“It sucks/It’s a wonderful service”: Post-rape care and the micro-politics of institutions

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The historical trajectory of post-rape services in South Africa

• 1976 – Rape Crisis Cape Town established
• 1992 – Wynberg sexual offences court
• 1994 – democratic transition, experimentation with collaborative services: SAPS and health facilities
• 2000 – First Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC) established – GF Jooste Hospital, Manenberg
• 2014 – 51 functioning TCCSs, 39 containing NGOs
THE THUTHUZELA CARE CENTRE MODEL

SEXUAL OFFENCES COURT
- Prosecution of SO cases only
- Leads weekly strategy meetings and case assessment
- Consults with victims throughout court process
- Ensures speedier, more effective prosecutions
- Court Preparation

RAPE INVESTIGATION AND CARE CENTRE
- Centralises all rape investigations
- Ensures prompt transportation
- Examination and care of victims
- Increases communication between prosecutor, police and victim
- Develops best practices for speedy, sensitive investigation of cases
- Ensures accurate data collection and analysis
- Immediate crisis counseling for victims

OBJECTIVES
1. REDUCE SECONDARY VICTIMISATION
2. INCREASE CONVICTION RATES
3. REDUCE CYCLE TIMES OF CASES

RAPE VICTIMS REPORT AT LOCAL POLICE STATION, CLINICS, HOSPITALS OR OTHER CBO’S
Methods

• **Interviews**
  • 27 organisations based in 39 out of 51 TCCs
  • + 2 organisations who had exited TCCs = 29 organisations
  • 40 interviews in total

• **Participant observation**
  • 3 workshops facilitated for NACOSA
Key points of contestation

• Who ‘owns’ and defines the service
• Who does what, on whose instruction
• Who pays for the service
• How the service is established
• The hidden purpose of services
• The contingent nature of ‘success’
• The power of institutions, the power of individuals
Conclusions

• Locating a range of institutions within one facility does not automatically create a one-stop centre, nor does it result in agencies working together but may create instead a new problem: reconciling competing interests and reducing conflict.

• TCCs contested spaces where power struggles play out between the institutions of the bureaucracy, as well as between community-based services, locating these various structures in hierarchical relationship to one another. Power does not circulate equally.

• Services may be described as ‘one stop’ only at the moment of reporting, with follow-up care continuing to be fragmented, as well as disjointed.