

Preventing Sexual Violence in Ohio

Working Strategically to Stop Sexual Violence BEFORE it Occurs



The Ohio Department of Health is using an innovative approach 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, Ohio is working strategically with diverse stakeholders, including the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, Ohio Domestic Violence Network, and Ohio Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Consortium, **to leverage expertise and resources to stop sexual violence BEFORE it occurs.** These collaborations are enabling the state to support a coordinated approach based on the social ecological model to primary prevention of **sexual violence and domestic/intimate partner violence.**

WHAT IS OHIO DOING TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

All states, including Ohio, use multiple programs and tools to implement and sustain prevention efforts that ultimately decrease the number of individuals who **perpetrate sexual violence** and who are **victims of sexual violence.** While the Ohio Department of Health receives violence prevention funding from the CDC RPE program, the Ohio Domestic Violence Network receives funding from the CDC Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancements and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA) program. Leadership in these two organizations recognize that the most powerful prevention initiatives are built on a sustained, comprehensive, and coordinated approach by a network of individuals, groups, and organizations. Thus, the **Ohio Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Consortium** was created in 2006 to take on the challenge of building individual, community, and organizational capacity to engage in planning, implementation, and evaluation of sexual and intimate partner violence prevention strategies for Ohio. Since that time, more than 60 consortium members representing state organizations, non-profit organizations, foundations, universities, faith communities, and individual members have worked together to develop and carry out Ohio's strategic plan for sexual and intimate partner violence prevention, titled ***Pathways in Prevention: A Roadmap for Change.***

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.

WHY IS OHIO WORKING TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

Among Ohio high school students:

7%

have been physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend during the past year

8%

have been physically forced to have sexual intercourse

10%

have been forced to engage in sexual activities by someone they were going out with or dating

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

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



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WHAT IF YOU COULD COLLABORATE TO SIMULTANEOUSLY STOP SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE?

That's exactly what Ohio is doing with funding it receives through CDC's RPE program. In 2009, Ohio created its **first strategic plan** for the prevention of sexual and intimate partner violence. *Pathways in Prevention: A Roadmap for Change* outlined the following five strategic directions and accompanying goals:

Strategic Direction #1: Effective Youth Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Recommendations for Practice

- Goal 1: Create effective, culturally competent, inclusive, and appropriate statewide sexual and intimate partner violence primary prevention recommendations for practices for youth age six to 24.
- Goal 2: Create effective, culturally competent, inclusive, and appropriate statewide sexual and intimate partner violence primary prevention recommendations for practices for men and boys with a need for power and control in relationships, hostility toward women, hyper-masculinity, and with exposure to all forms of violence across the lifespan.

Strategic Direction #2: Integrated Intra-state Collaboration

- Goal 1: Improve the knowledge and skills of education, health, and human services professionals in relation to sexual and intimate partner violence primary prevention.
- Goal 2: Increase the number of government agencies (municipality, county, state), private sector, and non-profit employers that adopt sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and sexual harassment prevention policies that are both inclusive and attentive to diverse communities in Ohio.
- Goal 3: Identify and support culturally responsive public policy efforts that are in the interest of sexual and intimate partner violence primary prevention and to increase the consortium's understanding of those efforts.
- Goal 4: Leverage and make available those resources that will positively influence media discourse (and, therefore, public opinion) related to sexual and intimate partner violence and opportunities for sexual and intimate partner violence primary prevention.

Strategic Direction #3: Leveraging Resources for Maximizing Sustainability

- Goal 1: Leverage resources for maximizing sustainability of culturally competent, inclusive, and appropriate sexual and intimate partner violence primary prevention efforts in Ohio.
- Goal 2: Develop a public representative of Ohio's diverse communities who is knowledgeable about and supportive of sexual and intimate partner violence primary prevention efforts in Ohio.
- Goal 3: Create and maintain the necessary infrastructure and resources to ensure the process of implementation of the Pathways for Prevention: A Roadmap for Change, with attention to the needs of Ohio's diverse communities.

Strategic Direction #4: Integrated Strategic Evaluation and Data Collection

- Goal 1: Create a centralized strategy for collecting inclusive statewide evaluation data on sexual and intimate partner violence primary prevention efforts in Ohio.
- Goal 2: Create a centralized strategy for collecting statewide data on the incidence and prevalence of sexual and intimate partner violence in Ohio.

Strategic Direction #5: Empowered Local Communities

- Goal 1: Establish a culturally competent, inclusive, and appropriate program that generates awareness and recognition of the plan among state-level youth serving social and community organizations and their local affiliates.
- Goal 2: Engage youth and ensure their voices are reflected in the final toolkit and kickoff event.

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF THIS APPROACH IS WORKING? The Ohio Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Consortium commissioned an evaluation to assess the progress the state has made toward the strategic directions and goals outlined in *Pathways in Prevention*. The evaluation results revealed that the five-year objectives associated with Strategic Direction #1 (Effective Youth Prevention) and Strategic Direction #4 (Strategic Evaluation) were **fully met**, while objectives associated with Strategic Direction #3 (Leveraging Resources) and #5 (Empowered Local Communities) were **more than 75 percent met**. In addition to continuing its work to meet the goals outlined in Pathways in Prevention, the consortium is in the process of developing an updated version of the strategic plan with goals to be achieved by 2019.

What does this mean for Ohio? 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>