

# Preventing Sexual Violence in North Carolina

## Strengthening Communities to Stop Sexual Violence BEFORE it Occurs



The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is leveraging the strength of its network of strategic partners to prevent rape and other forms of sexual violence across the state. With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **Rape Prevention and Education (RPE)** program, North Carolina is providing funding, training, and technical assistance to a diverse group of partners who are committed to **stopping sexual violence BEFORE it occurs**. These partnerships have strengthened the state's sexual violence prevention efforts by **building a comprehensive network** to engage in forward-thinking **primary prevention** approaches.

### WHAT IS NORTH CAROLINA DOING TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

The North Carolina RPE program is taking its efforts beyond the walls of the state health department by providing funding to 10 local partners and one statewide coalition whose mission and history demonstrate a **commitment to prevent sexual violence**. These funded partners collectively pursue efforts to prevent sexual violence in North Carolina and include one community-based children's home, two universities, seven rape crisis centers, and the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA). Further strengthening the network of prevention, NCCASA provides support and education to North Carolina's rape crisis programs, college campuses, and other RPE program partners, and it works closely with the North Carolina Division of Public Health's **Sexual Violence Prevention Team (SVPT)**, which is comprised of over 20 partners from around the state. By developing and supporting this extensive network across the state, the North Carolina RPE program ensures that **activities are coordinated without being duplicative**.

Further guiding this statewide alignment, the **statewide plan for preventing sexual violence** provides key, strategic actions to prevent sexual violence in North Carolina. Developed by SVPT, the state's Sexual Violence Prevention Plan includes a number of **priority actions** essential for preventing sexual violence across the state, including: sustaining the focus on **primary prevention approaches**; enhancing data collection systems to better **track and understand sexual violence**; **increasing capacity of schools, colleges, and universities** to address sexual violence; and reducing the rates of sexual violence **committed against people with intellectual and developmental disabilities**.

### WHY IS NORTH CAROLINA WORKING TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

Among North Carolina women age 18 and older:

**6%**  
report having ever been forced to have sexual contact with a partner or ex-partner

**5%**  
report having ever been forced to have sexual contact with an acquaintance

**4%**  
report having ever been forced to have sexual contact with a stranger

### WHAT IMPACT IS THE RPE PROGRAM INTENDED TO HAVE IN NORTH CAROLINA?

The North Carolina RPE program aims to prevent sexual violence by promoting **non-violent social norms, attitudes, beliefs, policies, and practices**.



The CDC RPE program has been strengthening our communities and striving to reduce the burden of sexual violence since 1994. CDC provides RPE funding to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

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### HOW DOES A STATEWIDE PLAN PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

A statewide plan allows North Carolina to make the most of its extensive network of partners to allow all efforts to work in concert to prevent sexual violence. When North Carolina's Sexual Violence Prevention Team (SVPT) updated its statewide plan for preventing sexual violence in 2015, it used data to better understand who was being affected disproportionately by sexual violence and decided to focus its efforts where needed most. **The updated plan prioritizes three populations: children and adolescents, college students, and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.** What does SVPT intend to do?

Efforts are underway to address the plan's objectives and activities for each of the three prioritized populations.

#### Children and Adolescents

- Ensure that healthy sexuality education in public and alternative school settings for children and adolescents with intellectual and developmental disabilities is firmly established according to national guidelines.
- Increase support activities and networks for youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, or intersex (LGBTQI).

#### College Students

- Increase knowledge about the ways in which race, ethnicity, gender, class, and sexuality can influence sexual violence.
- Work with colleges to determine the needs of LGBTQI students as they relate to sexual violence.
- Collaborate with historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) to increase capacity to address sexual violence on campus.
- Increase the number of campuses that have sexual violence prevention policies, procedures, and protocols.
- Increase the capacity of community colleges to address sexual violence prevention in their settings.

#### Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- Produce a matrix of policy recommendations that addresses sexual violence against people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).
- Partner with disability advocacy organizations to disseminate the policy recommendations matrix.
- Develop written policies mandating national background checks for direct support professionals and others working in group homes for persons with IDD.
- Increase support for RPE-funded agencies that have a focus on persons with IDD.
- Develop and conduct training about preventing sexual violence with organizations and/or direct support professionals that serve persons with IDD.

What does this mean for North Carolina? Thanks to funding from the CDC RPE program, efforts are underway across the state to:



For additional information or to locate contact information for the state RPE program, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/rpe/states.html>