



The Making A Difference (MAD) Project

The Making a Difference (MAD) Project was an innovative, long-term project funded by the William H. Donner Foundation. It was undertaken jointly with Canadian professionals, with coordinated funding provided by the Donner Canadian Foundation.

Click here for more information on [the Canadian MAD project](#).

The vision for the MAD project was that multidisciplinary teams from eight US and eight Canadian communities would join together to collaboratively establish new standards for effectively investigating and prosecuting sexual assault. A call for applications went out to thousands of professionals in both countries. In the US, EVAWI received 88 applications from multidisciplinary teams from across the country, and a national selection committee chose eight diverse communities to take part in the project.

For six years EVAWI staff worked with MAD partners, offering training and technical assistance to support to their reforms. Participating agencies also collected detailed data on the sexual assault victims, suspects, and cases they responded to over 18-24 months. This data collection provided a baseline measure of their sexual assault caseload and agency outcomes. It also provided a means for exploring how such characteristics predict which cases will proceed through the criminal justice system to the stages of prosecution and conviction; as well as illuminating the characteristics that predict help-seeking from victim advocacy agencies and health care organizations.

Click here for more information on the [research methods](#) and [data findings](#).

In 2009, MAD participants gathered for a Research and Reform Summit to share findings on the structure, function, and reforms in their communities. This information was then compiled by EVAWI staff into a [summary document](#). MAD participants also updated the tracking forms used for data collection during the project. These tracking forms can be adapted by other communities to conduct their own data collection.

Updated Tracking Forms

- Law Enforcement ([PDF](#) / [Word](#))
- Prosecution ([PDF](#) / [Word](#))
- Forensic Medicine ([PDF](#) / [Word](#))
- Victim Advocacy ([PDF](#) / [Word](#))

Original Research Materials

- Data Collection Guidelines ([PDF](#) / [Word](#))
- Variable List ([PDF](#) / [Word](#))
- Sexual Assaults to Include ([PDF](#) / [Word](#))

Additional Project Information

- [Project Phases](#)
- [Selection Process for Community Teams](#)
- [Conference Evaluation Report](#)
- [Reform Efforts](#)