

Preventing Sexual Violence in Oklahoma

Working Together to Stop Sexual Violence BEFORE it Occurs



The Oklahoma State Department of Health and its Injury Prevention Service are using their strong network of partnerships and a comprehensive set of activities to prevent sexual violence. With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **Rape Prevention and Education** (RPE) program, Oklahoma is working collaboratively with a diverse group of partners, including the **Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault** and the **Oklahoma Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Committee** to reduce first-time perpetration of sexual violence by promoting healthy relationships and reducing cultural influences that support sexual violence.

WHAT IS OKLAHOMA DOING TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

The **Oklahoma Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Committee** was organized to serve as an external advisory body to the Injury Prevention Service of the Oklahoma State Department of Health. The committee convenes members from approximately 16 organizations, including the Oklahoma State Department of Health, **Oklahoma Attorney General's Office**, **Oklahoma Native American Domestic Violence Coalition**, **Chickasaw Nation**, crisis centers, colleges and universities, youth-serving organizations, faith-based institutions, and media outlets to ensure coordination across the state. This group leads the state's efforts to reduce sexual violence by assessing prevention needs and resources, identifying the most effective strategies, and developing and implementing a state strategic plan to prevent sexual violence. This coordinated approach maximizes the synergies of the state's partner organizations and ensures strong collaborative approaches to prevent violence across the state.

WHY IS OKLAHOMA WORKING TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

In Oklahoma:

9%

of public high school students have experienced sexual dating violence¹

31%

of women 18 to 34 years of age have been sexually assaulted²

The rate of rape and attempted rape

44%

is higher than the national average³

WHAT IMPACT IS THE RPE PROGRAM INTENDED TO HAVE IN OKLAHOMA?

The Oklahoma 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.

Sources: (1) Oklahoma Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015; (2) Oklahoma University Public Opinion Learning Laboratory Poll, 2006; (3) Oklahoma Uniform Crime Report, 2006.

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HOW IS OKLAHOMA'S STATE PLAN TAKING A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO PREVENTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

Along with its partners, the **Oklahoma Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Committee** developed a strategic plan, titled the **Comprehensive Plan for Sexual Violence Prevention**, to serve as a valuable roadmap. This prevention plan, which targets the entire population of Oklahoma with a special focus on middle and high school aged students (10-18 years) and college and university students (18-24 years), is focused on **three primary goals**. RPE funding supports the implementation of a number of these critical strategies and activities.

<p>Goal 1: Reduce First-time Perpetration of Sexual Violence <i>Recommended Strategies for Achieving Goal 1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fund local programs to conduct community-based sexual violence prevention programs.• Collect quality data to monitor the prevalence of sexual violence and evaluate the effectiveness of programs.	<p>Goal 2: Increase the Number of Non-violent Interactions and Healthy Relationships <i>Recommended Strategies for Achieving Goal 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fund local prevention educators to provide comprehensive sexual violence prevention and healthy relationship education in K-12 schools using evidence-based curricula and evaluation.• Educate and train providers and other professionals working to prevent sexual and domestic violence.• Collaborate with colleges and universities in developing and implementing primary prevention programs through training and technical assistance.	<p>Goal 3: Reduce Cultural Influences Supporting Sexual Violence <i>Recommended Strategies for Achieving Goal 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sponsor education and training on best practices at partner conferences• Create brochures and other media modeling healthy relationships and reducing cultural norms supportive of sexual violence.• Include agencies and organizations engaged in other types of prevention activities for youth (e.g., underage drinking, bullying, at risk youth) in professional trainings.• Increase capacity of partner programs to work with the media to encourage accurate representation of sexual violence and promote positive social norms.
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This collaborative and strategic approach ensures:

INCREASED interaction among individuals and organizations that work to prevent sexual violence in diverse settings throughout Oklahoma.	IMPROVED information sharing among partners about evidence-based or research-informed strategies to prevent sexual violence.
STRENGTHENED partnerships among individuals and organizations that work in violence prevention and those who work in other areas such as education, law, and media.	ENHANCED recognition among partners about the benefits and importance of engaging a diverse group of partners in efforts to prevent sexual violence.

What does this mean for Oklahoma? 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>

