

PREVENTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES: A SUMMARY OF CDC ACTIVITIES

Sexual violence is a significant public health issue that impacts many people, with college and university students being particularly at risk. Studies show that one in five women experience attempted or completed sexual assault during her college years. Men are also victimized. It has been noted that more than 6% of men experienced attempted or completed sexual assault in college¹. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is committed to preventing sexual violence, and recent, national attention to sexual violence on U.S. campuses has presented new opportunities to address this problem. As such, CDC is expanding our portfolio of work that addresses the problem on college and university campuses. Through partnerships, technical assistance, and research, CDC is looking to identify evidence-based strategies to prevent sexual violence on campus.

PARTNERSHIPS:

White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault

The First Report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault featured deliverables for CDC which included:

- Issuing the report, [Preventing Sexual Violence on College Campuses: Lessons from Research and Practice](#)
- Convening experts and researchers to capture evidence-based and emerging practices (Think Tank Meeting, May 2015)
- Convening teams to create multi-year actionable plans to prevent sexual violence on campuses (Action Planning Meeting, July 2015)
- Rigorously evaluating strategies to prevent sexual violence on college campuses

American Public Health Association

CDC partnered with the American Public Health Association (APHA) to co-sponsor the Think Tank and Action Planning Meetings. CDC will continue to work with APHA to support states' implementation of the Action Plans. New Action Planning teams will be convened in 2017.

Department of Education

CDC coordinated a roundtable discussion about campus sexual violence prevention with the U.S. Department of Education, Atlanta-based Universities, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Participants included Atlanta-based institutions: Emory University, Georgia State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Clark-Atlanta University, Spelman College, and Morehouse College. These institutions are working together to coordinate their community responses to crime given students often visit and participate across these campuses.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

[Sexual Violence on Campus: Strategies for Prevention](#)

This technical assistance document, *Sexual Violence on Campus: Strategies for Prevention*, released in November 2017, combines the findings from the Think Tank and Action Planning Meetings with the best available evidence on sexual violence prevention from CDC's [STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence](#). It reflects CDC's current thinking about how to prevent sexual violence on college and university campuses. This document is intended to be a starting place for sexual violence practitioners and their campus partners to begin planning for and implementing sexual violence prevention strategies in a college or university setting. This document is being shared with state health departments, state SV coalitions, and can be used widely as a resource on best practice for campus sexual violence prevention.



[PreventConnect Campus](#)

PreventConnect Campus will hold a series of web conferences to provide technical assistance on campus sexual violence prevention to Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) grantees, colleges and universities, and communities. This series will include action planning guidance to states who did not attend the in-person Action Planning Meeting in 2015. Web conferences will also provide an opportunity for states who attended to share their work and successes to date. A [web conference held in August 2016](#) featured the action planning work of Minnesota and Ohio. Two future web conferences will feature CDC's [Campus SV Prevention Portfolio](#) and the HBCU SV Climate Survey Project.

RESEARCH:

HBCUs Sexual Violence Climate Survey Project

Through CDC's partnership with the National Institute of Justice and the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, the purpose of the HBCU project is to conduct a web-based sexual violence (SV) survey of undergraduate and graduate women and men among HBCUs. Racial/ethnic minorities experience high rates of sexual violence². Most studies of sexual violence on college and university campuses however have been conducted at predominantly white institutions, leaving gaps in our knowledge of the experience of women of color. This project will build upon previous studies, and further inform our understanding of the magnitude of the problem of SV on HBCUs' campuses. It will also access the campus climate information among HBCUs that could identify risk or protective factors for SV on these campuses.

Funded Evaluation Projects

- Green Dot is a bystander-based prevention program designed to increase positive bystander behavior, change social norms, and reduce sexual and other forms of interpersonal violence perpetration and victimization. Green Dot was designed for college populations but has been adapted for high school, community, and military populations. A CDC-funded evaluation of Green Dot in Kentucky high schools found that the program decreased rates of sexual violence perpetration and victimization.
- RealConsent is designed to reduce sexual violence perpetration behaviors among college men using a bystander-based model. RealConsent consists of six 30-minute web-based, interactive modules that include didactic activities and episodes of a serial drama to model sexual communication, consent, and positive bystander behaviors. A CDC-funded study found that the program was effective in decreasing sexual violence perpetration and increasing positive bystander behavior at 6 month follow-up in a sample of college-aged men.
- The Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) Act, a federal policy that requires all publicly-funded colleges and universities to implement, among other requirements, bystander intervention programs (BIPs) for staff and students, is being evaluated for bystander intervention efficacy and cost-effectiveness. College students and staff from over 20 campuses across the US are being assessed each year for 4 years to model change in sexual and intimate partner violence- and bystander intervention-related attitudes, knowledge, and behaviors across time. This study has the potential to identify the most cost-effective method for increasing bystander intervention and may inform colleges and universities about the most effective BIP trainings for their campus.
- Georgia State University had CDC funding for a study that is identifying modifiable protective factors for SV perpetration among freshmen male college students in Georgia.

¹Krebs, C.P., Lindquist, C.H., Warner, T.D., Fisher, B.S., & Martin, S.L. (2007). *The Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice.

²Breiding, M. J. (2014). Prevalence and characteristics of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization—National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011. *Morbidity and mortality weekly report. Surveillance summaries* (Washington, DC: 2002), 63(8), 1.



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