

Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program

Goals:

To reduce sexual violence and/or the attempt of sexual violence through comprehensive primary prevention programming and evaluation.

Program Components:

The State of Arizona currently funds five community based organizations and two universities. Each funded contractor uses the Public Health approach and the following:

- Comprehensive, multi-level approaches
- Relies on partnerships
- Focuses on primary sexual violence prevention

Funding:

Federal funding, (population based) through the Centers for Disease Control.

Target Audience:

The population of Arizona to specifically include:

Students in junior high through college, women in the community, professionals (medical, legal, law enforcement), and minority populations, such as mono/bilingual Latino youth and Native American youth.

Why is this Program Needed?

Rape/sexual violence is one of life's most devastating traumas and is likely to lead to chronic illness. Victims of sexual violence often manifest long-term symptoms of chronic headaches, fatigue, sleep disturbance, recurrent nausea, decreased appetite, eating disorders, menstrual pain, sexual dysfunction, and suicide attempts. In a longitudinal study, sexual assault was found to increase the odds of substance abuse by a factor of 2.5. Estimates based on federal incidence data indicate almost 5 per 100 women over 12 years old were raped or sexually abused. It is estimated 8 of 10 rape victims know the rapist. Estimates of the occurrence of sexually transmitted diseases resulting from rape range from 3.6% to 30%. The risk of being infected with HIV from rape is estimated at 1 in 500.

Victims of marital or drug facilitated rape are 11 times more likely to be clinically depressed, and 6 times more likely to experience social phobia than are non-victims. Psychological problems are still evident in cases as long as 15 years after the assault. Additionally, the cost of this trauma is estimated at 127 billion dollars annually.

In 2006 RPEP was renamed the Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program (SVPEP) to reflect its broader goals of ending all sexual violence, to include teen dating violence.

What has the Program Achieved?

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In early 2000, the ADHS RPEP and its contractors began to lay groundwork for developing best practices in rape /sexual assault prevention and education. Utilizing methods that are appropriate for the demographics and particular characteristics of their community, contractors determine how to achieve program standards and outcomes. For the last three years ADHS RPEP has focused on comprehensive primary prevention, and using the social-ecological model.

Arizona's efforts to increase awareness of rape /sexual assault prevention included the implementation or expansion of youth Sexual Violence/Rape Prevention and Education programs/awareness campaigns, and programs that target young men and under-served communities. Additionally, programs are provided for Spanish speaking/Native American populations with linguistically appropriate rape prevention and education activities. Information is provided on sexual harassment, definition of rape, teen dating violence, and strategies that increase assertive communication, reporting and awareness of sexual violence. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) was the lead community partner for the statewide implementation of the Choose Respect initiative. Respect Game Nights ADHS had an extremely positive experience working with the local WNBA team, the Phoenix Mercury, who was proactive and engaged in Choose Respect. ADHS organized three Choose Respect game nights attended by more than 400 youth and their parents who watched from the arena's Choose Respect section. Additionally, Arizona launched the first media campaign for primary sexual violence prevention and education and won a HEMMY award. In 2006 Arizona, ADHS sponsored a primary prevention track in the annual statewide sexual assault conference. The program is also involved in a working group, Sexual ***Assault Prevention Summit: A Collaborative Strategy for the Military.***

For Additional Information Contact:

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Links: www.azrapeprevention.org

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