Research on sexual violence in South Africa

- the prevalence of SV and risk factors for rape perpetration and victimisation with community-based samples of women and men
- social and cultural context of rape of children, adult women and men
- Intersections of SV and teenage pregnancy, mental health and HIV
- docket review of rape cases reported to the police describing the circumstances, attrition of cases and relationship of medico-legal findings to legal case outcomes
- evaluations of interventions to prevent GBV in rural communities
- HIV post-exposure prophylaxis compliance, cost-effectiveness and evaluation of interventions to support compliance
Developing an integrated response to SV in South Africa

- Partnership developed with the national Department of Health from 2001
- Research describing the problem of sexual violence: important for advocacy
- Research on nature of health services and what women want: shaped thinking on models of care
- Collaborative and consultative drafting of national policy and clinical management guidelines (published 2004/2005)
- National curriculum for training sexual assault care practitioners (doctors and nurses) developed 2008
  - This is a 10 day course equipping practitioners to response to the health and social needs of victims as well as medico-legal evidence collection
  - Evidence based and training of first 150 staff has been evaluated
SVRI Overview

- Initiative of the Global Forum for Health Research, launched 2003
- Secretariat initially hosted by WHO, but moved to the Gender and Health Research Unit, Medical Research Council, South Africa (2006)
- Coordinating Group of 10 researchers from around the world.
- The SVRI aims to promote research on sexual violence and generate empirical data to ensure sexual violence is recognised as a priority public health problem

**Key resources:**
- Sexual Violence Research Agenda
- Desk Reviews
  - The uses and impacts of medico-legal evidence in sexual assault cases
  - Women Victim’s Perceptions and Responses to Rape
  - Sexual Violence against Women and Children in China
SVRI Website & Listserv

- **Website - central resource for SVRI members / website visitors:**
  - Activities
  - Issues Pages: General documents, Health effects, HIV, Human rights texts, Children, Conflict Settings, Research ethics, Trafficking, Disabilities, FGM/Traditional Harmful Practices; Masculinities; Medico-Legal Responses; Prevention; Advocacy; Restorative Justice
  - Research Tools (Top 3: research tools; activities page and about page)
  - Country Pages: 109 country pages with resources, publications, links and news articles
  - Links: donors
  - Calendar of Events

- **SVRI Listserv:**
  - Moderated forum
  - 1254 members from 80 different countries (29% since Jun 07)
  - Two updates circulated weekly:
    - SVRI Update: resources, articles, events, jobs, funding opportunities
    - SV in the News
  To join email: svri@mrc.ac.za