

# Preventing Sexual Violence in Texas

Strengthening Communities to Stop Sexual Violence BEFORE it Occurs



In Texas, innovative efforts are underway to prevent sexual violence by identifying and transforming the **underlying conditions that allow sexual violence to exist**. With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **Rape Prevention and Education (RPE)** program, Texas engages in groundbreaking partnerships that shift the responsibility for **sexual violence solutions** to include communities in partnership with local sexual assault programs. Through these strategic partnerships and activities, Texas is working to **stop sexual violence BEFORE it occurs**.

## WHAT IS TEXAS DOING TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

To achieve the shared goal of ending sexual violence in Texas, the Texas Department of State Health Services works alongside a diverse group of partners, including the **Office of the Attorney General of Texas, Texas Association Against Sexual Violence**, representatives from RPE-funded sexual assault programs, and other community stakeholders. In 2007, these partners convened for the first time as the **Primary Prevention Planning Committee** with a charge to develop a state plan to guide prevention efforts supported by RPE funding and facilitate the state's transition to a proactive primary prevention approach to end sexual violence. In 2009, the PPPC developed and released **Preventing Sexual Violence in Texas: A Primary Prevention Approach**. The PPPC continues to advance and guide prevention programming to keep Texans safe.

## WHY IS TEXAS WORKING TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

In Texas:

**33%**

of adults have experienced some form of sexual assault during their lifetime

**65%**

of sexual assault victims report multiple victimizations

**70%**

of sexual assaults are committed by a perpetrator known or related to the victim

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.

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

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



Source: Busch-Armendariz NB, Olaya-Rodriguez D, Kammer-Kerwick M, Wachter K, Sulley C. (2015). *Health and well-being: Texas statewide sexual assault prevalence*. Austin, TX: Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, The University of Texas at Austin. Available at: <https://utexas.app.box.com/v/prevalence-study-infographic>

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## WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN TEXAS SINCE THE RELEASE OF THE STATE PLAN TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

In February 2015, the PPPC completed work on *Preventing Sexual Violence in Texas: A Primary Prevention Approach (Plan) Amendment*. The *Plan Amendment* was developed to convey **prioritized goals and objectives** and identify **new implementation guidelines** based on the most current state context and best practice, helping Texas to direct its efforts where they are needed most. The Plan Amendment can be viewed at <http://taasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Preventing-Sexual-Violence-in-Texas-Plan-Amendment.pdf>.

Since completing the Plan Amendment, the PPPC has focused on implementing and evaluating the **new prevention programming**. In January 2016, the PPPC completed work on *Preventing Sexual Violence in Texas, Primary Prevention Outcome Toolkit*. The **Outcome Toolkit** will:

- Measure progress toward the outcomes
- Determine what's working best
- Inform future efforts to prevent sexual violence

The Outcome Toolkit can be viewed at [http://taasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Texas-PPPC\\_Outcome-Toolkit\\_Updated.pdf](http://taasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Texas-PPPC_Outcome-Toolkit_Updated.pdf).

The innovative partnerships and state plan to end sexual violence in Texas have resulted in:



What does that mean for Texas? 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>