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


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

**STRENGTHENED**
communication and partnerships among state agencies, community coalitions, and other stakeholders

**ENHANCED**
capacity at the local level to engage in effective programming to prevent sexual violence

**INCREASED**
ability to evaluate progress toward the outcomes identified in the Plan Amendment

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

**DECREASE**
Risk Factors that make it more likely that people will experience sexual violence

**INCREASE**
Protective Factors that make it less likely that people will experience sexual violence

**CREATE SAFER**
Communities by preventing sexual violence from occurring in the first place

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