Ending Sexual Violence on Campus:
Applying the Public Health Model for Prevention

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The findings and conclusions of this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
55 colleges under Title IX inquiry for their handling of sex violence claims

By Nick Anderson, Published: May 1 E-mail the writer

The release Thursday of a federal list of 55 colleges with open “sexual violence investigations” underscores that the twin problem of how to prevent and respond to sex assaults on campus has become a national question, touching schools from elite privates to large publics to small regional schools.

The list from the Education Department continues the Obama administration’s push to shine a spotlight on sex assault in response to questions raised in recent years about how prominent colleges have handled rape allegations and related issues. This week, a White House task force released a report aiming to help colleges prevent sex assaults.

TRENDING

Joe Biden Writes An Open Letter To Stanford Survivor

The vice president, in an open letter sent to BuzzFeed News, said “a lot of people failed” the Stanford sexual assault survivor and that she will “save lives” thanks to the powerful message she read to her assailant in court.

posted on Jun. 9, 2015, at 1:16 p.m.
#MeToo
Addressing Sexual Violence on Campus

Conduct Policies

Survivor Response & Support

Effective Prevention

Investigation & Adjudication

Education & Awareness
Sexual Violence is a **Public Health** problem

1 in 3 women have experienced contact sexual violence in their lifetime.

1 in 6 men have experienced contact sexual violence in their lifetime.

**NISVS**

2017
Violence has lasting impacts on health
Violence has lasting impacts on life opportunities

- Education
- Occupation
- Income
Rape has substantial **economic costs**

Includes:

- 41% medical costs
- 51% **lost work productivity** (victims and perpetrators)
- 7% criminal justice activities
- 1% **other costs**, including victim property loss or damage

Peterson, DeGue, Florence, & Lokey, 2017
The Role of Public Health

We focus on:

- Preventing violence before it begins
- Population-level impact
- Maximizing outcomes with the best available research evidence
- Applying the public health model
Four Steps to Better Public Health

1. Define the problem
2. Identify risk and protective factors
3. Develop and test prevention strategies
4. Assure widespread adoption
Shifting the Field to a Public Health Approach
Bringing **Primary Prevention to Campus**

2013 Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) Act

- Amended Clery Act to mandate "primary prevention and awareness programs" (including bystander education)
Comprehensive Prevention Strategies

- Multi-component
- Addresses risk/protective factors across the social ecology
- Approaches complement and reinforce one another with consistent messaging
- May also include primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention approaches
Why Comprehensive Prevention?

"Excellent meeting. I loved the quick fixes, the simple solutions, and the easy answers."
Complex problems need complex solutions.

CDC Resources:
Example of a Comprehensive Campus-based Prevention Strategy

**Individual**

- Build bystander intervention and healthy relationship skills and establish positive norms about gender, sexuality, and violence with evidence-informed interactive, multi-session intervention for incoming students

Consistent messages across campus policies and programs
Comprehensive Prevention: A Checklist

- Multi-component
- Addresses risk/protective factors across the social ecology
- Approaches complement and reinforce one another with consistent messaging
- **Evidence-based**
  - Risk and protective factors
  - Effective prevention strategies
Risk and Protective Factors: Filling in the Gaps on Campus

- Extensive evidence at the individual and relationship levels
- Key gaps:
  - Protective factors
  - **Modifiable** factors in young adulthood
  - Community/campus-level risk factors
Effective Prevention Strategies: College Populations

- Green Dot
- Bringing in the Bystander
- Real Consent
- Enhanced Assess, Acknowledge, Act
Building the Evidence on Campus Sexual Violence Prevention

- Rigorous research of promising and innovative approaches
- Developing and evaluating community-level strategies
- Evaluating multi-level, comprehensive strategies
- Sharing knowledge across campuses
Applying Comprehensive, Evidence-Based Strategies for Primary Prevention

- Creates an environment in which behavior change is easier and more likely
- Maximizes the impact of prevention resources
- Increases likelihood of achieving population-level impact—reductions in campus rates of sexual violence
Comprehensive prevention is possible! CDC can help.

STOP SV:
A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence

www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention
What **WORKS** to Prevent Sexual Violence?

CDC’s Framework for Campus Sexual Violence Prevention
Sexual Violence is PREVENTABLE.

“Violence is not inevitable. It is the consequence of inaction.”

-Sen. Chris Murphy

At Home. On Campus. In Our Communities.