



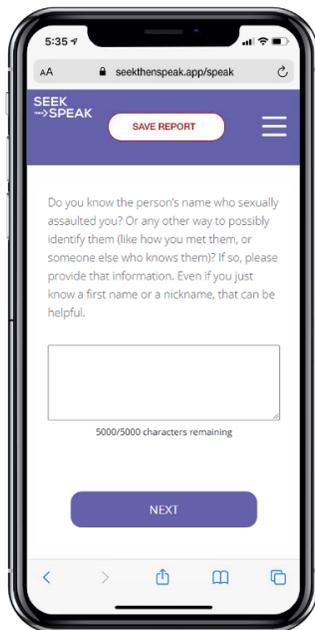
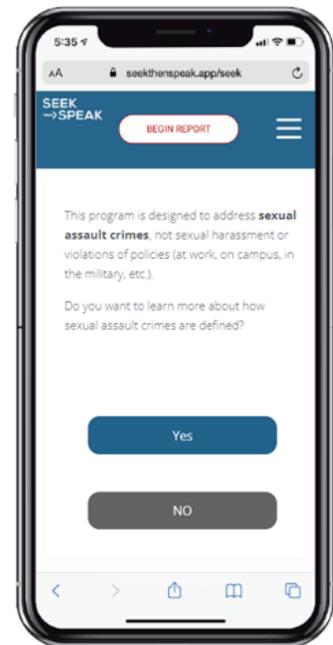
SEEK THEN SPEAK

Most survivors never report their sexual assault because they fear they'll be blamed for the assault or mistreated in the criminal justice process. Survivors of color, those whose English is limited, and people with disabilities often face more barriers and have even more concerns about whether they can trust the criminal justice system to support them. Layer on the health safety issues posed by COVID-19, and it's clear survivors need alternative reporting options to hold sexual assault perpetrators accountable and prevent future attacks.

SEEK: Explore Options

SEEK THEN SPEAK is a new program that can be linked from any agency website, including police departments, sexual assault and domestic violence advocacy centers, other government and community agencies, and culturally specific organizations.

When they access the program, survivors can review information about the impact of sexual assault victimization and their options for medical care, supportive services, and reporting to police (**SEEK**). Emphasis is placed on answering real-world questions survivors are likely to have about these options, including how to initiate the process, whether there are any costs involved, and whether they can bring a support person with them. An additional section of **SEEK** is designed for support people, providing concrete tips for how to respond to survivors in a helpful way.



SPEAK: Begin Reporting

If they choose, survivors can then begin the process of reporting to police by responding to self-guided interview questions (**SPEAK**).

These questions have been crafted to reproduce the investigative interview conducted by a law enforcement officer who is well-trained in the neurobiology of trauma and the impacts of sexual assault victimization. Prompts guide survivors through careful documentation of the evidence most critical to the investigation. They are reminded they can provide as much or as little information as they choose.

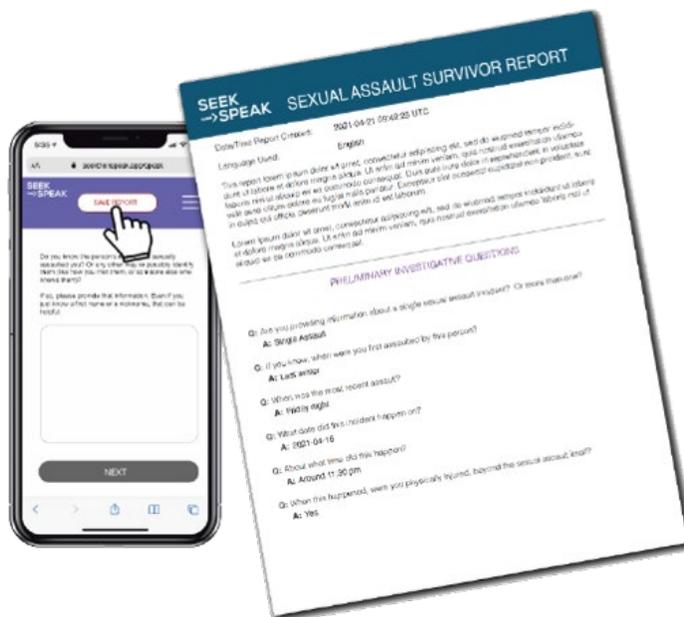
The interview also serves as an educational function, explaining why questions are asked, how the information will be used, and what the survivor's rights are throughout the process. All this helps reduce anxiety, increase accuracy, and keeps survivors in the driver's seat. Survivors are also better prepared to face the in-person interview and investigation, if they decide to provide the report to law enforcement. This report provides a foundation that investigators can then build on with follow-up interviews and investigation.

CREATE PDF REPORT

Survivors can access **SEEK THEN SPEAK** from any computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile phone at a time and place of their choosing. If they begin the process of reporting in **SPEAK**, the program generates a time- and date-stamped PDF the survivor can provide to law enforcement.

Survivors can download this PDF to their own device, and either:

- (1) **Save** it for later
- (3) **Email** it to the police department
- (2) **Print** it (either to give to police or simply to store while they decide), or
- (4) **Give** to a sexual assault advocacy center to submit to police on their behalf.



The program does not save any information; all data are deleted following report generation.

INCREASING ACCESS

Survivors can complete the interview in more than 100 languages, increasing access for non-English speaking communities. The clean user interface and screen-reading capabilities further increase access for survivors with disabilities. This means survivors can begin reporting their sexual assault from home or other location of their choice, whenever they are ready.

Law enforcement, health care, and other professionals can also offer victims the option of using this program to begin reporting anytime they are waiting for services or when interpretive services are unavailable. Because the translation is browser-based, this means the report will be generated in the language the survivor used. The questions will be printed in English, but responses will appear in the survivor's language.¹

FOR MORE INFORMATION

EVAWI has created **SEEK THEN SPEAK** as a new pathway to justice for sexual assault survivors. If your agency is interested in offering this innovative tool, contact us at SeekThenSpeak@evawintl.org.



¹ **SEEK THEN SPEAK** is designed to meet all federal data privacy requirements for HIPAA, VAWA, FVPSA, and VOCA.