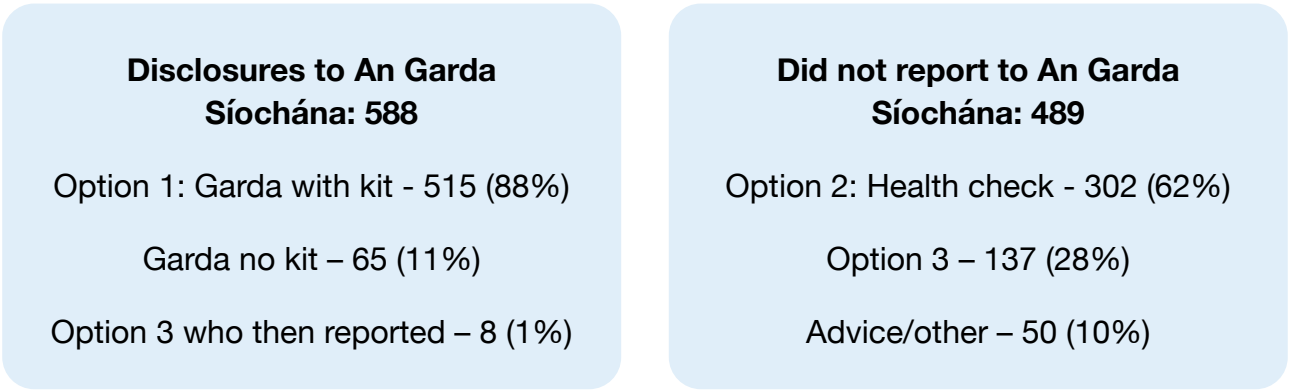
Source of Referral



Of the 1,077 individuals who attended SATU, 588 (54%) chose to report the incident to An Garda Síochána. However, as there is no statute of limitations on sexual crimes, individuals may still decide to file a complaint with An Garda Síochána at any point after their SATU visit, even if they initially chose not to do so.

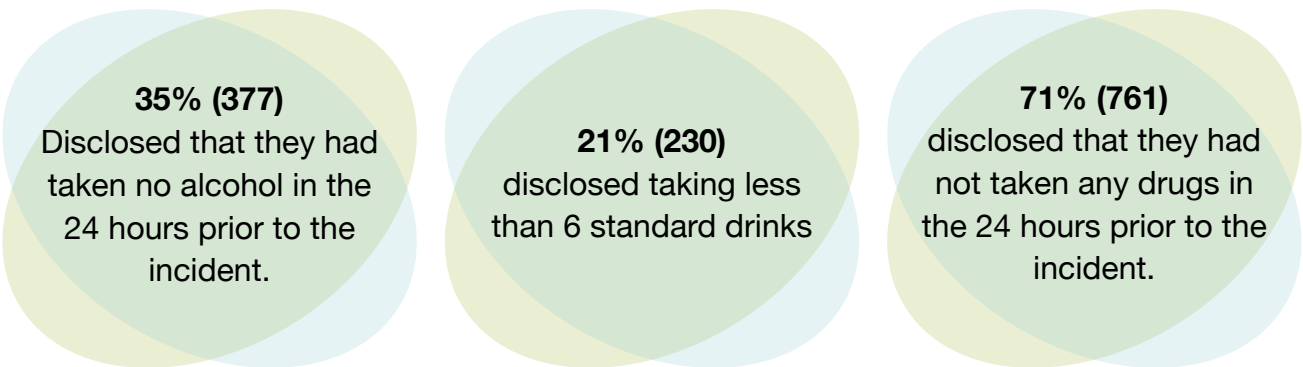
Section 1: Key Service Activity

The tables below demonstrate the types of SATU attendance in each group.



v. Alcohol and Drug use

Regarding drug and alcohol use at the time of the incident.



There was a slight increase of 2% up to **35%** (377) who had not taken any alcohol and an increase of 4% up to **21%** (230) who had less than 6 standard drinks in the 24 hours prior to the incident. There was a reduction of 7% (to **32%**) in those who had more than 6 standard drinks.

In line with previous years, **761 (71%)** reported that they had not taken any drugs, **189 (18%)** had taken recreational drugs, **14 (1%)** having taken prescription drugs and **15 (1%)** having taken recreational and prescription drugs, in the 24 hours prior to the incident.

Additionally, 209 individuals (19%) expressed concern that the incident may have been a drug- or alcohol-facilitated assault. A further 181 (17%) were unsure whether a Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA) had occurred.

These are important metrics, both in terms of highlighting that incidents of sexual violence can occur in the absence of alcohol and drugs, but also that concerns about drug facilitated

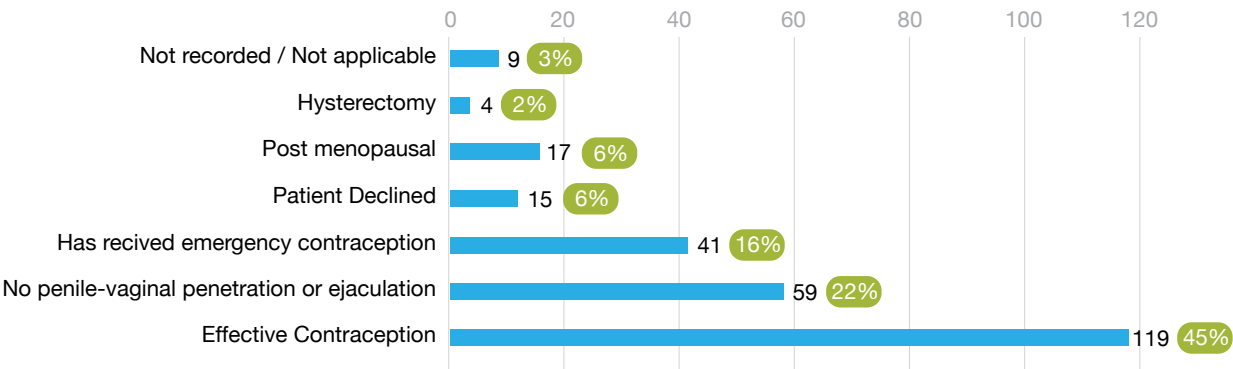
sexual crime are frequent. It is important that SATUs are available to respond to people who are unsure whether a sexual assault occurred. It is not a prerequisite that a person has a complete recollection of any or all aspects of the incident in order to attend for SATU based care.

vi. Pregnancy and STI Prophylaxis

SATUs offer a health check to all individuals who use the service. The final set of metrics examines the use of pregnancy and STI-related preventative measures following the incident.

In 2025, 100% of women who presented within 120 hours and required emergency contraception were provided with this in SATU.

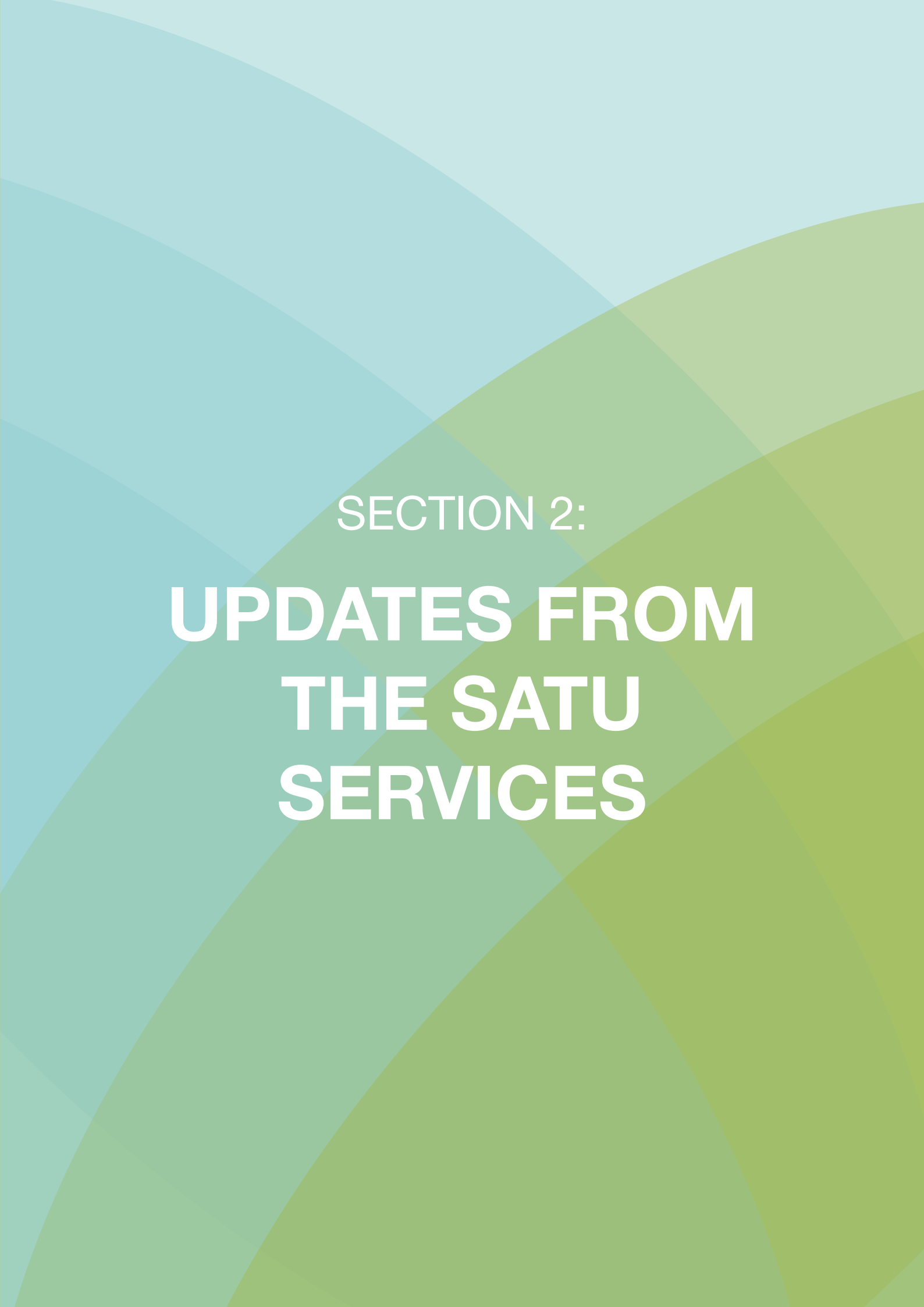
264 women did not require emergency contraception for a range of reasons as tabulated below.



Additionally, in 2025 **2%** of attendees received chlamydia prophylaxis—this was 2% lower than 2024, a not unexpected decline due to changes in guidelines.

Furthermore, **38%** of attendees began a Hepatitis B vaccination program, and HIV postexposure prophylaxis was commenced in 71 patients (7%).

In terms of follow-up care, **78%** of SATU patients were given an appointment for follow up STI screening or were screened for STIs at first attendance. 23 patients (5% of those who had STI follow up) were positive for chlamydia – underpinning the importance of screening and offering treatment in a timely fashion. The SATU service aims to offer STI screening at first attendance in 2026.

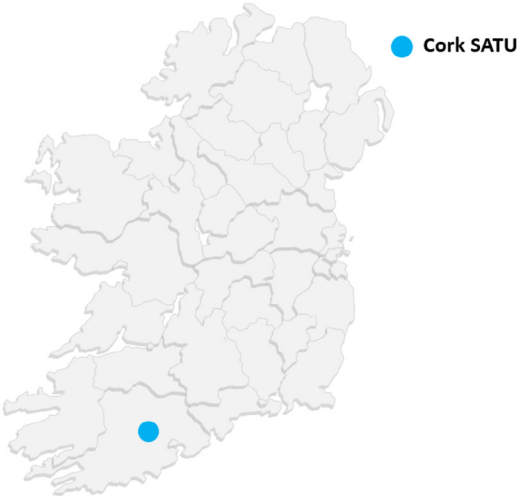


SECTION 2:

UPDATES FROM THE SATU SERVICES

i. **Cork SATU**

Year	Attendances (n)	Difference on previous year (n)	% Increase / Decrease
2025	174	+9	+5.5%
2024	165	+13	+9%
2023	152	-38	-20%
2022	190	+42	+29%
2021	148	+37	+33%



Local statistics:

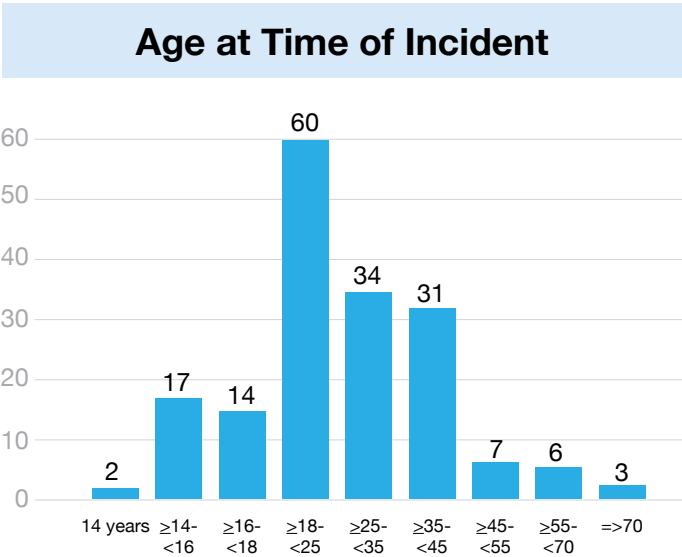
In 2025, the Cork SATU experienced a year-on-year increase in service demand. Total attendances rose from 165 in 2024 to 174 in 2025, representing a 5.5% growth in patient volume. The demographic distribution regarding gender identity remained consistent with historical reporting trends. Most service users identified as Female (90%), followed by Male (9%), with 1% identifying as Other.

Age Range at time of incident:

In 2025, the Cork SATU observed notable shifts in the age distribution of service users. While several cohorts remained stable, there were significant fluctuations in the younger and middle-aged demographics compared to 2024.

Growth in Specific Cohorts: The most significant increase occurred in the 14–16 age group, which rose from 4% to 10%, compared to a previous decline in 2024. The 35–45 age group also saw a 5% increase, reaching 18% of the total attendee profile.

Declining Trends: a 10% decrease was recorded in the 25–35 age group, dropping from 30% to 20%. Minor decreases were also noted in the 16–18 and 18–25 demographics.



Patients seen within 3 hours of a request for a Forensic Clinical Examination:

- o In 2025, the Cork SATU maintained a high standard of clinical responsiveness for acute cases. The unit achieved a 95% (n=83) success rate in attending to patients within the three-hour target following a service request, consistent with 2024 performance levels.

Operational Capacity and Infrastructure Constraints

Analysis of the remaining 5% (4 cases) where delays occurred reveals a recurring infrastructure limitation. In each instance, the delay was attributed to the facility being at full capacity, with the unit already in use by another patient at the time of the request. This operational trend aligns with findings from 2023 and 2024, reinforcing the need for ongoing planning and physical facility expansion. Extending the SATU workspace remains a critical priority to mitigate capacity-related delays and ensure consistent, immediate access to services during periods of peak demand.

Duration since the incident	Number	%
< 24 hours	56	33%
24 hrs – 72 hrs	43	25%
72 hrs – 120 hrs	17	10%
120 hrs – 7 days	9	5%
7 days – 1 month	17	10%
>1 month	30	17%
Other	1	0%
Advice	1	0%
Total	174	100%

Type of attendance

In 2025, 72% (125) of patients accessed Cork Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) services within seven days of an incident. Of these, 45% (56) presented within 24 hours, while 55% (69) attended between 24 hours and seven days.

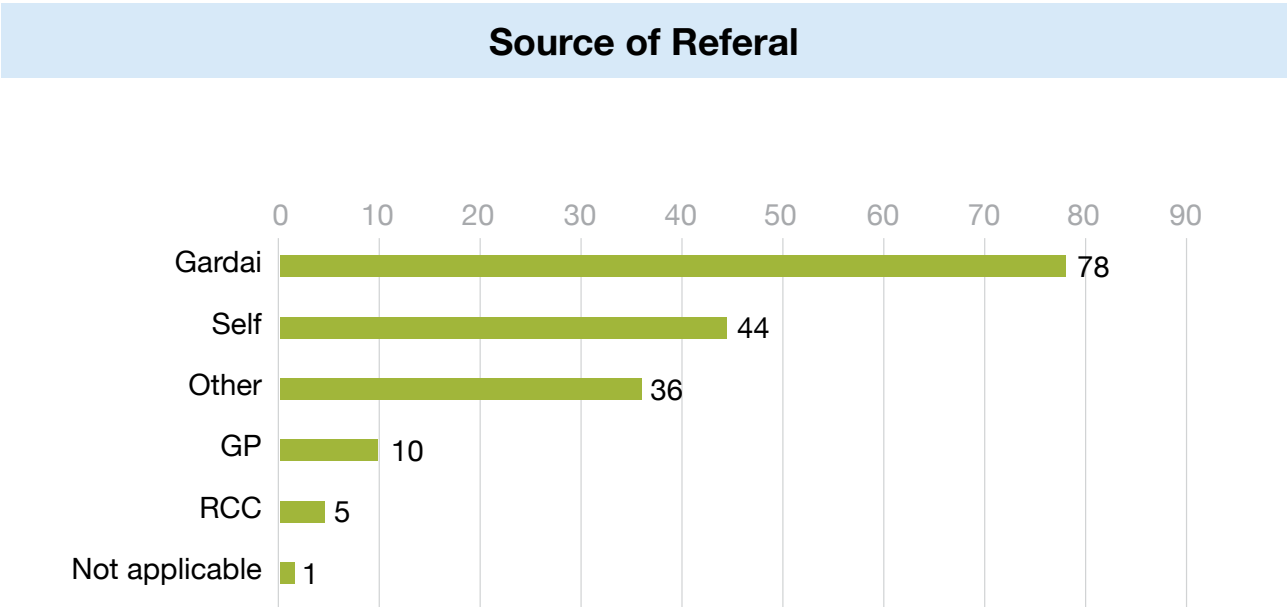
Regarding reporting preferences, 46% (80) of patients chose to attend in the presence of An Garda Síochána. The remaining 54% (94) opted for a health check or evidence storage without immediate Garda involvement. Notably, 21% (37) of all patients utilised the forensic evidence storage option—a 4% increase from 2024—providing them with additional time to consider formal reporting.

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Cork SATU**

Type of attendance including number of patients who reported incident to An Garda Síochána	Number	%
Option 1 - Garda Forensic Exam Kit	76	44%
Option 2 - Health check	55	32%
Option 3 - No Garda - Forensic exam & stored evidence	37	21%
Garda no kit	4	2%
Other	1	1%
Advice	1	1%
Total	174	100%

Source of Referral

Despite a slight decrease in direct Gardaí and self-initiated referrals, these remain the cornerstone of SATU service entry, with a 4% increase from ‘other’ sources suggesting successful outreach with external partners.



Key Achievements in 2025:

Education and Professional Outreach

In 2025, Cork SATU maintained its commitment to community and professional education, delivering 54 sessions across 25 secondary schools. The outreach efforts extended further to include parent information evenings, as well as specialised training for University College Cork (UCC), An Garda Síochána, Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors (NCHDs), Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and various healthcare providers.

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Cork SATU**

Furthermore, in collaboration with CYPSC, staff facilitated four dedicated workshops on dating abuse and consent for frontline workers, strengthening the inter-agency response to sexual violence.

Paediatric Forensic Medical Service (PFMS) & Barnahus South

Cork SATU continues to play a pivotal role in supporting the Paediatric Forensic Medical Service (PFMS), ensuring age-appropriate care for children and adolescents. Key milestones in 2025 included:

- **Clinical Activity:** In strategic collaboration with the Hazel Clinic at Barnahus South, SATU staff successfully co-managed 39 cases this year. As part of this integrated care model, comprehensive health checks were systematically offered to all eligible service users under the age of 18, ensuring specialised support for younger populations.
- **Multidisciplinary Collaboration:** SATU staff demonstrated significant clinical leadership by contributing to over 150 Multi-Disciplinary Inter-Agency (MDIA) meetings for all referrals involving minors.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Several PFMS information sessions were conducted by SATU staff throughout the year, with a further schedule of briefings planned for 2026.

Awards and Recognition

The PFMS nursing team attended the 2025 Annual Nursing Conference held at Páirc Uí Chaoimh where their research poster, which detailed the integrated service model between SATU and PFMS, received a Special Mention from the judging panel. This platform also allowed for the widespread distribution of educational materials to a broad spectrum of healthcare professionals.

Activity Metric	2025 Total
Education Sessions Delivered (School)	54
Secondary schools Reached	25
Barnahus MDIA Meetings Attended	150+
Hazel Clinic Cases (PFMS)	39

Staffing and Team Developments

The Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) experienced changes and transitions throughout 2025, ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality, multidisciplinary care.

New Appointments

- Renju Mathew joined the team in February 2025. Demonstrating our commitment to continuous professional development, Renju commenced the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Sexual Assault Forensic Examination) during the same month.
- Ellen Sheehan was appointed as Senior Social Worker (0.5 WTE) in September 2025. Ellen provides vital specialist psychosocial support and crisis intervention. Her role is central to patient safety planning, navigating medical and legal pathways, and coordinating community referrals. Furthermore, she ensures the unit maintains rigorous compliance with the Children First Act 2015 and national adult safeguarding policies.
- Medical Staffing: We were pleased to welcome Dr Sophie Boyd and Dr Gus Ganda to the On-Call rota in July 2025, strengthening our out-of-hours medical response.

Staff Transitions and Leave

- In July 2025, we saw the departure of Dr Daniel Kane following a 12-month tenure. We also extended our best wishes to support nurses Teresa O'Farrell and Ally Henchin, thanking them for their dedicated service and contribution to patient care.
- Dr Jill Mitchell commenced a leave of absence to pursue PhD studies, and Dr Sophie Boyd began her maternity leave in late 2025. We extend our best wishes to both colleagues in these pursuits and look forward to welcoming them back to the service in the future.

Staff Training and Professional Achievements

In 2025, the SATU team continued to contribute to clinical excellence through national collaboration, innovative resource procurement, and advanced academic study.

National Leadership and Collaborative Standards

- Pre-Hospital Standards: In a landmark collaboration with the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care (PHECC) team, SATU developed the first national standard for the disclosure of sexual violence at public events, enhancing the safety and response protocols for first responders.

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Cork SATU**

- **National Education:** The Cork SATU team, in partnership with the Centre of Nurse and Midwifery Education (CNME), successfully facilitated National SATU Study Days. Additionally, the team hosted National Legal Skills Study Days throughout the year to ensure cross-disciplinary competency in forensic and legal proceedings.

Innovation and Service Improvement

- **HSE Spark Innovation Fund:** Through a successful application to the HSE Spark Innovation Fund, the team acquired the Cortexflo camera system. This specialized technology addresses the unique security and data-storage requirements of forensic medical examinations. Introduced in Cork in December 2025, the system allows for the capture of high-quality, evidence-grade imagery to document injuries following sexual assault. A formal launch is slated for 2026, supported by Spark HSE, Fernico, and the SIVUH IT Department, with ongoing staff training and peer-review education ensuring clinical and evidentiary excellence.

Academic and Professional Development

- **Advanced Trauma Studies:** Demonstrating a commitment to trauma-informed care, Louise Tiernan commenced a two-year Postgraduate Diploma in Trauma Studies. Delivered by University College Cork in partnership with the WAVE Trauma Centre, this course utilizes a psychosocial framework to address the complex impacts of traumatic experiences on health, family dynamics, and social functioning. This expertise will further enhance the unit's ability to alleviate the long-term impact of trauma on our patients.
- **Professional Development: Sexual Health Promotion:** Catherine O'Brien recently completed the HSE's Foundation Programme in Sexual Health Promotion (FPSHP). This comprehensive 6-day certified course equips professionals with the skills to integrate sexual health into their daily practice. Through this training, Catherine has enhanced her capacity to support SATU clients by building confidence in raising sexual health issues, deepening knowledge of sexual rights, consent, and the Irish policy context and fostering a safe, respectful, and empowering environment for all service users.
- **Margo Noonan** continues her PhD studies as part of her employment-based scholarship from University College Cork.

Rural initiatives / Outreach and Education Projects

Outpatient Services and Regional Outreach

In 2025, SATU continued to provide essential follow-up care and specialist consultations both in Cork and at regional satellite clinics.

Clinical Activity and Access

- **Service Volume:** A total of 208 outpatient appointments were conducted at the Cork SATU.
- **Regional Outreach:** To ensure equitable access across the region, 62 patients were seen at our monthly outpatient clinics in Tralee and Limerick. These clinics remain a vital component of our service delivery and reduces travel barriers that exist for patients requiring specialist follow-up. The continued operation of these regional clinics is made possible through strong inter-agency cooperation. We gratefully acknowledge the Scotia Clinic in Tralee and the University of Limerick medical services for their ongoing support and provision of facilities, which are essential to maintaining these local pathways.

Key Objectives for 2026:

Infrastructure and Facility Development

As the SATU service continues to expand, addressing the limitations of our current premises remains a critical strategic priority.

Co-location and Strategic Planning

- **Barnahus South Integration:** Planning is ongoing for the co-location of SATU with Barnahus South. This partnership aims to create a streamlined, integrated service model that enhances the care pathway for patients through shared expertise and facilities.
- **Capacity and Relocation:** Having outgrown our current clinical and administrative space, we are focused on securing an environment that matches the growing demand for our services.

Funding and Future Outlook

- **Capital Investment:** Formal funding has been allocated for the relocation of SATU. This investment is a vital step toward rectifying current space constraints and ensuring our infrastructure can support high quality, trauma-informed care into the future.

Acknowledgements

We wish to formally express our gratitude to the entire SATU team for their steadfast commitment to our patients and the service throughout 2025. The continued commitment, support, and dedication shown to the unit and our patients does not go unnoticed; it is at the very heart of everything we achieve.

Special mention to Support Nurses, Gobnait McGrath, Sharon Quinn, Siobhan Cahill, Claire Hawe, Carol Mills, Gillian Daunt, Amy Cooney, and Marguerite Coakley. We appreciate their dedication to the service.

Forensic Examiners: We acknowledge the impact, expertise and clinical leadership provided by our on-call medical forensic examiners Dr Suzanne Cremin, Dr Emer O'Flynn and Dr Gus Ganda.

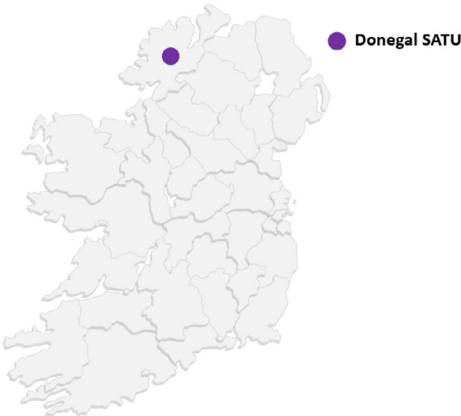
The unit continues to thrive under the guidance of Dr John Coulter (Medical Director, Cork SATU) and Dr Ruth Lernihan (Director of Nursing). We also extend our thanks to the local management and the wider staff at the South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital for their invaluable ongoing support.

As we look forward, our priority remains the representation of victims' needs at both local and national levels. We are committed to advancing the field of forensic medicine through continued research and strategic collaboration with inter-agency partners, ensuring that our service remains at the forefront of trauma-informed care.

Cork SATU Team	
Dr John Coulter Clinical Lead	Ms Margo Noonan ANP Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner
Ms Louise Tiernan CNS Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner	Ms Sinead Maher CNS Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner
Ms Niamh Whooley CNS Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner	Ms Catherine O'Brien CNS Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner
Ms Renju Mathew CNS Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner	Ms Richelle Clancy CNM2 Barnahus/SATU
Angela Brosnan Administrator	Ms Ellen Sheehan Senior Medical Social Worker
On Call Forensic Examiners:	On Call RGN SATU Support Staff:
Dr Suzanne Cremin	Ms Sharon Quinn
Dr Emer O'Flynn	Ms Gobnait McGrath
Dr Gus Ganda	Ms Siobhan Cahill
Dr Sophie Boyd	Ms Claire Hawe
Dr Jill Mitchell	Ms Carol Mills
	Ms Gillian Daunt
	Ms Amy Cooney
	Ms Marguerite Coakley

ii. **Donegal SATU**

Year	Attendances (n)	Difference on previous year (n)	% Increase / Decrease
2025	143	+15	+11.5%
2024	128	+11	+10%
2023	117	-8	-6%
2022	125	+24	+24%
2021	101	+23	+30%

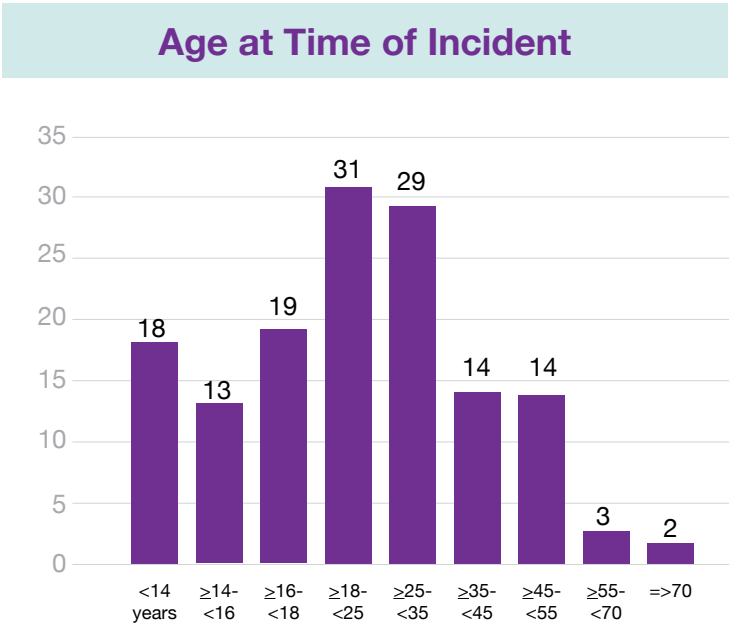


Local statistics:

The Donegal SATU experienced an increase in attendees again in 2025 up a further 11.5% (15). They also recorded 35 telephone calls for advice not recorded in the attendance numbers.

Age Range at time of incident:

The 18-25 age range remained the largest cohort of attendees at 22% (31). Under 18 accounted for 25% in 2024 but this rose to 35% in 2025. There was also an increase of attendees in the 45-55 age range but there was a reduction in the 35-45 age range. This metric reflects the age of the time of the incident so some of the cases would be historical and not the presenting age.



SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Donegal SATU**

Assistance with provision of child services:

- 20 Patients under the age of 18 were seen in the Donegal SATU in 2025.
- 20 were aged 14-17 yrs and 4 were aged under 16.
- All 20 were referred to Tusla Child and Family Agency or were already known to Tusla Child and Family Agency
- 17 were referred to the Rape Crisis Service for counselling.
- 24 patients were discussed at the weekly Barnahus Interagency Meetings.

Age	Number
14	1
15	3
16	6
17	10
Total	20

Patients seen within 3 hours of a request for a Forensic Clinical Examination:

- Letterkenny SATU saw **100%** (25) patients who contacted the service **within 3 hours** of request to SATU for Forensic Clinical Examination

Duration of time since reported incident:

There was a significant rise in incidents report after 1 month, this was 13% in 2024 but rose to **43%** in 2025. Incidents reported within 24 hours accounted for 18% (25 cases), this was a decrease of 9% from 2024.

Duration of time since reported incident	Number	%
< 24 hours	25	18%
24 hrs – 72 hrs	12	8%
72 hrs – 120 hrs	7	5%
120 hrs – 7 days	1	1%
7 days – 1 month	18	12%
>1 month	61	43%
Long term abuse	18	12%
Forced Prostitution	1	1%

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Donegal SATU**

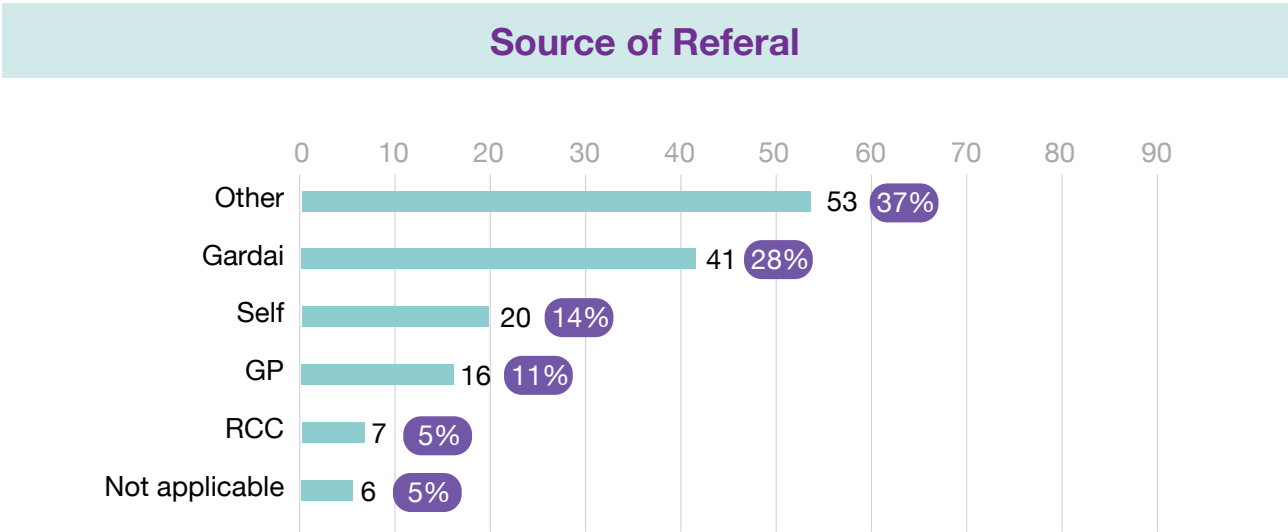
Type of attendance:

The health check option in Donegal accounted for over half of all attendees at 52% (73), almost double from the previous year. The option 1 - Garda Forensic exam kit attendances dropped by half from 34% in 2024 to 17% in 2025.

Type of attendance including number of patients who reported incident to An Garda Síochána	Number	%
Option 1 - Garda Forensic Exam Kit	24	17%
Option 2 - Health check	73	52%
Option 3 - No Garda - Forensic exam & stored evidence	11	8%
Garda no kit	33	22%
Advice	2	1%

Source of referral:

There was a decrease in the referrals from An Garda Síochána from 44% in 2024 down to 28% (41) in 2025.



Key Achievements in 2025:

Training and Education

Throughout 2025, staff from Donegal SATU delivered an extensive programme of training and educational initiatives across the education, healthcare, and community sectors, strengthening awareness, interagency collaboration, and access to services.

Education Sector

A series of workshops were delivered to 10 post-primary schools, reaching over 300 students of all genders, in transition year and above. These workshops addressed a broad range of topics including consent, sexual health, and contraception.

In collaboration with Donegal Atlantic Technological University (ATU) and the Donegal SART, Cyber Safety Workshop were re-designed and introduced in 2025 focusing on teenagers and their relationship with online platforms. The interactive workshop “Sexting & Safety: A Serious Conversation” was designed for teenagers and facilitated by the multi-agency team, focusing on building awareness and resilience around online sexual risks. The workshop provides practical knowledge and guidance on topics that are increasingly relevant in the digital age, helping young people make informed choices and know where to turn for support. Feedback from the initial workshop, facilitated in an all-male school in Letterkenny was very positive and plans are being prepared to expand this initiative to additional schools in 2026.

Presentations were also delivered at Higher Education Institutes (HEIs), engaging students across disciplines including nursing and law and humanities students. In addition, the RANP was invited a key speaker at the regional ATU multi-agency ‘Let’s Talk About...Drink and Drug Spiking’ Webinar

The RANP facilitated online workshops for the RCSI Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing: Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) participants on Consent and Capacity Considerations and Perspectives following Rape and Sexual Assault, the CNS (SAFE) Role in relation to the Hospital, Organisation & Community Education and Surface Anatomy and Landmarks on the body.

A range of workshops and training sessions were delivered, following requests, to multiple agencies within the HSE throughout the year. These included:

- Presentation at National Cervical Check Webinar.
- Presentation at the Domestic Sexual and Gender-based Violence Study Day CNME Letterkenny
- ‘Ladies Lunch’ presentation.
- Presentation at the ‘All-Ireland Irish Sign Language (ISL) Research Symposium’ – Trinity College Dublin
- Training session with the Community Incontinence Team.
- Four information sessions provided to Emergency Departments in both Co. Donegal and Co. Sligo.

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Donegal SATU**

- Training was delivered to all GP trainees as part of the core GP training scheme in Co. Donegal and Co. Sligo, and a presentation was delivered at the GP Forum.
- Two educational sessions provided to Nowdoc triage nurses.
- Advanced Nurse Practitioners Grand rounds.
- CNME National SATU Training.

Community Groups and Social Inclusion

Training was facilitated to a number of therapeutic organizations including:

- The Donegal Rape Crisis Centre.
- The Sligo Rape Crisis Centre.
- SAFE link Roscommon.
- Jigsaw.

Education sessions were delivered to a range of community-based organisations, including the Donegal Travellers Project, local First Responders, The Irish Red Cross and Civil Defence groups.

Training was also facilitated to Cornerstone, a homelessness charity based in Co. Sligo, and a presentation was delivered at the Homelessness Forum to support interagency awareness and collaboration.

In partnership with the Social Inclusion Team, Donegal SATU collaborated on the IPAS Empowerment and Education Session. A dedicated talk was also provided to a migrant women's group in Manor Hamilton, and an educational session was delivered to the Sligo County Council Integration Team, further strengthening engagement with diverse communities.

Pre-registration Nurses and Midwives

Since 2012, the NMBI approved the Donegal SATU as a clinical site for pre-registration nursing students. We support pre-registration general, mental health and intellectual disability nurses and pre-registration midwives in their clinical learning. In 2025, the Donegal SATU facilitated clinical placements for four pre-registration nurses and one post-graduate nurse participating in the higher diploma in midwifery. Their placement in SATU involves shadowing the CNS/ANP in their day-to-day activities, gaining an understanding regarding the operational management of the SATU service, the options of care available to SATU patients, and the importance of holistic trauma-informed care following an incident

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Donegal SATU**

of sexual assault. In addition, the students gain a clear understanding of the SART and how collaboration is key to patient care. The students have the opportunity to visit other agencies and learn about their role alongside the Donegal SATU. These services include: The Donegal Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre, the Donegal Domestic Violence Service, An Garda Síochána, the Women's Centre and the GUM clinic in Letterkenny University Hospital.

Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Sexual Assault Forensic Examination)

In addition to her own work, the Donegal RANP took on the role as Interim Programme Coordinator for the Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) in Nursing: Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) Level 9 QQI. Throughout the year the RANP worked closely with the RCSI, multi-disciplinary/agency teams and the national SATU service in supporting the six candidate Clinical Nurse Specialists (cCNSs) in achieving their degree. Five of the cCNSs successfully completed the PgDip in February 2026 (one outstanding candidate only, currently on maternity leave) and have commenced their new roles in the SATU service, Cork, Donegal, Galway, Mullingar and the Laurels Clinic, CHI Tallaght. In the summer of 2026, the remaining cCNS will take up her post in the Rotunda, Dublin. In addition to the PgDip (SAFE), the RANP supported the cCNSs in submitting an Abstract Poster for the RCSI 45th Annual Research Conference and were awarded a 'Special Acknowledgment' for their excellent work.

Training and Education Attended – 2025:

Together with the completion of mandatory training, members of the Donegal SATU team attended various study days, training sessions and conferences as part of their education and training, these included:

- Cervical Education for Healthcare Professionals-'It's all about the cervix'
- Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Online Briefings
- Medication management
- Medicines Management Masterclass
- Pregnancy options education
- Behind invisible bars conference
- Legal skills training
- Homicide Timeline /8 step timeline on Domestic Abuse Homicide Seminar

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Donegal SATU**

- Trauma workshop
- Policing Commission and community planning
- Sexually transmitted infections foundation course
- Hidden shame workshop
- Rainbow refugee awareness workshop
- Applying Gender-Sensitive Approaches in Combating Human Trafficking
- National SATU study day
- Addressing the Unique Experiences of Black Women in Ireland Facing DSGBV
- Autism masterclass
- Supporting domestic violence survivor's webinar
- The modern contraception conversation
- Supporting LGBTQI+ survivors of sexual violence.
- Contraceptive counselling webinar - a modern approach to contraception
- Women Empowering Women - Focusing on the experiences and concerns of Minority Ethnic Women in Donegal
- Audit Training for Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing Practices
- National SATU Administrators Study Day.

Key Achievements – 2025:

Katarina Ergotic CNM2 was sponsored by Letterkenny University Hospital (LUH) to undertake the Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing (Sexual Assault Forensic Examination) commencing in February 2025. On successful completion Katarina will take up her position as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner) in the Donegal SATU in 2026.

Ms Leah O'Regan (CNS FCE) successfully completed the postgraduate diploma in Advanced Practice nursing with the University of Galway. Leah is now registered with the NMBI as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner.

Ms Kellyann Moore is currently finalising her 2nd year of the MSc in Nursing (Advanced Practice), following successful completion of her studies she will also be registered with the NMBI as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner.

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Donegal SATU**

Dr Dolores Vigil joined the team in 2025 as an additional Forensic Clinical Examiner; Dr Vigil will work one weekend per month in the Unit. The Donegal SATU also trained and inducted an additional SATU Support Staff member, Ms Helen Patton, who completed the full induction programme. All SATU Support Staff have completed the National SATU Induction Programme in addition to the local Induction Programme.

In 2025, the Donegal SATU Administrator successfully completed the migration of the National SATU database to the new HSE server. Also, two new workstations were installed in the main SATU office to enhance operational capacity. In addition, The Donegal SATU Administrator, facilitated training of the national SATU Administration team in Database Reporting, Troubleshooting and administrative duties on the national database. Furthermore, assistance was provided to the Galway SATU in developing risk assessments and management of the risk register.

Trauma Workshop with Dr Nicola O’Sullivan

The Donegal SATU team organized a collaborative workshop specifically designed for the Donegal SART and members of Sligo An Garda Síochána to raise awareness of the impact of vicarious trauma, provide practical tools for resilience and self-care, and foster a shared understanding of the importance of team-based support in trauma-informed work. 32 professionals from a range of different backgrounds attended the workshop. The aim of the workshop was to support attendees in recognising the signs of vicarious trauma, build resilience and create self-awareness in developing strategies to support themselves and others in trauma-exposed roles. The positive feedback received following the workshop highlights the critical importance of addressing the psychological impact of trauma-exposed work for all members of the SART.

Remote Support from SATU Galway Medical Social Work Service

Donegal SATU was supported remotely by Ms. Auveen Greaney, Senior Medical Social Worker (MSW), based as a 0.5 WTE in the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) Galway. Commencing at the end of July 2025, Auveen offered 0.5 day per week to the Donegal SATU in supporting patients, 18 years and over. During this time, 12 patients were referred to the MSW service in Galway for holistic follow-up care and Auveen provided practical supports for patients in key areas including:

- Housing/Financial assistance
- Access to social welfare entitlements
- Information on region-specific services
- Access to General Practitioners (GPs)
- Access to child psychology services

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Donegal SATU**

The Donegal SATU Team recognise how the MSW service has played a critical role in delivering ongoing psycho-social, emotional, and practical support to the Donegal SATU patients. The MSW service has ensured patients had access to advocacy, referrals to relevant agencies, & additional community-based supports. With Auveen's support, Donegal, Sligo & Leitrim patients received coordinated, comprehensive support beyond their initial SATU attendance and this service has been very well received by patients.

Supporting the Patient Comfort Fund

Throughout 2025, the Donegal SATU team donated old clothes, shoes and bags to 'Cash for Clobber', an organisation that provides funds for community groups in exchange for textiles. All proceeds raised through Cash for Clobber were added to the Donegal SATU Patient Comfort Fund.

In addition, Donegal SATU gratefully received a generous donation of €1,600 from a separate fundraising event organised by the North-West Golf Club. A Suggestion Box has been placed in the reception area for patients and their families to offer suggestions as to how best utilise the donation to improve care within the Unit.

Strengthening Social Support and Integration

In response to the increased attendance of migrant women accessing our service, the team developed a dedicated social support information folder to better meet their needs.

Donegal SATU also collaborated with the Social Inclusion team to contribute to a poster presentation at the IPAS Women's Information Day, titled "My Care, My Voice: Service User-Led Integrated Care for IPA Women.

Outreach Programme:

The Outreach programme in the Donegal SATU has gone from strength to strength with an additional outreach clinic established in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim this year. This brings the total number of six Outreach clinics operating from Sligo, Leitrim, north Donegal, south Donegal and west Donegal. 95 patients were facilitated through the Outreach programme for health checks, follow-up care and cervical screening. SATU Support staff attended the Outreach clinics where necessary to support patients and act as chaperone as part of the SATU team. Patient feedback highlighted the importance of being able to attend the Donegal SATU for follow-up care in their locale:

“...Very beneficial living in Donegal Town and having the ability to be visited in Donegal Town.”

(18 – 24-year-old)

“... Good that my aftercare was in Buncrana as closer to home than Letterkenny....”

(25 – 34-year-old)

Key Objectives for 2026:

Recruitment

The objective is that there will be two Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner (RANP) positions in the Donegal SATU by the end of 2026.

A position for an additional CNS (Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner) continued to be vacant by the end of 2025. The objective is that a CNM2 is recruited with the commitment to participate in the next PgDip SAFE course leading to CNS. In addition, to a nurse/midwife being sponsored to participate in the FNE programme.

As part of the national SATU strategy, the Donegal SATU aim to have a permanent W.T.E. Medical Social Worker by the end of 2026.

Focus on retention and on-going training of SATU Support Staff and recruitment of interested GPs as part of the on-call service.

Infrastructure

Discussions will continue regarding the need for a Back-Up Generator for the SATU.

National SATU Database

Connie Mc Gilloway (RANP) and Sharon Curran, Donegal SATU Administrator will continue to coordinate a national SATU Database Working Group aiming to consolidate, progress and further develop key metrics in line with the revision of the national Key Performance Indicators and National SART Guidelines.

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Donegal SATU**

Outreach and Education Projects

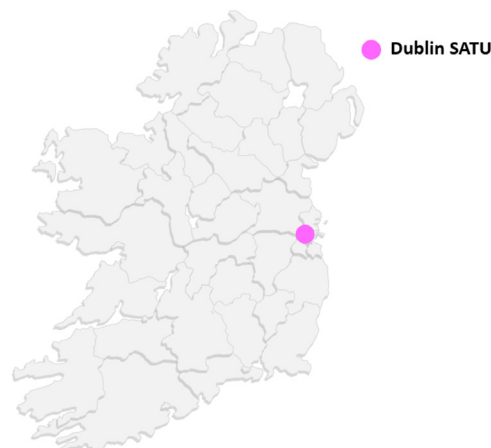
Continue engagement with partners in primary and secondary care and voluntary agencies in 2026 as part of a wider collaborative education and training programme.

Throughout 2026, the Donegal SATU team will continue to ensure the quality and safety standards in the care we provide align to the Health Information and Quality Authority National Standards for Safer Better Healthcare.

Donegal SATU Team	
Dr Matthew Mc Kernan Clinical Director	Ms. Connie Mc Gilloway RANP/Forensic Clinical Examiner/Unit Manager
Ms. Kellyann Moore CNS/Forensic Clinical Examiner	Ms. Leah O'Regan CNS/Forensic Clinical Examiner
Ms. Sharon Curran Administrator	Ms Katarina Ergotic (RGN) SAFE Student
On Call Forensic Examiners: Dr Mairead Brogan Dr Dolores Vigil	On Call SATU Support Staff: Ms. Deirdre Rooney (RGN) Ms. Billie Ní Riada (RM) Ms. Michelle Burns (RGN) Ms. Sinead McLean (HCA) Ms. Aoife Price (HCA) Ms. Donna Black (HCA) Ms. Victoria Stewart (HCA) Ms. Erin Gallagher (HCA) Ms Joanna Marie Alvardo (RGN) Ms Helen Patton (HCA) Ms Breena Grant (HCA) Ms Marjorie Collins (HCA)

iii. Dublin SATU

Year	Attendances (n)	Difference on previous year (n)	% Increase / Decrease
2025	443	+49	+12.5%
2024	394	-57	-13%
2023	451	+24	+5.6%
2022	427	+118	+38%
2021	309	+32	+10.5%

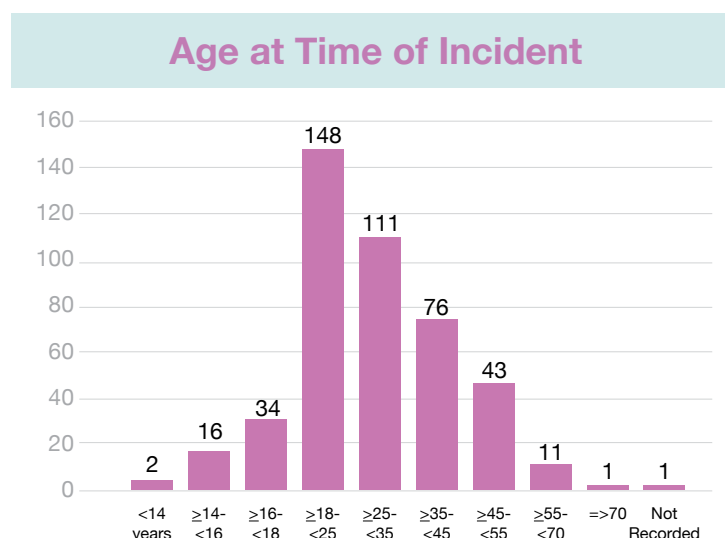


Local statistics:

There was a significant rise in attendees in the Dublin SATU in 2025, an increase of over **12%** (49).

Age Range at time of incident:

As per previous years the age range of 18-25 was the highest attendee group again in 2025 with 33% (148) attendees. There was a slight increase in the 16-18 age range up by 2% in 2025 to 7.5% (34) and also in the 45-55 age range up 3% to 9.5% (43).



Patients seen within 3 hours of a request for a Forensic Clinical Examination:

- The Dublin SATU saw **78%** (217) patients who contacted the service **within 3 hours** of request to SATU for Forensic Clinical Examination. This is down 15% from 2024. As previously mentioned, this was due to the SATU being unavailable for use, either due to staffing issues or space. This once again highlights the infrastructural need for additional forensic suites, particularly in busier units.

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Dublin SATU**

Duration of time since reported incident:

The number of incidents reported within 24 hours was up 1% on 2024 to 38%. The figures align to a similar trend in 2024 with 62% reporting within 72 hours of the incident.

Duration of time since reported incident	Number	%
< 24 hours	166	38%
24 hrs – 72 hrs	108	24%
72 hrs – 120 hrs	38	8%
120 hrs – 7 days	16	4%
7 days – 1 month	50	11%
>1 month	38	9%
Long term abuse	8	1.5%
Forced prostitution	7	1.5%
Unrecorded	12	3%

Type of attendance:

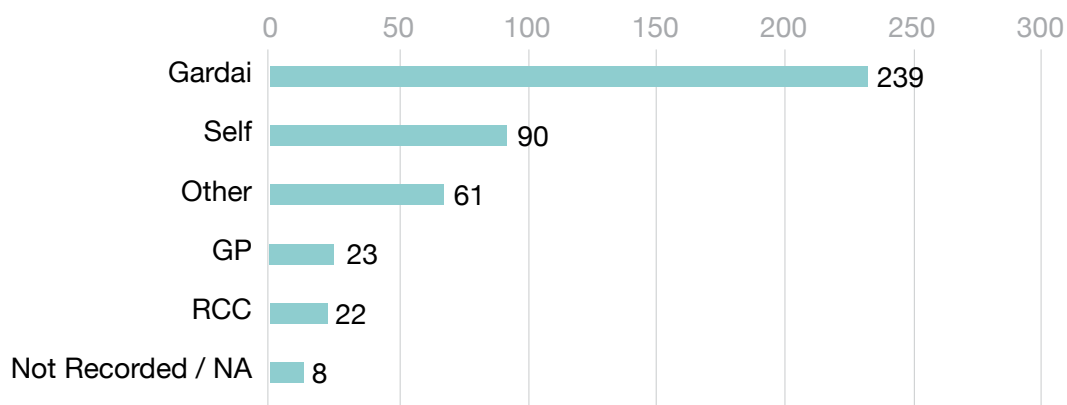
The figures below are almost identical to 2024 with Option 1 still accounting for over half of all attendances.

Type of attendance including number of patients who reported incident to An Garda Síochána	Number	%
Option 1 - Garda Forensic Exam Kit	242	55%
Option 2 - Health check	115	26%
Option 3 - No Garda - Forensic exam & stored evidence	59	13%
Garda no kit	6	1%
Advice	21	5%

Source of referral:

There was a slight increase in referrals from both An Garda Síochána (54%) and Self-referrals (20%) which accounted for three quarters of all referrals into the Dublin SATU.

Source of Referral



Key Achievements in 2025:

Awards

Christine Pucillo CNS and Catherine Marsh CNS won the HSE Bright Spark award 2025 – National Innovation award – Nursing and midwifery category winner, and attended the ceremony on 11th June, for their role in introducing forensic examiner led photography for bodily injuries for those attending SATU for forensic care. This project has enabled patient-focussed, trauma informed care for people who are sexually assaulted. They were presented their award by Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll McNeill who subsequently visited the unit and met the team at the Rotunda. This was a rare opportunity to highlight the service and the new equipment but also offer a view to the challenges posed by our current infrastructure.

Training

The Rotunda service welcomed Kate O'Halloran back in January and are delighted to at last have a candidate ANP in the service. Kate is undertaking her training and is hoping to complete this in 2026. Shelly Carlisle began her training as a clinical nurse specialist in the SAFE programme and hopes to complete this next year on return from leave.

Staffing

Staffing was a significant challenge during 2025, and credit is due to the core staff who have provided outstanding care despite these challenges. Nonetheless our 3-hour target for cases fell to below 80% and a large number of these cases were simply down to inadequate staffing. Alternative staffing solutions continue to be sought to compliment the core staffing complement during this challenging time.

Dr Aoife Mc Evoy joined the SATU team to complete a fellowship programme across

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Dublin SATU**

colposcopy and the sexual assault treatment unit. Nurse Shibby Joseph joined the unit as a staff nurse and has been a welcome addition to the team as a support person for forensic cases and providing follow up nurse led care in clinic. In September we waved goodbye to a longstanding member of our forensic nursing team Dee Richardson. Dee has contributed vastly to the service over many years. Not only did she provide excellent care to those attending following sexual assault, but she also provided invaluable insight to all of the forensic nursing and medical staff in training over many years. She hopes to continue to contribute to the service and her wealth of experience will be always welcome.

Medical Social Work

Throughout 2025, the Senior Medical Social Worker (MSW) on the SATU Dublin team delivered a specialised psychosocial service, offering dedicated emotional and practical support to every patient who attended the unit. Over the course of the year, key interagency links were strengthened, including the establishment of a direct referral pathway with Women's Aid Outreach Support Worker, enhancing access to specialist domestic violence support for patients attending SATU Dublin. To support the significant cohort of patients aged 18–25, the Medical Social Worker formalised referral pathways with Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Managers at third-level institutions, including Maynooth University and Technological University Dublin. Plans for 2026 include the continued development of interagency pathways, the exploration of an art therapy initiative with the National Gallery of Ireland, alongside ongoing support for the national rollout of the Medical Social Work role in all SATU clinics.

Rural initiatives / Outreach and Education Projects

Facilitation of Rotunda site tour and education session with members of Accompaniment Support Services for Children (ASSC).

Continued outside agency community education with schools, colleges and student counsellors. Education days with Allied Health in Dublin City University and presentations to undergraduate and postgraduate nursing students in Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin.

Information days with clinical departments in St Vincents & Tallaght hospitals with a view to optimising identification of possible SA, immediate medical care as required and appropriate management and referral thereafter.

Updated education days in Division Protective Services Unit with An Garda Siochana.

Outreach education day in Baleskin Reception centre.

Attendance at various festivals (Longitude/Electric Picnic) throughout the year to raise awareness around SATU services.

Collaborations

Ongoing collaboration with Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) in providing accessible care to patients attending SATU services and collaboration in providing advice and information to relevant outside agencies.

Working closely with team members of Accompaniment Support Services for Children (ASSC) to advise and support patients and families.

Following the fundraising efforts by everyone involved, Heneghan PR have kindly reached out to offer pro-bono support to advertise and highlight SATU over the course of the coming year.

Continue to play a pivotal collaborative role with the development of Barnahus East.

Key Objectives for 2026:

Recruitment

In 2026 we are expecting our new nurse manager Sally Keogh to commence work in the unit which will be very welcome. We also hope to recruit a clinical nurse specialist in sexual assault and forensic examination or at a minimum a candidate for training in this area.

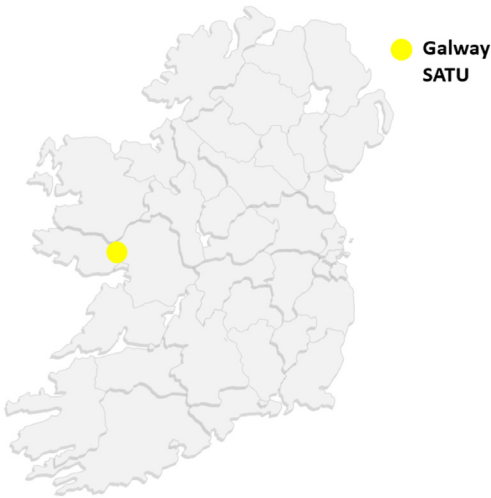
Infrastructure

We are continuously advocating for more space in our unit and also for a second forensic suite to enable examinations simultaneously or in quick succession. In September a fundraiser was held by the Rotunda Foundation in the pillar room and €41,489.85 was raised for the SATU to enable us to expand our footprint on site and improve the confidential spaces, therapeutic spaces and workspaces for those we provide care to and for our staff.

Dublin SATU Team	
Dr Nicola Maher Clinical Lead	Ms Kate O'Halloran Candidate Advanced Nurse Practitioner
Ms Christine Pucillo Clinical Nurse Specialist	Ms Naomi Finnegan Clinical Midwife Specialist
Shelley Carlisle SAFE Student	Laura Feely Medical Senior Medical Social Worker
Aoife McEvoy SATU Fellow	Sally Keogh Clinical Midwife Manager 2
Shiby Joseph SN	Denise Rogers and Ciara O'Connor Administrators

iv. Galway SATU

Year	Attendances (n)	Difference on previous year (n)	% Increase / Decrease
2025	116	+3	+2%
2024	113	-24	-17.5%
2023	137	+30	+28%
2022	107	+7	+7%
2021	100	+11	+13%



Local statistics:

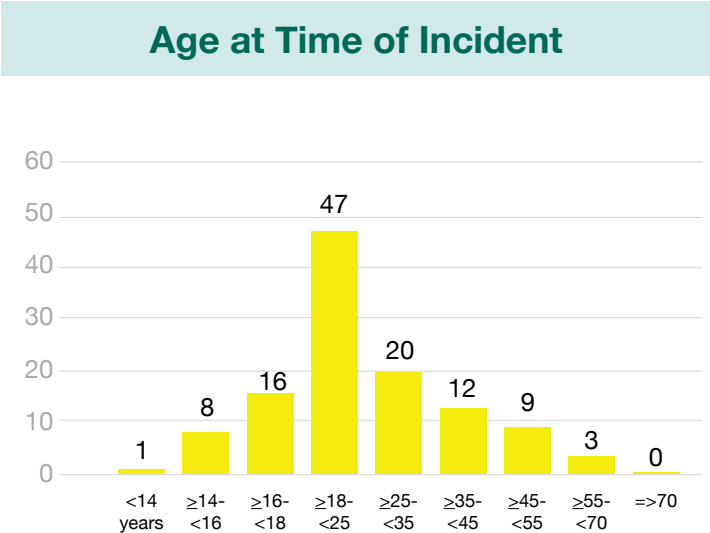
The Galway SATU had a 2% increase in attendances in 2025 at 116. Of the attendances 50% (58) reported the incident to An Garda Síochána and 79% (92) of patients had the opportunity to speak to a Psychological Support Worker at the first SATU visit

Age Range at time of incident:

The 18-25 age range remained the highest attendee group again in 2025 with 41% (47). The under 18 age group accounted for 22% (25), which is an increase of 3.5% from 2024.

Patients seen within 3 hours of a request for a Forensic Clinical Examination:

- 49 out of 55 (89%) of patients were seen within 3 hours of a request to a SATU for a Forensic Clinical Examination. This is down 2% on the previous year and has decreased 2 years in a row. This is mainly due to staffing issues.



Duration of time since reported incident:

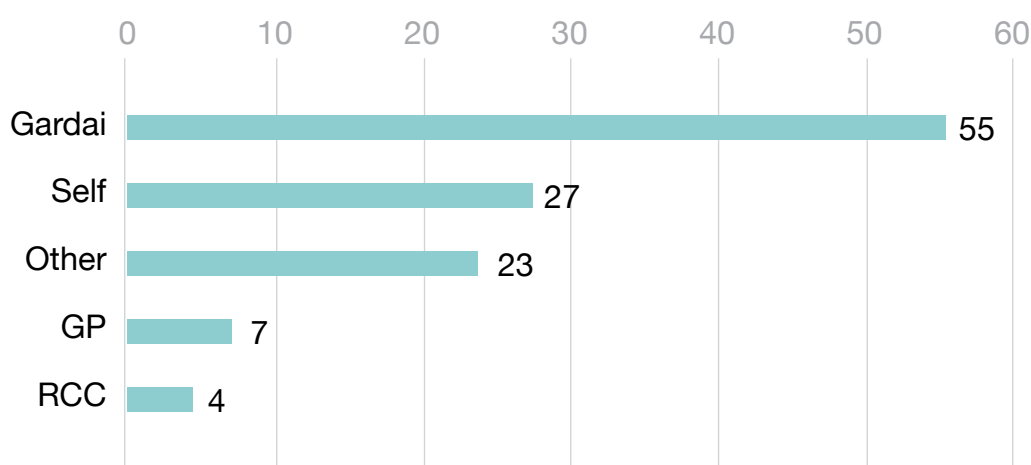
Duration of time since reported incident	Number	%
< 24 hours	43	37%
24 hrs – 72 hrs	23	19%
72 hrs – 120 hrs	7	6%
120 hrs – 7 days	3	4%
7 days	34	29%
Unrecorded	6	5%

Type of attendance:

In 2025 the Option 1 attendances dropped by 7% and the Health check attendances increased by the same amount.

Type of attendance including number of patients who reported incident to An Garda Síochána	Number	%
Option 1 - Garda Forensic Exam Kit	55	47%
Option 2 - Health check	39	34%
Option 3 - No Garda - Forensic exam & stored evidence	16	14%
Garda no kit	3	3%
Advice	3	3%

Source of referral



Key Achievements in 2025:

STI Screening

In late 2025 we commenced offering baseline Sexually Transmitted Infection screening to all patients who present to SATU Galway. An evaluation of the screening was carried out after 3 months and highlighted that, out of 25 patients who had baseline screening, 5 (20%) of these patients tested positive for Chlamydia. These infections were promptly treated. This highlights the benefits of addition of baseline STI screening to initial forensic examination when the patient has been sexually active in the past.

Staffing

The Galway team continue to work as part of the multidisciplinary team in Barnahus West which benefits our 14–17-year-old patients.

We were delighted to welcome Auveen Greaney, SATU medical social worker, to the SATU team, offering support to SATU service users 18 years or above. This has been a tremendously valuable addition to the aftercare of our patients. Please see an account from Auveen below.

Social Worker- Auveen Greaney

The Medical Social Work role within the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) in Galway commenced in April 2025 on a 0.5 WTE basis. A service is offered to every person over the age of 18 who attends the SATU service in Galway. I also provide a satellite service to Donegal. The Medical Social Work service is available to patients aged 18 years and over.

From the commencement of the role in Galway in April 2025 to the end of the year, 83 patients were seen by the forensic team in SATU. Of those who met the age criteria, 55 individuals agreed to be referred to Medical Social Work.

Whereas from Donegal I commenced the role in July and managed 12 referrals from their catchment area to end of year.

The role provides containment and brief supportive intervention to individuals following an assault. This involves offering immediate emotional and practical support to individuals who may be experiencing difficulties coping with daily functioning in the aftermath of the incident. A key aspect of the role is ensuring that individuals are linked with the most appropriate services for longer-term support, such as the Rape Crisis Centre, Ruhama, family support services, addiction services, their GP for mental health supports, city and county councils, homeless services and tenancy sustainment supports.

Another significant area that frequently emerges in this role is supporting victims of domestic violence. In some cases, individuals are already engaged with support services. Where this is the case, I advocate for increased support from their key worker, for example facilitating court accompaniment. For others, the SATU visit may represent their first disclosure of domestic violence. In these situations, I link them with appropriate services and, in collaboration with support workers, complete immediate safety planning where individuals are fearful of returning home.

I also signpost those who are in IPAS accommodation to specific asylum supports which offer advice and practical assistance.

Training and Education

Ms Catherine Conroy completed Skills Training in Self Harm and Suicide Prevention. Galway Forensic Physicians and Clinical Nurse Specialists gave presentations, undertook clinical audits, facilitated professional examinations with a variety of colleagues and allied professionals.

Challenges for SATU Galway 2025

Recruitment and training of new on-call forensic examiners for Galway SATU. Although Galway is one of the SATUs which sees fewer adult patients, Galway SATU and CASATS remains the only co-located “cradle to grave” forensic medical service in the state. This means the total number of patients seen under one roof is substantial, requiring careful scheduling at certain busy times, and flexibility with our patient-centred approach.

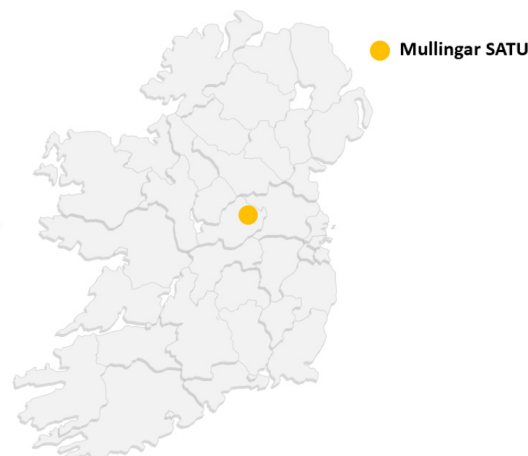
Key Objectives for 2026:

- Widen the Forensic Clinical Examiner team
- Fully implement baseline STI screening for all patients where relevant
- Increase outreach into the community to highlight SATU services

Galway SATU Team	
Dr Andrea Holmes Clinical Director	Ms Cathy Bergin, CNM2
Ms Caitríona Freeney Clinical Nurse Specialist	Ms Catherine Conroy Clinical Nurse Specialist
Ms Auveen Greaney Medical Social Worker	Ms Sinead Collins Candidate Clinical Nurse Specialist
Ms Maeve Geraghty Senior Administrator	
On-call Support Nurses: Ms Pamela Bartley, Ms Eileen Coen, Ms Lorraine Courtney, Ms Edel Fahy, Ms Orelia Ryan Fox, Ms Deirdre Gallagher, Ms Fiona Gilmore, Ms Mary Hynes, Ms Teresa Hynes, Ms Annmarie McGarry, Ms Yvonne O'Donovan and Ms Heather Stanley	On-Call Forensic Examiners: Ms Catherine Conroy, Ms Caitriona Freeney, Ms Susan Hogan, Dr Neasa Conneally, Dr Andrea Holmes, Dr Roswitha Junold-Martin, Dr Lia Kyranoudi

v. Mullingar SATU

Year	Attendances (n)	Difference on previous year (n)	% Increase / Decrease
2025	127	-6	-4%
2024	133	+9	+7%
2023	124	-24	-16%
2022	148	+28	+24%
2021	120	+19	+19%

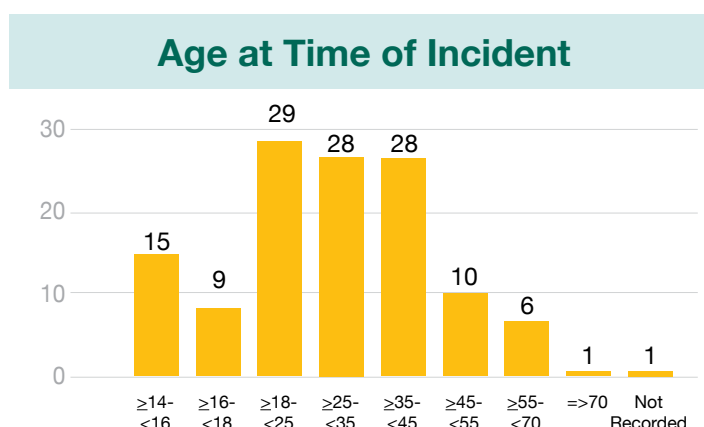


Local statistics:

The Mullingar SATU had a slight decrease of 4% (6) in 2025.

Age Range at time of incident:

The mean age of attendee was 31 in 2025. The 18-25 age range accounted for the highest number of attendees again this year, which follows the same trend as the previous 2 years.



Patients seen within 3 hours of a request for a Forensic Clinical Examination:

- 100% of patients whom a forensic examination was requested were seen within 3 hours. This is testament to the well managed service and the commitment of SATU Staff in the provision of this service.
- SATU Mullingar, as part of the National SATU Network has provided cover for other units when the need arises. In 2025 we covered the Rotunda Hospital on 12 occasions seeing 8 patients from the Dublin area, SATU Mullingar provided cover for Galway SATU on 40 occasions in 2025 seeing three cases from the West. As part of this reciprocal arrangement the Rotunda Hospital covered Mullingar SATU 12 times in 2025, and Galway SATU covered Mullingar SATU 5 times. This support from other units is much appreciated.

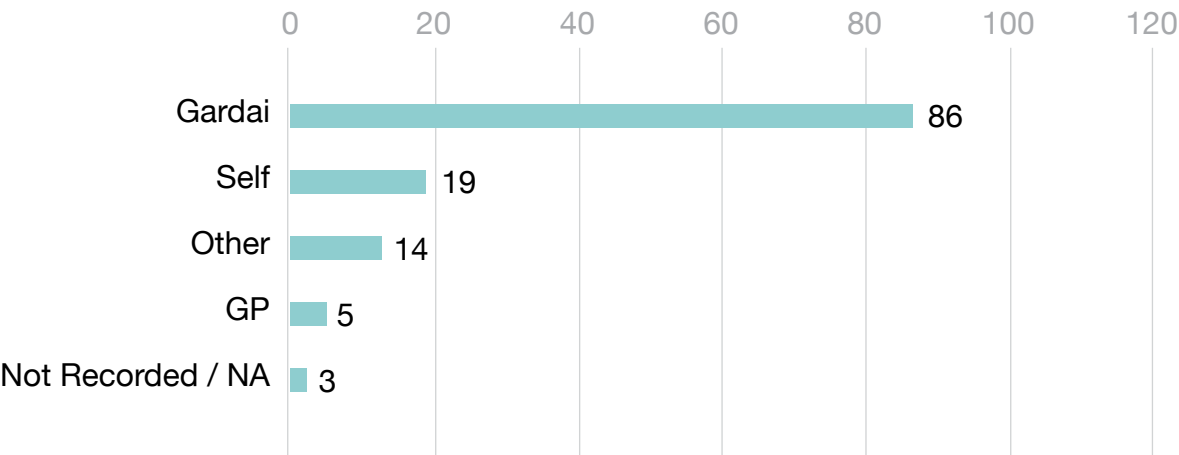
Duration of time since reported incident:

Duration of time since reported incident	Number	%
< 24 hours	43	34%
24 hrs – 72 hrs	34	27%
72 hrs – 120 hrs	10	8%
120 hrs – 7 days	4	3%
7 days	32	25%
Unrecorded	4	3%

Type of attendance:

Type of attendance including number of patients who reported incident to An Garda Síochána	Number	%
Option 1 - Garda Forensic Exam Kit	72	57%
Option 2 - Health check	20	16%
Option 3 - No Garda - Forensic exam & stored evidence	17	13%
Garda no kit	15	12%
Advice	3	2%

Source of referral



Key Achievements in 2025:

2025 was a very successful year for the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit in Mullingar. Continuing on from our commitment to driving forward SATU Mullingar we launched several new initiatives as well as continuing our educational initiatives that aim to reduce the harm that is sexual violence.

January 2025 saw Priya Jose commence as Candidate Clinical Nurse Specialist Forensic Examination. We have been very lucky that Priya has chosen to continue her long and valuable career in Midwifery with us in the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit. Priya's many years as a midwife in Regional Hospital Mullingar, as well as her many educational accomplishments have brought a new and exciting perspective to SATU. We have been thrilled to witness and support Priya's journey successfully through the Higher Diploma in Sexual Assault Forensic Examination, during which she excelled, and we look forward to her continuing to contribute to the growth and development of SATU and the expertise that she will bring to those who have experienced Sexual Violence.

February 2025 saw the appointment of Mary Cleary as Clinical Nurse Manager 2 of the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit. The appointment of this role brings with it a stability for the management of the unit and indeed Mary who has worked with SATU Mullingar since its opening is ideally placed to drive and develop our service. We are fortunate to have Mary, who has over thirty years working as a Theatre Nurse and more recently in Ambulatory Gynaecology and is also a Registered Psychiatric Nurse. Given the associated vulnerabilities of many of our patients along with our commitment to the provision of Trauma Informed Care at all times Mary is a beacon of excellence from which we all learn.

Along with the additions to our core SATU Staff we have been fortunate to welcome Dr Anne Bergin to our service. Having worked for many years as a Consultant Anaesthetist Anne brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our team and we are so grateful for the vast pool of knowledge that she has brought to SATU.

Professor Sam Thomas has provided guidance as our Medical Director since the retirement of Professor Michael Gannon. In November 2025 he stepped down as SATU Medical Director. We are very grateful for the support and guidance he has provided us during this transitional period for SATU Mullingar. We have been fortunate that Prof Maeve Eogan, SATU National Clinical Lead, is providing Clinical Governance to SATU until the appointment of a permanent clinical lead.

2025 saw the development of an idea that has its genesis in 2024. The trauma of sexual violence has long been recognised and we in SATU recognise the responsibility upon us to help our patients as far as possible to start their recovery from their experiences of sexual violence.

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Mullingar SATU**

Witnessing the amazingly positive impact Pet Therapy has had in the Paediatric Department of Regional Hospital Mullingar facilitated by 'Cian's Kennels' a charity set up in remembrance of Cian Neary whose dog Cooper provided support to him during his treatment, the team in SATU Mullingar have partnered with Cian's Kennels to expand the service to provide Pet Therapy at follow up visits.

Nessa Gill and Mary Cleary underwent training as volunteers with Cian's Kennels in July 2025 and our two newest staff members Maisie and Cooper have recently passed their exams and have been accredited as Therapy Dogs.



SATU Therapy Dogs Cooper (Retriever) and Maisie (Sort of Jack Russell plus multiple other breeds).

SATU Feedback

Keeping in mind the service that we provide, SATU collects feedback from our patients and those accompanying them. This feedback is very valuable and enables us to tailor our service and responses to best suit the needs of those who require our care. A selection of feedback received is noted below.

"Staff very supportive of the victim, Pity that access to the facility is so public - also a lot of people walking through the corridor"

"The staff were so helpful, good facilities for family members, perhaps a quieter are of the hospital would be more suitable, Parking could be closer"

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. Mullingar SATU

“Couldn’t be more helpful, everyone was put at ease, top marks, red carpet treatment”

“The SATU is invaluable service to the Gardai and the clients that attend, more parking facilities to allow more privacy for the service user”

“Service is very professional and care focused for the patient. Great work, nothing needs changing, thank you for all your help”

Education and Training provided by SATU Staff

2025 continued SATU Mullingar’s commitment to the provision of education and training to both the public and those professionals who care for those who experience sexual violence. A very important part of our work, we have committed fully to the development of this. The additional staffing resources has enabled us to grow and develop the educational services we provide and a sample of these are listed below:

- Secondary Schools Education program delivered to 12 schools in 2025
- Education and Training delivered to Divisional Protective Services Unit
- Technological University of the Shannon education and training with the Student Union and Health Services
- Lectures to undergraduate Nursing Students in TUS
- Safeguarding Education and Training Provision
- SATU Staff organised an information day with our colleagues from Domestic Violence Services and Midlands Rape Crisis Centre to showcase the services provided to our patients in Westmeath and to provide education and training to Hospital Staff to support those that they come into contact with who may have experienced Domestic Sexual and Gender Based Violence.



Rural initiatives / Outreach and Education Projects

- SATU Mullingar covers a wide geographical location and as such travel to Mullingar may prove difficult for many of our patients. To help and support those who experience sexual violence Mullingar SATU provides an outreach service. 2025 saw us provide care for our patients in a wide geographical area including Cavan, Monaghan, Naas, Tullamore, Portlaoise, Longford, Naas and Carrick on Shannon. We very much appreciate the help and support of HSE Staff who facilitate our outreach clinics. With the additional core staffing in 2026 our outreach services will continue to be a priority for growth and development.
- 2025 saw SATU Mullingar further grow and develop links with Adult Safeguarding. A priority area for Advanced Nurse Practitioner Nessa Gill she has substantiated links with safeguarding Ireland building on her academic and research work in this area.
- SATU Staff were pleased to attend the launch of Esker House Domestic Violence Services in Mullingar. Nessa Gill spoke at this event, and we work very closely with the Domestic Violence Services in the Midlands. See picture



Collaborations

- CYPSE Laois Offaly secondary schools' education continued successfully with five schools completed as part of a multi-agency approach to the provision of a "Healthy Relationships" program for Transition Year and fifth year Students
- SATU represented on Midlands Domestic Violence Strategy
- SATU represented on Barnahus East Steering Group
- Nessa Gill has functioned as Interim National Sexual Assault Response Team Guidelines Coordinator
- SATU Mullingar Staff lit up the hospital as part of the 16 Days of Action against Violence against Women. This formed part of multiple initiatives with our colleagues in both Regional hospital Mullingar and in the Community which show the support that the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit gives our community.



Key Objectives for 2026:

Recruitment

- 1. Appointment of a Medical Director remains a priority for Mullingar SATU
- 2. Recruitment of additional Forensic Examiners remains an ongoing priority for 2026
- 3. Recruitment of additional Support Nurses is ongoing.

Infrastructure

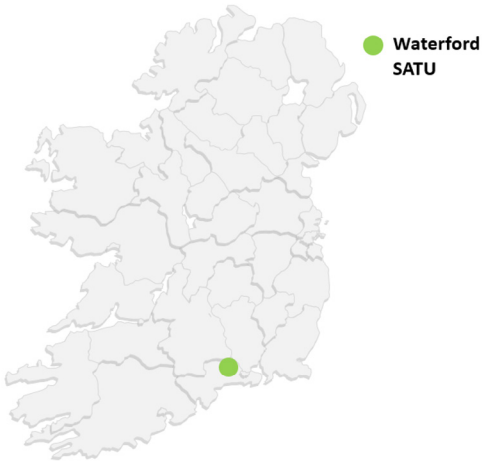
- 1. Infrastructural developments remain at the forefront for development of SATU RHM services. It is envisaged that a quieter location for the provision of SATU care will better support our patients given that currently SATU is located on a busy corridor.
- 2. Space continues to be an issue with no interview room available, no space to facilitate follow up visits and rapidly depleting area for storage of charts.
- 3. These significant infrastructural issues will continue to be at the forefront of our development plans for 2026

Mullingar SATU Team	
Professor Maeve Eogan Interim SATU Clinical Lead	Ms Nessa Gill ANP Forensic Clinical Examiner
Ms Mary Cleary Clinical Nurse Manager	Irene Monaghan Administrator
Priya Jose - Candidate Clinical Nurse Specialist Forensic Clinical Examiner	

The core SATU Team is supported by on call Forensic Examiners and Support Nursing Staff without whom we would be unable to provide a 24/7 service. We are very grateful for the work of Barbara Hynes, Catherine Marsh, Anne Bergin, Roswitha Junold Martin, Charlotte Coyle, Elizabeth O’Grady Brennan, Maria McDonnell, Breda Ward and Marie Lynn who care unstintingly for those who have experienced sexual violence and whose commitment to SATU Mullingar is much appreciated

vi. Waterford SATU

Year	Attendances (n)	Difference on previous year (n)	% Increase / Decrease
2025	74	-14	-16%
2024	88	+7	+9%
2023	81	+6	+6%
2022	75	-6	-8%
2021	81	+3	+4%

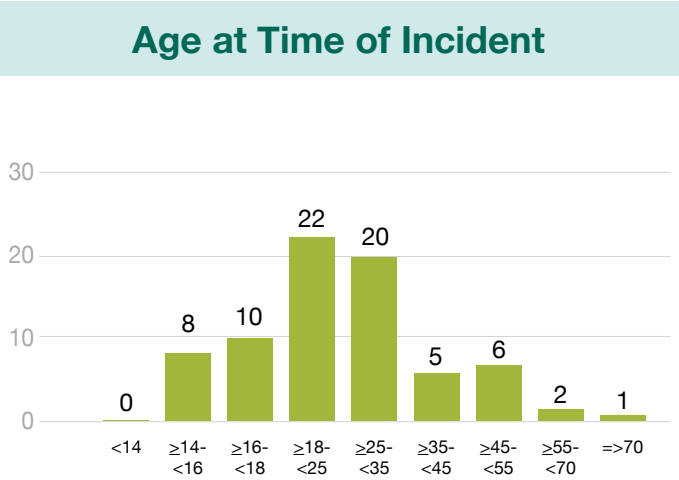


There were 74 attendances in Waterford SATU in 2025 which was a decrease of 16% from 2024.

Local statistics:

Age Range at time of incident:

The mean age of attendees to Waterford SATU was 28 years, which was slightly higher than the mean age of 26 years in 2024. The youngest patient was 14 years old, and the eldest was 81 years old. The 18 – 25 age group accounted for 30% of attendees similar to 2024 when this age group accounted for 32% of attendances.



Patients seen within 3 hours of a request for a Forensic Clinical Examination:

- In 2025 97% (31) patients who required Forensic Clinical Examination cases were seen within 3 hours of initial referral to SATU.

Duration of time since reported incident:

There was a decrease in the number of attendees who reported the incident within 24 hours which decreased by 26% to 30% from 56% in 2024.

Overall, the number of attendees who reported the incident in under 72 hours amounted to 60% in 2025 down from 87% in 2024.

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Waterford SATU**

Duration of time since reported incident	Number	%
< 24 hours	22	30%
24 hrs – 72 hrs	22	30%
72 hrs – 120 hrs	9	12%
120 hrs – 7 days	5	7%
7 days – 1 month	4	6%
>1 month	10	13%
Unrecorded	2	2%

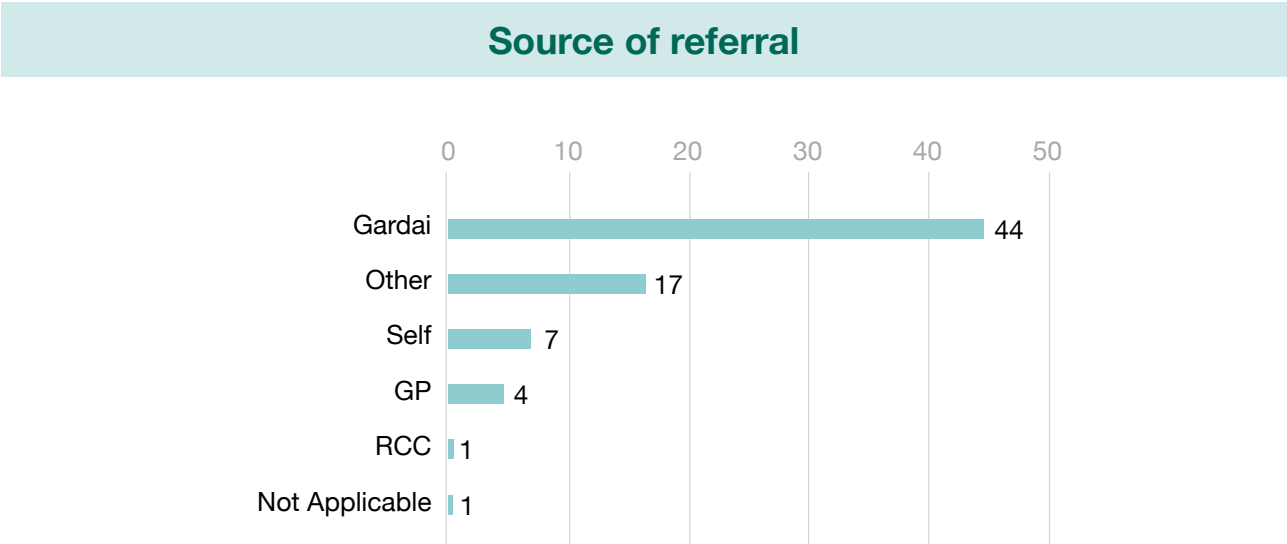
Type of attendance:

Option 1 remaining the main choice of options to the SATU at 64% which is almost identical to 2024 at 65%.

Type of attendance including number of patients who reported incident to An Garda Síochána	Number	%
Option 1 - Garda Forensic Exam Kit	47	64%
Option 2 - Health check	17	23%
Option 3 - No Garda - Forensic exam & stored evidence	8	11%
Advice	2	3%

Source of referral:

An Garda Síochána remained the top source of referral at 60% (44), however this is a decrease of 5% on 2024.

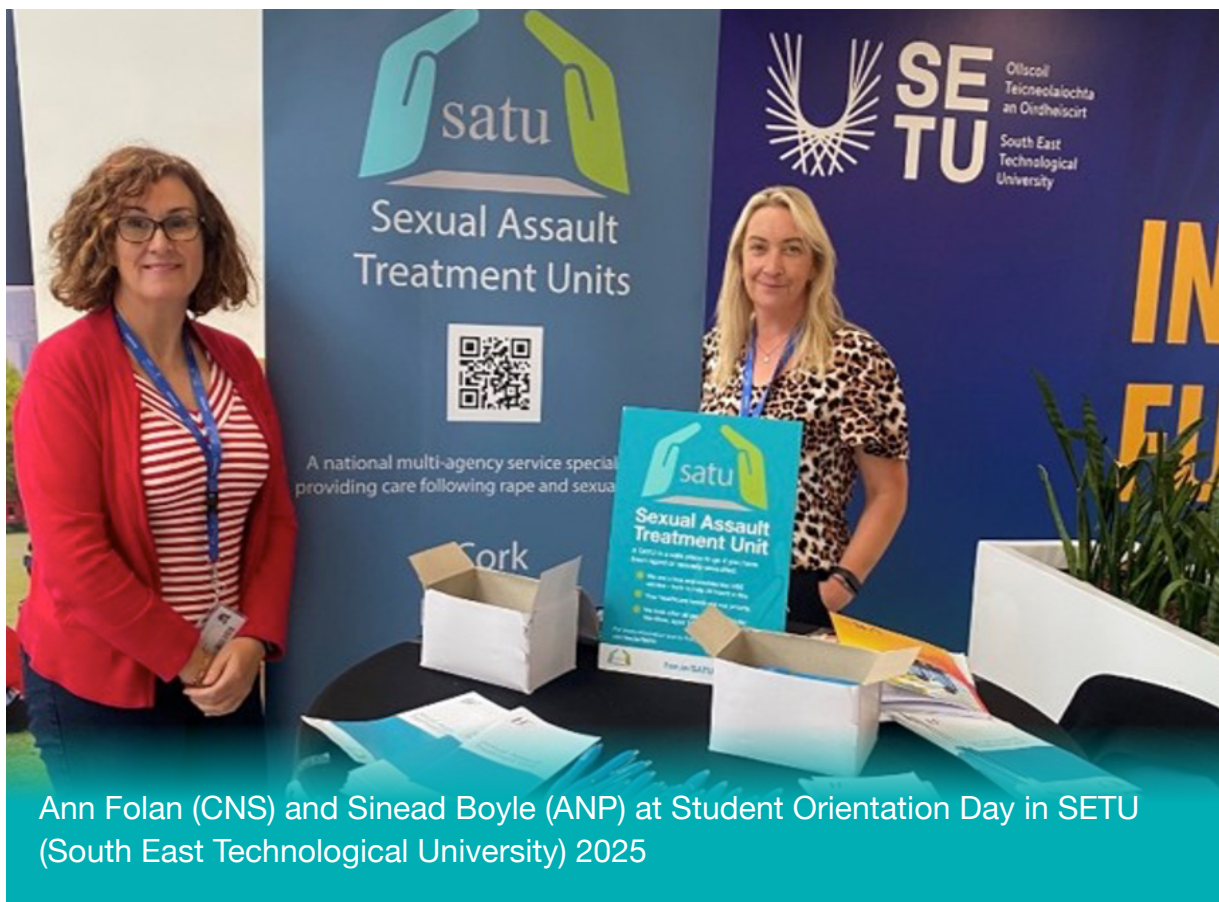


Key Achievements in 2025:

The Waterford SATU were busy in 2025 with both staff education and other projects.

- Sinead Boyle (ANP) and Ann Folan (CNS) provided education and orientation sessions on several occasions for newly recruited volunteers from Waterford Rape and Sexual Abuse centre.
- Sinead Boyle (ANP) and Ann Folan (CNS) provided education for the NCHD's Journal Club in the Women's/Maternity services.
- Ann Folan (CNS) delivered a lecture to RCSI H Dip Forensic Nursing students.
- Sinead Boyle (ANP) delivered an education session for H Dip Forensic Nursing students including practical skills and courtroom advice.
- Sinead Boyle (ANP) and Rhona Boland (SATU support Nurse) attended and participated in the launch of sixteen days of activism campaign to end gender-based violence at SETU in collaboration with other Irish universities.
- Sinead Boyle (ANP) participated and attended the roll out of the Consent Matters program attended by Minister of Justice by Jim O'Callaghan TD Minister for Justice in Waterford.
- Sinead Boyle (ANP) presented at University Hospital Waterford Grand Rounds.
- SATU Waterford were represented at number of events held by SETU Waterford including First Year Orientation Day and Freshers week on two of the SETU campuses.
- Sinead Boyle (ANP) and Ann Folan (CNS) attended update briefings on the expansion of Barnahus to the south of the country.
- Sinead Boyle ANP presented a series of Cervical check webinars as part of the cervical check national education program.
- Sinead Boyle (ANP) and Ann Folan (CNS) represented SATU at quarterly committee meetings and provided education for the ESP (Ending Sexual Violence, Prevention and Support Committee) southeast.
- Sinead Boyle (ANP) continues to offer cervical screening to female patients at Waterford SATU where indicated and appropriate.
- Sinead Boyle (ANP), Ann Folan (CNS) and Lorna Grace (ANP Ambulatory Gynaecology) have devised and implemented the first Copper Coil/ IUD insertion pathway for patients attending SATU's in Ireland.

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Waterford SATU**



Ann Folan (CNS) and Sinead Boyle (ANP) at Student Orientation Day in SETU (South East Technological University) 2025



Sinead Boyle (ANP) and Rhona Boland (SATU support nurse) at SETU launch of sixteen days of activism campaign to end gender-based violence at SETU.

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Waterford SATU**



Sinead Boyle (ANP) and Rhona Boland (SATU support nurse) at SETU launch of sixteen days of activism campaign to end gender-based violence at SETU.



Sinead Boyle (ANP) Consent Matters, A collaborative Waterford local community Safety Partnership (WLCSP) and Southeast Technical University (SETU) project was officially launched by Jim O'Callaghan TD Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration on Monday 22nd September 2025 in the historical surrounding of Waterford's Medieval Museum.

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Waterford SATU**

Staff Training

The Waterford SATU Team continued to engage with all relevant continuing professional development opportunities by attending numerous virtual webinars and in person training days and conferences.

SATU Waterford was represented at the National SATU study in Dublin.

Forensic examiners at Waterford SATU attended the online Legal Skills training in 2025.

The Waterford SATU team attended and completed all Mandatory Training.

SATU Monthly National Peer reviews had representation from Waterford SATU throughout 2025.

Staffing

In 2025 we saw the retirement of Paula Curtin Director of Midwifery. Paula was integral to the development and expansion of the SATU service at UHW. Paula was pivotal in the acquisition of a new SATU at UHW which has had a very positive impact patient experience at UHW for which we are all forever grateful. We all wish Paula a long, happy and healthy retirement

In 2025 we welcomed Ms Janet Murphy as the new appointed director of Midwifery, Janet comes with wealth of experience from her subsequent role as Assistant Director of Midwifery with governance for SATU in Waterford. Janet has been the driving force of many local and national projects and initiatives, and we are delighted to welcome her in her new role.

In 2025 we saw the retirement of Dr Ellen Mc Govern, Dr McGovern was a dedicated and dependable Forensic Examiner at SATU in UHW since its establishment in 2004, we are eternally grateful for Dr McGovern's commitment for the past twenty-one years and wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Dr Susan Uí Bhroín was appointed Interim Clinical Lead for SATU University Hospital Waterford, Dr Uí Bhroín brings a wealth of acute sector experience to the SATU setting and we are delighted to welcome her in her new role.

Two Forensic Medical Examiner's commenced training, one completed training in November 2025 (Dr Natalia Wiczorkiewicz) a second FME due to complete training in early 2026.

SECTION 2: Updates from the SATU Services. **Waterford SATU**

Infrastructure

The official opening of the new and long-awaited SATU at UHW was held on May 1st, 2025.



Connolly of the UHW Women and Infants Directorate; Det Sgt Finbarr O'Sullivan; Inspector Siobhan Keating; advanced nurse practitioner Sinead Boyle, clinical nurse specialist Ann Folan; clinical midwife manager Maria Murtagh, and UHW director of midwifery services Janet Murphy at the launch of the new UHW Sexual Assault Treatment Unit

Speaking at an event marking the opening of the new unit, director of midwifery services at University Hospital Waterford) Janet Murphy said: "Over the years, working closely with An Garda Síochána, the Rape Crisis Centre and others, those involved in the delivery of sexual assault treatment in the southeast have been excellent in their provision of vital support to people in traumatic situations. It has been an aim for some time, however, to establish the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit in its own specially modified area. University Hospital Waterford colleagues are delighted to welcome representatives of the HSE's National Women and Infants Health Programme, the Rape Crisis Centre and An Garda Síochána to this occasion at the new unit, marking the launch of the service in what can be described as a serene, discrete space. We look forward to it being a welcoming, safe and comfortable facility for those who require the specialist services it provides."



Hallway Waterford SATU



Waiting Room
Waterford SATU



Follow Up Examination
Room Waterford SATU



Forensic Examination
Room Waterford SATU

Key Objectives for 2026:

Education and Staffing remain key objectives for the Waterford SATU in 2026.

Recruitment

- Appointment of a permanent clinical lead for the service is imperative
- We have two SATU support nurses in training who will complete their training this year and we plan to recruit a further two support nurses.
- We are hoping to recruit more Forensic Medical Examiners in 2026 with at least one due to commence training imminently.
- SATU Waterford will continue to work with SETU and to provide support and education to various organisations in the region and throughout the hospital group.

Outreach and Education Projects

- We are hopeful that in 2026 designated areas and suitable premises for SATU outreach follow up clinics can be identified which will inevitably improve follow up compliance and improve patient experience and outcomes.

Waterford SATU Team	
Dr Susan Uí Bhroín Interim Clinical Director	Ms Sinead Boyle Advanced Nurse Practitioner
Ms Ann Folan Clinical Nurse Specialist	Ms Gemma Fitzgerald Administrator
On-call Forensic Examiners: Dr Ellen McGovern, Dr Helen Doyle, Dr Sarah Dorrian, Dr Rebecca Howley, Dr Natalia Wieczorkiewicz, Dr David Mc-Murray	On-call Support Nurses: Ms Maria O’Neil, Ms Mary Doherty, Ms Rhona Boland, Ms, Emma Blake, Ms Margaret Power, Ms Karen Power

SECTION 3:

SATU OTHER AREAS OF WORK

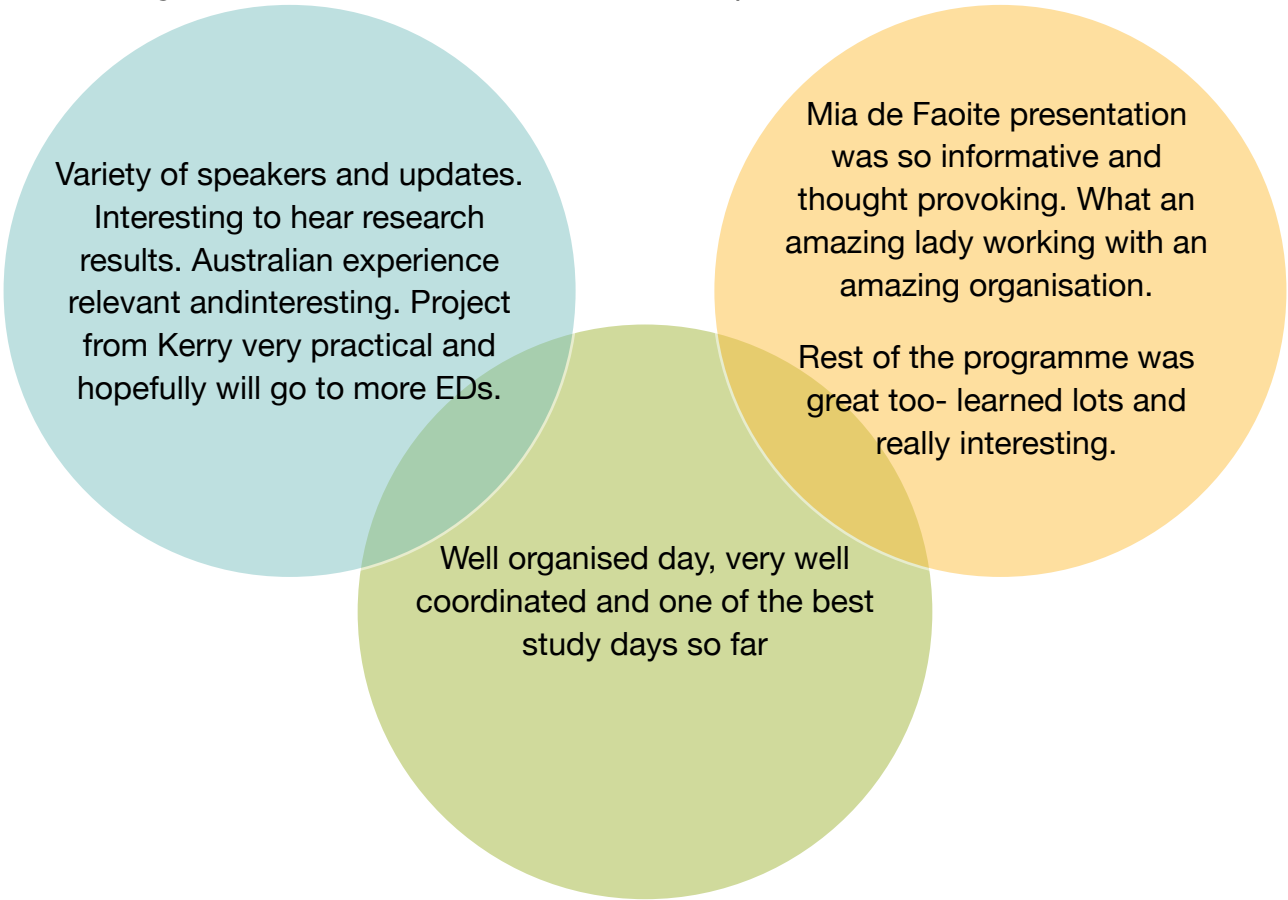
i. Annual Study Day

Since 2009, SATU has hosted an annual interagency study day. This event provides valuable opportunities for interagency networking, supports quality patient care, and contributes to ongoing service improvements. It is a key component of SATU calendar and one which we consider extremely important.

In 2025 the SATU study day was held in the Pillar room in the Rotunda, but attendees could also attend online as it was dual hosted due to the HSE restrictions on travel and expenses.

Dr Vanita Parekh Clinical Forensic and Sexual Health Medicine, Canberra started the day presenting from Australia on a live video feed on the topic of Using Research to inform clinical practice. There were presentations from Daniel Hogan, School of Law UL, Margo Noon and Deirdre Barry from Cork SATU, Ciara Mangan from Beyond Surviving, Ciara Buckley, School of Psychology DCU, Mia DeFaoite from Ruhama, Larry Ryan and Sarah Chapman, IPSOS B&A and Grainne Carr.

Feedback from both SATU staff and external agency attendees over the years has been consistently positive. Participants value the opportunity to showcase their work, network with colleagues, and learn from one another. A sample of the feedback is below:



Sincere thanks to all speakers and attendees, on an excellent study day.

SECTION 3: SATU Other Areas of Work



You Are Invited to the National Sexual Assault Treatment Unit Study Day. Venue: Pillar Room, Rotunda Hospital

Date: Thursday 11th September. Time 9:30 to 15:00. Further details / registration: satu@rotunda.ie (book early as space limited!)

Start	Finish	Speaker	Title of Presentation
09:30	09:45	Professor Maeve Eogan	Welcome and SATU Network Update for 2025
09:45	10:00	Dr Vanita Parekh Clinical Forensic and Sexual Health Medicine, Canberra	Using Research to inform clinical practice – the Canberra Experience (online presentation)
10:00	10:30	Daniel Hogan, School of Law UL	An Exploration of the Management of Harmful Sexual Behaviours within Youth Diversion Projects
10:30	11:00	Margo Noonan Deirdra Barry	Responding to disclosures of sexual violence in non-SATU settings
11:00	11:20	Morning Break	
11:20	11:50	Clara Mangan	'Beyond Surviving' – healing from domestic abuse and sexual violence
11:50	12:25	Clara Buckley, School of Psychology DCU	Barriers and Facilitators to Help seeking in the LGBTQIA+ context
12:25	13:00	Mia DeFaite	Prostitution, Exploitation and Human Trafficking – what do Ruhama Do?
13:00	13:45	Lunch Break	
13:45	14:30	Larry Ryan and Sarah Chapman, IPSOS B&A	What Ireland Thinks About Sexual Violence in 2025 – results of public opinion research
14:30	15:00	Grainne Carr	'Complexities of Consent' in Sexual Assault Treatment Unit settings
15:15	16:15	Dr Nicola O'Sullivan, Dr Anne Golden	Reflecting on the Emotional and Relational Impact of Working with Sexual Violence (SATU staff only)

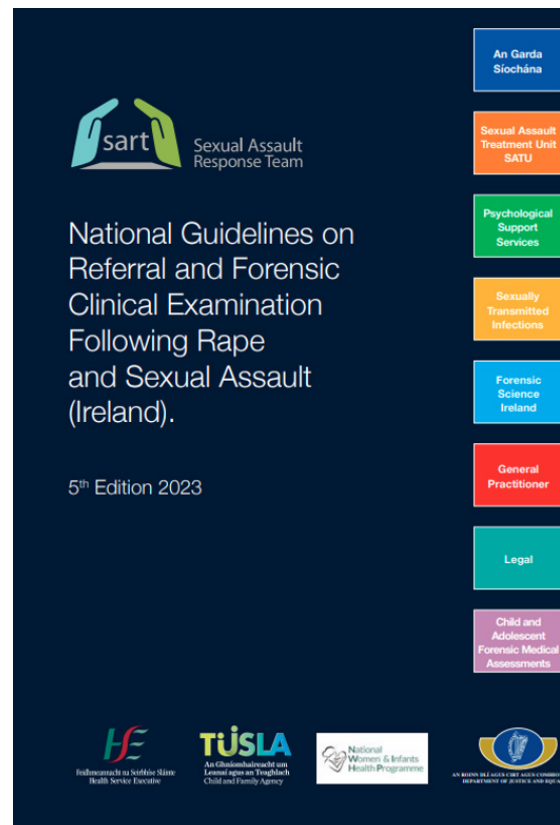
There is no charge to attend but donations to <https://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/SATU25> gratefully received!

ii. National Guidelines on Referral and Forensic Clinical Guidelines

The first edition of the National Guidelines on Referral and Forensic Clinical Examination Following Rape and Sexual Assault (Ireland) was published in 2005. The 5th Edition of the Guidelines were published in 2023 and have been updated online since to reflect service developments and improvements.

A dedicated working group was established in 2025 to develop the 6th Edition, which is scheduled for publication in 2027.

The guidelines are for SART (Sexual Assault Response Team), a multi-agency response team consisting of representatives from An Garda Síochána, Sexual Assault Treatment Unit, Psychological Support Services, Sexual Health, Forensic Science Ireland, General Practitioners, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Child and Adolescent Sexual Assault Treatment services.



SECTION 3: SATU Other Areas of Work

They are evidenced based guidelines which evolve and are responsive to developments in the management of those who experience sexual violence e.g. introduction of Option 3. They form the foundation of an inter-agency and inter-specialty approach to holistic, person-centred care. Ongoing updates reflect the dynamic and evolving landscape across all participating agencies and disciplines, while maintaining a steadfast commitment to dignity, autonomy, and trauma-informed care for those affected by sexual violence.

A link to the Guidelines can be found in appendix 1.

iii. SATU Administration Network

The National SATU Administrative Network was established in March 2023 to connect all six SATU units, providing national-level organizational leadership and support. The network links all the admins from the units and they meet virtually every five weeks, with a rotating schedule to accommodate Dublin SATU administrators. In 2025 the group welcomed the new Dublin administrator Ciara into the network.

They held the second annual SATU Administration day on February 20, 2025, in the Barnahus Galway SATU. All six units were represented, and the event was a great success, offering a valuable opportunity for units to share ideas and best practices.

Agenda For SATU Administrations Learning Day Galway - 20th February 2025

09:00am – Welcome and Introductions

09:45am – Tour of Barnahus Galway SATU (Subject to no patient present)

10:45am – Break

11:00am – ANP Presentation

12:30pm – Lunch

13:30pm – In person Reflective practice session specific for SATU administrators

14:30pm – Administration Workshop Session:

Statistics and Trends

Annual Report

Issues and Current Hot Topics

15:30pm – Update on Safe Course and other Training Provisions

16:00pm – Wrap up, Thank you and Evaluation.

16:30pm - Finish

iv. SATU Medical Social Worker

In September 2024, the Medical Social Work (MSW) service was formally introduced in Dublin SATU. In 2025 both the Galway and Cork SATU service recruited a 0.5 wte MSW for each unit. The Galway MSW also offers some limited support to the Donegal unit.

The MSW service offers specialised psycho-social, emotional, and practical support to all patients attending the Dublin SATU. The service ensures that patients have access to crisis intervention, risk-assessment, safety-planning, advocacy, referrals to relevant agencies, including domestic violence and mental health services, and additional community supports. The MSW also plays a key role in liaising with external agencies, facilitating ongoing care beyond the initial forensic examination.

Funding for a full time medical social worker for each unit is a priority for 2026 estimates.

v. Reflective Practice and Emotional Supports

Between Safety and Emotional Labour: Sustaining Staff in Forensic Practice (Dr Anne Golden & Dr Nicola O’Sullivan)

2025 marked four years of dedicated therapeutic reflective practice support for nurses, doctors, business support staff and managers in the SATU service. Established by Dr Nicola O’Sullivan (Director, Anchored Minds) and Dr Anne Golden (who joined in 2023), the provision has developed steadily and continues to strengthen the service and those within it.

The introduction of the opportunity to avail of professional therapeutic reflective spaces in November 2021 to the SATU service staff signals an organisational climate which validates and normalises staff experience, which in turn can mitigate risk (Brockhouse et al., 2011; Dombo & Blome, 2016). Reflective practice is a protective factor for staff, and provides evidence-based benefit to staff wellbeing, health, and retention of staff. Not everyone who is exposed to trauma is traumatised, and indeed working in this and similar areas is associated with positive effects, such as feelings of satisfaction, competence, empowerment and self-efficacy; compassion satisfaction or ‘making a difference’; vicarious post-traumatic growth; and improved relationships (Knight, 2020). However, attention to one’s emotional wellbeing is essential for both the clinician and the patient.

Between January and December 2025, the SATU teams have taken up 302 individual reflective practice spaces, an increase on 2024. In addition, across 2025 the new graduates attended a monthly reflective practice group and Dr Anne Golden and Dr Nicola O’Sullivan visited 4 of the SATU sites providing an in-person reflective space, theoretical presentations

SECTION 3: SATU Other Areas of Work

and training on self-care, compassion fatigue and wellbeing strategies.

The impact that this service has had on the SATU staff delivering care to victims of rape and sexual assault is evident from the feedback that was received in the service evaluation in March of 2025. Staff reported that they find it a flexible and easy service to avail of, with a considerable number saying that it has helped them to better deal with difficult experiences in work.

Supporting staff as they provide invaluable support to others

Work-related stress exists in many settings. In HSE SATU services, just as in emergency departments and other high intensity environments, the emotional impact arises from bearing witness to trauma and providing compassionate care in its aftermath — not from the individuals seeking support, but from the depth and seriousness of the experiences being held. Working with people who have experienced trauma can be rewarding and life-enhancing as well as onerous. We can focus on patient outcomes, but we are all humans, subject to stress and strain, with trauma a particularly extreme form of it, and the resultant indirect trauma which can impact on those who help. This is something that can touch everyone in the SATU service — from administrators to consultants.

There is some protection for staff in clinical training, standardised procedures and being able to focus on the task in hand with skills and evidence-based interventions, with support from colleagues acting as a buffer to the effects of stress. But the literature shows that SATU staff are at risk of indirect trauma effects, including compassion fatigue, vicarious traumatisation, secondary traumatic stress, burnout, as well as anxiety, depression, intrusive thoughts, alienation, feelings of hopelessness or helplessness, and disrupted social relationships (Knight, 2020). Reflective practice gives the confidential respectful space to consider the working experience of care for others with a trained trauma-informed practitioner. It is a health behaviour and can be therapeutic, but it is not therapy.

Similarly, the presentations given online or in person as part of our work may provide specific information (e.g., a polyvagal theory view of autonomic and emotional regulation, or stress, burnout, and posttraumatic growth) but the implicit invitation is to broaden everyone's perspective, intentionally offsetting those evolved strategies and shortcuts. This is not just for the benefit of patients, but for all of us as we make sense of our own experience, our place within the team, our place alongside the patient, so what is needed to be done can be carried out effectively and sensitively, so we contribute to a story of hope for a patient and for ourselves, moving from technician of the body to healer (Francis, 2026).

Using the opportunity to develop one's capacity for reflection serves to bolster our 'recuperative system' (Deary, 2024) and balance the 'seesaw' of stress more effectively. In Ireland, unlike other parts of the world, reflective practice, is not routine across training and practice in the medical and nursing professions, so it is innovative and something of

a cultural or organisational change in bringing it to the HSE SATU service. We seem to prioritise ‘carrying on’, but the point of reflective practice is avoiding losing sight of oneself in the work, and recognising your value in it, whatever your role, to develop the benefits and mitigating the negative impact of healthcare work. Dr Anne Golden and Dr Nicola O’Sullivan look forward to continuing the provision of this service into 2026.

Introducing Anne



I am Dr Anne Golden and in 2023 I joined Dr Nicola O’Sullivan (Director of Anchored Minds), to assist in providing high quality emotional supports for SATU staff by offering individual therapeutic reflective practice sessions and workshops for SATU staff members as well as supporting SAFE students and carrying out in-person visits to different sites. I am a chartered counselling psychologist and clinical supervisor. Originally, I trained in health psychology and an abiding interest in public health led to a PhD in epidemiology from UCL, before I turned later to psychotherapy training. I worked for a spell in the HSE National Counselling Service, and a significant proportion of my private practice continues to be with recovery from trauma.

vi. Outreach and Innovation

ELECTRIC PICNIC:

Building on the success of 2024, for the 4th year, our SATU team once again attended Electric Picnic in August 2025, where over 80,000 people gathered. With the continued support of Spark Innovation, we refreshed our branding and messaging, giving the stand / tent a stronger identity and more approachable presence. This redesign, coupled with the launch of a dedicated SATU Instagram account (@satuireland), ensured our message reached further both during and beyond the festival weekend.



SECTION 3: SATU Other Areas of Work

Engagement with festival-goers remained a central focus. This year, along with the interactive boards, we introduced iPads to capture ideas for a new SATU slogan, asking people to describe what SATU meant to them. Words such as support, kindness, safe place, trust, care, compassion, and hope came through strongly, underlining the importance of empathy and reassurance in our work.

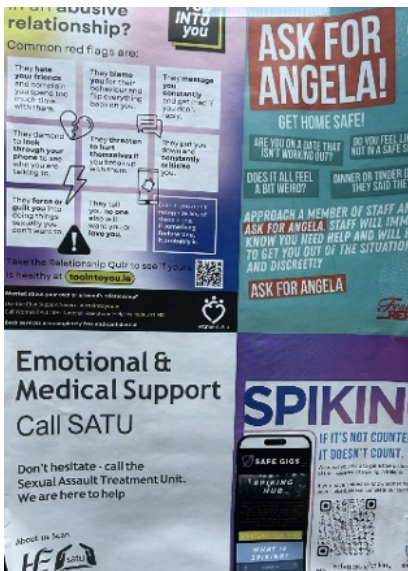
Awareness of SATU's services also showed encouraging shifts:

- 250 individuals indicated they had not heard of SATU before, while 150 said they had. Importantly, several attendees said that their awareness stemmed from conversations with staff at last year's festival, a clear sign of the cumulative impact of our sustained presence.
- Over 300 people engaged with the nationwide "Place Yourself on the Map" board, representing nearly every county across Ireland.
- Visitors typically spent 3–5 minutes interacting with staff and boards, reflecting meaningful, considered engagement.
- More than 2,000 condoms and lubricant packs and 1500 hand sanitizers were distributed, ensuring practical contributions to health and wellbeing on-site.
- To broaden visibility, SATU posters were displayed in Portaloo's across the site, ensuring that thousands of festival-goers encountered key information about the service in an accessible and practical way.

Our participation also extended beyond awareness-raising. By being part of the daily safeguarding team meetings, SATU staff contributed to the wider festival safety effort. This presence ensured we were positioned to provide rapid, professional support in response to sensitive situations, reinforcing the value of having trained personnel embedded within large public gatherings.

The 2025 experience highlighted not only the reach of our work but also its evolving nature. The integration of digital engagement refreshed branding, and social media presence, represents a step forward in how SATU connects with the public. The feedback we received shows that our message is resonating, and that festival-goers increasingly recognize SATU as a service rooted in compassion, trust, and care.

SECTION 3: SATU Other Areas of Work



vii. Training and Continued Professional Development

SAFE EDUCATION PROGRAMME:

The PgDip. Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) education programme for Nurses and Midwives, Level 9 QQI (master's Level) which started in February 2025 is due to conclude on 17th February 2026. There will be four Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) taking up positions in the Adult SATU services in Donegal, Cork, Galway and Mullingar. A fifth CNS will take up a position in Children's services in the Laurels, Dublin. One more candidate CNS is currently on Maternity leave and is due to complete the course in the Autumn of 2026. Upon completion of the course this CNS will take up a position in the Rotunda SATU.



Below is an introduction to the SAFE candidates who will be joining the service in 2026.



Renju Mathew – Cork SATU

Safe Student Representative 2025-2026

“A candidate journey lifted by leadership, shaped by support”

I was searching for a nursing role that truly combined meaningful patient connection with a strong opportunity for professional development. I began my journey as a part-time support nurse in Cork SATU, initially viewing it as a stepping stone. However, the complexity, responsibility, and impact of the role quickly captured my interest. What truly cemented my decision was witnessing the exceptional

leadership and passion of the Cork unit ANP Margo Noonan, whose genuine commitment to improving outcomes for young people was both inspiring and motivating. Her belief in my potential, guidance, and encouragement played a pivotal role in my decision to pursue this course.

What Motivated Me to Undertake the Course?

This programme represented a unique and highly specialised branch of nursing—distinct from any area I had previously encountered. It offered the opportunity to develop advanced clinical skills while making a meaningful difference to some of the most vulnerable individuals in society. The strong culture of encouragement and professional belief from leadership reassured me that I was stepping into a programme that truly invests in its students.

Standout Learning and Favourite Module?

Every module brought a fresh perspective, new terminology, and an entirely different way of thinking, highlighting just how specialised forensic nursing is. The Law module stood out as a clear favourite among students. Despite its demanding nature—particularly the written and practical assessments after a long break from formal examinations—it was delivered with such clarity and structure that it transformed a challenging subject into an engaging and empowering learning experience. This perfectly demonstrated how expert teaching can elevate even the most complex material. The delivery by solicitor Rioghnach Corbett was a masterclass in making law accessible, relevant, and confidence-building for all of us.

Exceptional Leadership, Support, and Learning Culture

What truly sets this course apart is the extraordinary level of leadership, mentorship, and holistic support provided throughout. The vision and dedication of Dr Bridget Murray, RCSI SAFE Course Director, ensured academic excellence while fostering a supportive learning environment. Connie McGillowey, as SAFE Course Coordinator, provided invaluable clinical insight and practical guidance, ensuring students felt supported at every stage of their journey.

The involvement of Professor Maeve Eogan, SATU National Lead, was both inspiring and reassuring. Her commitment to knowing each student individually, combined with her active participation in education, lectures, and examinations, created a strong sense of belonging and academic confidence across the cohort.

Equally commendable was the programme's emphasis on student wellbeing. The provision of both group and individual counselling sessions demonstrated a genuine understanding of the emotional demands of forensic nursing. This proactive, empathetic approach to managing trauma exposure and staff wellbeing is exemplary and sets a gold standard within nursing education.

Advice for Those Considering the Course

This course is challenging, transformative, and exceptionally rewarding. The level of support from managers, colleagues, forensic examiners, preceptors/facilitators and programme leadership is truly outstanding. Forensic examiners across units consistently went above and beyond to facilitate learning, with particular appreciation for the Rotunda Forensic Examiners, whose generosity with time, teaching, and mentorship greatly enriched the student experience.

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The success of our cohort reflects a remarkable collective effort. We graduated not only with strong results but also got accepted for the RCSI 2026 poster presentation. This confidence, competence, and a deep sense of professional identity-something that would not have been possible without the unwavering support of leadership at every level. For anyone considering this course, you will definitely be challenged, nurtured, and empowered to excel.

Priya C Jose - Mullingar SATU

I am currently pursuing a Post Graduate Diploma in Sexual Assault Forensic Examination at RCSI while working as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (Candidate) in the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit at Regional Hospital, Mullingar. Before this role, I was employed as a Senior Enhanced Practice Midwife in the Maternity Department of the same hospital, where I also served as a shift in charge. I am a Registered General Nurse and Midwife with over 20 years of experience, including advanced expertise



in medical/surgical nursing within Intensive Therapy Units. In addition to my clinical background, I have served as a Lecturer and Course Coordinator at a Nursing College in India. For the past 18 years, I have been practising in Ireland, where I actively engage in in-service education and continuous professional development programs to maintain and enhance my skills in alignment with my professional role. In addition to my current academic studies, my qualifications include a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master of Science in Nursing (Maternity). I was motivated to take this course because I was seeking a career change, and upon learning about the service forensic examiner provides, I realised it aligns perfectly with my skills and interests, making it a better fit for me. I also valued that the course is a full-time programme, enabling me to dedicate myself fully to the studies and gain the most out of the experience. One of my favourite modules in the programme is the legal module. It has been a new and enriching learning experience for me, and I particularly enjoyed our placement in CCJ. To those who are considering this course in future, I would advise gaining practical experience by working in SATU or observing cases in SATU settings before you start the course. This would provide valuable insight and a solid foundation for the programme.



Katarina Ergotic- Donegal SATU

My name is Katarina Ergotic, and I am currently working as a Candidate Clinical Nurse Specialist Forensic Examiner (CNS FCE) in the Donegal Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU), having joined the service as a SATU support nurse in 2024. I bring over 24 years' experience as a registered nurse and clinical nurse manager, with a strong background in gynaecology gained through senior clinical and leadership roles in Croatia and at Letterkenny University Hospital, Ireland.

I was motivated to undertake the forensic examiner course by a commitment to providing compassionate, trauma-informed and patient-centred care to patients at one of the most vulnerable times in their lives, while maintaining the highest clinical and forensic standards. As part of my professional development, I undertook and successfully completed the Cervical Screening course in January, further supporting safe, high-quality clinical practice. My advice to those considering the SAFE PGgDip programme is to trust their experience, engage fully with trauma-informed practice, and embrace all aspects of the learning, which is both challenging and highly rewarding.

Shelley Carlyle Morgan- Dublin SATU

Hello my name is Shelley, and I qualified as a midwife in 2016, working for 5 years in CWIUH primarily in postnatal care, gynaecology and bereavement. I began on call as a support nurse with SATU in 2021, while working in the Gynae ward of the Rotunda Hospital.

The quality of care provided by the excellent team I have worked with for the past 5 years led me to undertake this course. It has been busy, challenging and rewarding. The excellent lectures, guest speakers and placements have all been both highly educational and enjoyable. We have been very fortunate to have great support with our learning from other SATU staff members, but also from each other. Our law module was a highlight for me, and it was also my finishing point prior to maternity leave.

I welcomed our daughter in August and hope to return and complete the course by her first birthday.

Sinéad Collins- Galway SATU

I am a registered nurse and midwife based in Galway, with over 10 years' experience in nursing and midwifery. My most recent role was in the Early Pregnancy and Gynaecology Ward at Galway University Hospital, where I developed a strong interest in women's health and sexual health.

In 2024, I completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Sexuality Education and Sexual Wellbeing at DCU. In 2024 I joined the on-call support nurse roster in Galway before successfully

SECTION 3: SATU Other Areas of Work

gaining a place on the Sexual Assault Examinations in Nursing sponsorship programme in 2025.

The training year was both busy and rewarding, providing valuable exposure to a range of essential support services. My favourite aspects of the programme were the Law module and experience within the criminal courts, where we gained significant insight into the justice system.

I am deeply grateful to the Galway SATU/CASATS team for their continued support throughout the year. I also sincerely appreciate the guidance and mentorship of Dr. Bridget Murray and Connie McGilloway, whose support was invaluable.



Sarah Roarty - CHI

My name is Sarah Roarty, and I am a dual qualified paediatric nurse and social worker with eleven years of experience across health and social care sectors, both nationally and internationally. My clinical background includes working in a Paediatric Emergency Department where I developed strong assessment, triage, and crisis management skills. I later joined the Laurels CSA Forensic Medicine Clinic at Children's Health Ireland, Tallaght, where I currently work as part of a multidisciplinary team responding to concerns of child sexual abuse.

I decided to undertake the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) course to deepen my knowledge of sexual abuse from both adult and paediatric perspectives. Additionally, it stemmed from a long-standing interest in medical safeguarding. Given the complexity and sensitivity of this area, I wanted to strengthen my clinical, legal, and theoretical knowledge to ensure that the care I provide is informed, trauma-aware, and aligns with best-practice.

The past year has been an invaluable learning experience. The quality of teaching throughout the programme was excellent, and I particularly enjoyed expanding my understanding of women's health.

Overall, the Legal Studies module was the most beneficial for me. The combination of theory and simulation-based learning was highly effective, and the lecturer's engaging approach ensured that all students remained actively involved throughout the course.

CNME Study Day:

A new study day was developed and ran twice in 2025 in collaboration with CME Dublin. The study day was a webinar on 'Learning from Sexual Assault Treatment Services (SATU)' in collaboration with SATU services in Ireland. Due to its success and popularity will run again twice in 2026 with the next date being the 26th of March. It is a short course recom-

mended for all health professionals working in acute services, maternity hospitals, primary care, EDs and community services. It covers how to respond to disclosures of sexual violence, referral pathways for SATUs and paediatrics services, the importance of Tusla referrals and safeguarding and lists the various roles and responsibilities with the SATUs. It is facilitated through HSEland. The first course ran on the 2nd May 2025 and had 163 attendees and the second on the 26th Sep 2025 had 102 attendees.

Legal Skills Training:

A series of Legal Skills training days are held annually. These are important for the accurate documentation and presentation of findings needed in legal proceedings. These specific training opportunities reflect a comprehensive approach to continuing education for professionals about the evolving multifaceted challenges of sexual violence and the clinical and legal nuances involved in SATU care.

viii. Funding

There was no additional funding allocated to the SATU network in 2025. The majority of SATU funding is allocated to staff costs, with the remaining budget used for:

- Providing dedicated emotional support for SATU staff.
- Training and development opportunities for current staff.
- Increasing awareness of SATUs and their services.
- Updating and maintaining IT equipment and software used across SATUs.

ix. The Deaf Project

In 2017, the Irish Sign Language (ISL) Act [2017] placed an obligation on the public sector to ensure accessibility through ISL interpretation. Recognising the absence of accessible information and acknowledging a Deaf person is more than twice as likely to experience domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV), Connie McGilloway RANP in Donegal initiated and led out on a national



SECTION 3: SATU Other Areas of Work

project in 2020, part-funded by the HSE Spark Innovation Programme. As the absence of ISL information creates barriers for a Deaf person reporting a crime, this project aims to improve access to the SATU service for the Deaf Community through ISL videos. The project was developed involving input from An Garda Síochána, the Rape Crisis Centre, the JUSTISIGNS 2 Project, Trinity College Dublin's Centre for Deaf Studies and Interresource Group (Ireland) Limited as the creative lead.

The project faced many barriers and challenges at the planning stage which resulted in a delay in the implementation date of the project. This was due to a number of factors. The main barriers included, the Covid-19 Pandemic (2020-2023), a lack of available registered Interpreters and the necessity in developing a new glossary of terms related to DSGBV. To overcome some of these barriers, a research group of Deaf professionals/interpreter trainers/academics and Deaf Interpreters at Trinity College Dublin were tasked with establishing a set of key English terms used in DSGBV settings which had no agreed ISL equivalent. A pilot glossary of the ISL terms was circulated amongst a cohort of newly trained Deaf interpreters seeking on newly created signs. Subsequently, re-filming of a DSGBV Glossary of ISL terms for use in interpreting and translation was reviewed, resulting in 81 new ISL terms and explanations.

Concurrently, scripts regarding the response to a person 14-years and over who had experienced sexual violence were prepared by the Donegal SATU service, the Donegal Division of An Garda Síochána and the Donegal Rape Crisis Centre. The script was then edited for translation by the translation team for the ISL videos for the SATU ISL Guide. While there are approximately 120 registered ISL interpreters in Ireland, only 10 of these felt competent about working in this specialised area. Demands on their many obligations, tasks and pressures occupying their schedule also put pressure on timelines.

In 2024, the ISL Videos were developed and filmed and in late 2024, some of these videos were reviewed to align with changes in the National SART Guidelines (2023). Text was modified to de-medicalise some wording as far as possible and clear explanations of the SATU functions in the absence of an ISL interpreter were clarified. There was a focus on creating clean imagery, high quality signing, presentations using a soft palette, paced delivery and structured translation in a bite-sized format.

In 2025, the draft SATU ISL Guide underwent changes to accommodate the colour scheme, ease of access and user-friendliness as well as making it easier to access in a multimedia format. The final draft of the Guide has undergone critical readership and was finalised in early January 2026. The guide has been developed with scope for easy updates and revisions in the future.



SECTION 4: **RESEARCH**

Research

The SATUs have maintained a strong commitment to research, both to identify emerging trends and to support service delivery needs, as well as to evaluate potential service improvements and inform policy and development priorities.

Several peer reviewed papers have been published in 2025, many of which reflect the largest published sample sizes in the literature.

Some of the completed works include the following, abstracts of which are available in Appendix 2.

- Kane D, Walshe J, Richardson D, Pucillo C, Ferguson W, OConnor S, Maher N, Flood K, Eogan M. Genital and anal injury in women after sexual assault: prevalence rates and associated risk factors in 294 cases. *Int J Legal Med.* 2025 Sep;139(5):2549-2559. doi: 10.1007/s00414-025-03522-1. Epub 2025 May 24. PMID: 40411593; PMCID: PMC12354621.
- Kane D, Holmes A, Kennedy K, Flood K, Eogan M. Sexual violence associated with international travel: a review of 443 cases. *Int J Legal Med.* 2025 Mar;139(2):817-823. doi: 10.1007/s00414-024-03388-9. Epub 2024 Dec 14. PMID: 39672941.
- Kane D, Daly R, Walshe J, Maher N, Pucilio C, Richardson D, Flood K, Eogan M. Physical injury in men after sexual assault: An analysis of 137 cases. *Forensic Sci Int.* 2025 Feb;367:112340. doi: 10.1016/j.forsciint.2024.112340. Epub 2024 Dec 9. PMID: 39672034.
- Kane D, Walshe J, Maher N, Pucillo C, Richardson D, Holmes A, Flood K, Eogan M. Women attending the sexual assault treatment unit services in the Republic of Ireland: A 7-year review. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet.* 2025 Mar;168(3):1276–1284.

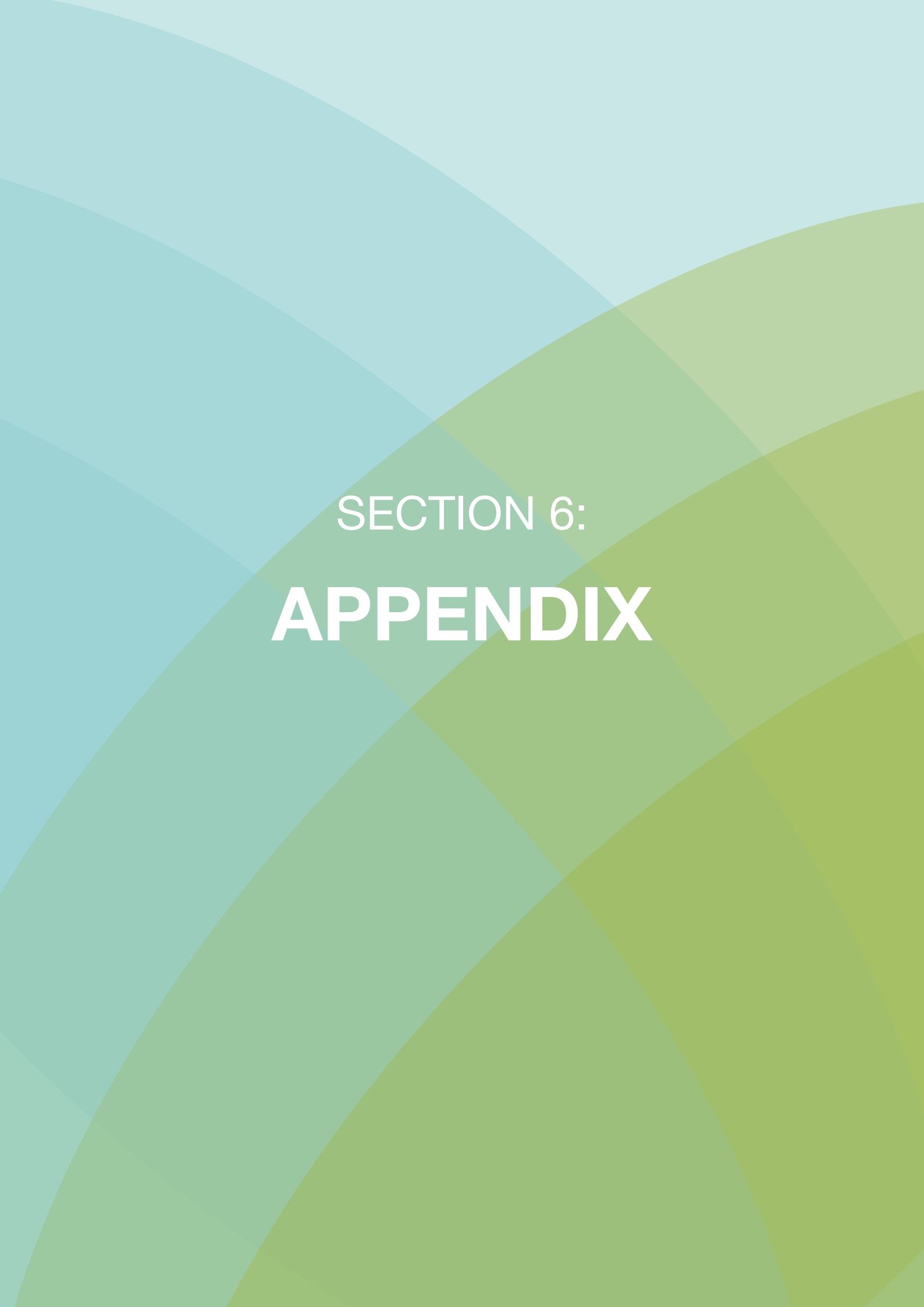
SECTION 5:

**NATIONAL
OBJECTIVES
FOR 2026**

National Objectives for 2026

In 2026 the SATU service will focus on some key objectives in order to continually improve the care of the people who need to use their service.

- Sustained focus on highlighting and remedying challenges in both human and infra-structural resources in the SATUs. Including continued advocacy for appropriate and accessible funding to mitigate these ongoing challenges.
- Ongoing review of medical and nurse training programmes, to implement accessible, multiprofessional and modular training programmes for all staff involved in delivering care.
- Continued delivery of education on SATU services for health professionals not directly involved in delivering SATU care – highlighting prevalence of sexual violence and need for accessible, trauma informed responses including appropriate signposting of care options.
- Introduction of STI screening at time of initial SATU attendance helping to mitigate the risk of untreated infection.
- Cortexflo photo documentation– ongoing implementation and evaluation of the system, alongside sustained advocacy for increased funding. This will include publication of results of pilot initiative and assessment of both staff & patient experience.
- Medical social work – inclusion in the Estimates 2027 process for a full 1 WTE for all units. The benefit of this role in the units where it is established has been significant, and all those who access SATU care deserve to have an experienced Medical Social Worker available to them.



SECTION 6:

APPENDIX

Appendix 1:

The Guidelines can be found at the following link:

[Guidelines on Referral following Rape and Sexual Assault.pdf \(hse.ie\)](https://www.hse.ie/guidelines-on-referral-following-rape-and-sexual-assault.pdf)

Appendix 2:

Abstracts of the research mentioned:

1. Kane D, Walshe J, Richardson D, Pucillo C, Ferguson W, O'Connor S, Maher N, Flood K, Eogan M. Genital and anal injury in women after sexual assault: prevalence rates and associated risk factors in 294 cases. *Int J Legal Med.* 2025 May 24. doi: 10.1007/s00414-025-03522-1. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40411593.

> *Int J Legal Med.* 2025 Sep;139(5):2549-2559. doi: 10.1007/s00414-025-03522-1. Epub 2025 May 24.

Genital and anal injury in women after sexual assault: prevalence rates and associated risk factors in 294 cases

Daniel Kane ^{1, 2}, James Walshe ³, Deirdra Richardson ³, Christine Pucillo ³, Wendy Ferguson ³, Sarah O'Connor ³, Nicola Maher ³, Karen Flood ⁴, Maeve Eogan ^{4, 5}

Affiliations + expand
PMID: 40411593 PMCID: PMC12354621 DOI: 10.1007/s00414-025-03522-1

Abstract

Objectives: To investigate the prevalence of, and risk factors for, genital-anal injury in females who attended a Sexual Assault Treatment Unit in a capital city following sexual assault.

Design: Cross-sectional study.

Methods: All females who underwent a genital and/or anal forensic examination between 1/1/2023 and 31/12/2023 were included. A standardised dataset of demographic and assault metrics was collated. Genito-anal injury data was contemporaneously collected by forensically trained specialist doctors and nurses using prescribed definitions and a standardised tool. Descriptive bivariate analysis and logistic regression analysis were performed on these data. Statistical significance was defined as a p-value < 0.05.

Results: During the study period, 405 women accessed this SATU service of whom 294 (72.6%) underwent a forensic examination that included a genital and/or anal examination. The overall prevalence of genito-anal injury was 25.9% (n = 76/294), with those who reported completed vaginal penetration having a genito-anal injury prevalence rate of 31.1% (n = 65/209). Anal injury was observed in 20% (n = 8/40) of those who reported completed anal penetration. The most commonly injured genital site was the posterior fourchette (n = 29) followed by the fossa navicularis (n = 24) and the labia minora (n = 23), with the most common injury type being a laceration (n = 81) followed by an abrasion (n = 37). Genito-anal injury was significantly more likely to be present in women who disclosed a mental health history (OR1.94 CI1.11-3.39 p = 0.01), were certain that a sexual assault had taken place (OR2.91 CI1.31-6.45 p = 0.008), who disclosed genital bleeding after the incident (OR2.35 CI1.25-4.42 p = 0.007) and had extra-genital injuries (2.20 (1.27-3.80) p < 0.004). Absence of previous sexual activity (p = 0.39), menopausal status (p = 0.09), age (p = 0.64), assailant-survivor relationship (p = 0.07) or incident location (p = 0.17) did not have a significant association on the presence of genito-anal injury. Extra-genital/bodily injury was present in 53% (n = 156) of women who attended.

Conclusion: This study demonstrates the prevalence and patterns of genital and anal injuries in women presenting to a single unit following sexual assault, and provides valuable insights into the nature and extent of harm experienced by survivors when consistent data collection tools are used. The study also highlights how frequently injury is absent, even when penetration is disclosed. These findings contribute to the body of evidence guiding forensic examination protocols and care strategies, as well as to the evidence base considered during detection and prosecution of sexual crime.

> *Int J Legal Med.* 2025 Mar;139(2):817-823. doi: 10.1007/s00414-024-03388-9. Epub 2024 Dec 14.

Sexual violence associated with international travel: a review of 443 cases

Daniel Kane ^{1, 2}, Andrea Holmes ^{3, 4}, Kieran Kennedy ^{3, 4}, Karen Flood ⁵, Maeve Eogan ^{5, 6, 7}

Affiliations + expand
PMID: 39672941 DOI: 10.1007/s00414-024-03388-9

Abstract

Background: Sexual violence (SV) while travelling internationally is underreported and pre-travel advice is often focussed on broader tourist safety concerns. International travellers who experience sexual violence face particular challenges. The aim of this paper was to analyse the attendances of people who disclosed having been subjected to SV during international travel to the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) network in the Republic of Ireland.

Methods: Analysis of all people who attended the national SATU network who disclosed an incident of SV experienced during international travel, and comparison of these cases with domestic case attendances.

Results: During the 7-year period studied, there were 6,447 attendances to the national SATU network, with 443 incidents reported as occurring outside Ireland; in 66 separate countries. The mean age of international attendees was 26.61 years, with females representing 90.3% of cases. Where an incident occurred internationally, the patient was less likely to disclose drug ingestion in the 24 h preceding the incident (p < 0.001) and significantly less likely to be assaulted in the assailant's home (p = 0.009) when compared with domestic cases. Those who were assaulted internationally were significantly more likely to be assaulted by a stranger or recent acquaintance, i.e. (p < 0.001). They were also more likely to be assaulted in a location recorded as 'other indoors' (e.g. hotel, hostel etc) (p < 0.001). There was no significant difference in alcohol consumption (p = 0.115) or frequency of assaults occurring outdoors (p = 0.155).

Conclusion: Our study has shown that 7% of attendances to the SATU network followed incidents of SV that occurred during international travel. The majority of these incidents were disclosed as being perpetrated by a stranger or recent acquaintance, in an indoor setting with over half having occurred in Europe. Individuals who experience SV while travelling abroad should be encouraged to seek immediate medical attention and appropriate follow-up care upon returning home.

2. Kane D, Holmes A, Kennedy K, Flood K, Eogan M. Sexual violence associated with international travel: a review of 443 cases. *Int J Legal Med.* 2025 Mar;139(2):817-823. doi: 10.1007/s00414-024-03388-9. Epub 2024 Dec 14. PMID: 39672941.

3. Kane D, Daly R, Walshe J, Maher N, Pucllio C, Richardson D, Flood K, Eogan M. Physical injury in men after sexual assault: An analysis of 137 cases. *Forensic Sci Int.* 2025 Feb;367:112340. doi: 10.1016/j.forsciint.2024.112340. Epub 2024 Dec 9. PMID: 39672034.

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Physical injury in men after sexual assault: An analysis of 137 cases

D. Kane^{a,b}, R. Daly^a, J. Walshe^b, N. Maher^b, C. Pucllio^b, D. Richardson^b, K. Flood^a, M. Eogan^{a,b}

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Highlights

- Almost 7 out of every 10 men who attended the SATU had a forensic examination.
- 1 in 5 men who disclosed a sexual assault had genital and/or anal injuries.
- An anal injury was identified in 24.5% of men who disclosed completed anal penetration and had proctoscopic examination.
- 40% of men who disclosed sexual assault had extra-genital injuries.

Abstract

Background

Data on the prevalence of physical injury in men who experience sexual assault are under-represented in the literature; the aim of this study is to inform this knowledge gap. It is vital that forensic examiners have access to up-to-date information regarding the prevalence of genito-anal and extra-genital injury, specific to their examination method (i.e. with or without proctoscopy), as well as any associations with injury in order to provide optimal responsive care and accurate testimony in the context of written and oral evidence.

Methods

This is a cross-sectional study analysing the attendances of all males who attended the Dublin Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) for a forensic examination between 1/1/2017 and 31/12/2023.

4. Kane D, Walshe J, Maher N, Pucillo C, Richardson D, Holmes A, Flood K, Eogan M. Women attending the sexual assault treatment unit services in the Republic of Ireland: A 7-year review. *Int J Gynaecol Obstet.* 2025 Mar;168(3):1276–1284. doi: 10.1002/ijgo.15947. Epub 2024 Oct 9.

[Int J Gynaecol Obstet.](#) 2025 Mar;168(3):1276–1284. doi: 10.1002/ijgo.15947. Epub 2024 Oct 9.

Women attending the sexual assault treatment unit services in the Republic of Ireland: A 7-year review

D Kane^{1,2}, J Walshe², N Maher², C Pucillo², D Richardson², A Holmes³, K Flood¹, M Eogan^{1,2}

Affiliations [+ expand](#)

PMID: 39382067 PMCID: PMC11823366 DOI: 10.1002/ijgo.15947

Abstract

Objective: Sexual assault is pervasive in today's society, with the numbers of those reporting it increasing. In Ireland, 50% of women will experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime. We sought to describe the incident details of females presenting to the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) network in the Republic of Ireland and to determine associations between incident characteristics and: (1) victim age, (2) presence of injury, (3) victim-perpetrator relationship, and (4) number of assailants.

Methods: This was a retrospective cross-sectional study of all females who attended between 2017 and 2023. Descriptive bivariate analysis was performed.

Results: There were 5942 female attendances, with an average age of 26 years. The largest age group was women between 18 and 25 years (38.1%, n = 2263). Forensic examinations were performed in 76.6% (n = 4549). Assailants were male in 92% (n = 5469) of incidents, with multiple assailants disclosed in 7.3% (n = 435). Strangers or recent acquaintances were the assailant in 38.5% (n = 2290) of incidents, and close associates in 22.9% (n = 1359). Incidents occurred at the survivor's home in 22% (n = 1306) of incidents, and in the assailant's home in 22.6% (n = 1342). Drug use within 24 h was reported in 15.1% (n = 897) of cases, and alcohol use in 72% (n = 4276). Drug-facilitated assault was suspected by 16.1% (n = 955). Injuries (genital and extra-genital) occurred in 30.3% (n = 1800) of attendances and were more likely to be seen in those who disclosed ingesting alcohol (Relative risk [RR] 1.325, P < 0.001) or drugs (RR 1.111, P = 0.04) in the 24 h preceding the incident, in those who presented within 24 h (RR 1.646, P < 0.001), those aged 18 years or older (RR 1.07, P = 0.003), and those where the incident occurred outdoors (RR 1.24, P < 0.001).

Conclusion: This study, one of the largest on female attendances to a national SATU network, offers detailed insights into demographics, incident details, and circumstances. Most were young women, mainly 18 years and older, many of whom were full-time students. Forensic examinations were the primary reason for attendance, underscoring the network's key role in evidence collection. The study also identified factors linked to a higher risk of injury detection, such as immediate post-incident attendance, being over 18, outdoor incidents, perpetration by a stranger, and prior alcohol or drug use.

