

Rape Prevention & Education Program (RPE)



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

FY24 Appropriation: \$61.75 million
FY25 Appropriation: \$61.75 million
FY26 Appropriations request: \$100 million

WHAT IS RPE?

RPE formula grants, administered by the CDC Injury Center, provide essential funding to states and territories and sexual assault and tribal coalitions to support rape prevention and education programs conducted by rape crisis centers and other public and private nonprofit entities.

The RPE program prepares everyday people to become actively engaged and involved in the fight against sexual violence and creating safer communities by:

- Engaging boys and men as partners in ending sexual violence;
- Educating about bystander interventions;

- Supporting multidisciplinary research collaborations;
- Conducting hot-spot mapping and improving safety and monitoring in schools;
- Working with communities to improve safety and health in the built environment; and
- Teaching skills to prevent sexual violence.

State, Territory, and Tribal Sexual Assault Coalitions are essential partners in sexual violence prevention. They receive RPE funding to engage in state, territorial, and tribal level strategies to prevent sexual assault and support local programs implementing community driven strategies.

THE NEED FOR RPE AND PREVENTION EDUCATION IS REAL

According to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey 1 in 5 women were the victim of a completed or attempted rape at some point in their lifetime.

The societal costs of sexual violence are incredibly high including medical & mental health care, law enforcement response, & lost productivity. 2017 research sets the lifetime economic burden of rape at \$122,000 per victim and reveals a strong link between sexual violence and chronic disease.

Demand for prevention programs has grown beyond providers' capacities.

Victims of sexual violence are more likely to be re-victimized AND those who have perpetrated are more likely to reoffend, pointing to the increased need to stop the violence before it ever happens.

A 2024 survey by the NAESV revealed that 60% of programs saw an increased demand for prevention and education while 35% of programs reported reduced funding for prevention.

We received a request from the School Counselor at a public charter high school in our service area. The counselor described unhealthy relationship dynamics that she was witnessing among the students and requested our help in shifting these patterns of behavior to prevent violence. ...we provided resources to this counselor...

Texas Rape Crisis Center

[Demand for prevention has resulted from an] increase in cases and an increase in schools requesting prevention programs. Many schools are also requesting education programs [for] Erin's Law.

Alabama Rape Crisis Center

HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?
Contact Terri Poore, Policy Director at terri@endsexualviolence.org

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WE KNOW RPE IS WORKING

RPE is supporting cutting-edge prevention efforts across the United States.

A 2016 study conducted in 26 Kentucky high schools over 5 years and published in American Journal of Preventive Medicine found that an RPE-funded bystander intervention program decreased not only sexual violence perpetration but also other forms of interpersonal violence and victimization.

Recently during presentations in a local school, a freshman student came to one of our preventionists and disclosed that they had been sexually assaulted more ... The preventionist was able to help her navigate that conversation and leave feeling optimistic about and prepared for that conversation with her mom.

Kentucky Rape Crisis Center

We are working on developing a positive community norms campaign with youth in one of the counties that we serve. We held a "Youth Voices in Prevention" youth forum that was an overwhelming success! Six youth serving organizations were able to attend, and we had over 70 youth in attendance. It was an amazing experience to see so many youth sharing their thoughts and voices for violence prevention.

Missouri Rape Crisis Center

Our prevention education within the college/university setting is thriving. We created a "Champions for Change" program where students can go through our bystander intervention and receive a status of a "Champion for Change." These students can get designated status with the university for this.

Florida Rape Crisis Center

Over the past few years, the prevention program has been working to develop a community violence prevention coalition. In 2024, the coalition finalized its first strategic plan to reduce violence perpetration in 5 key areas, one of which being sexual violence. The sexual violence workgroup of the coalition is made up of multi-disciplinary community members and has created support and buy-in across multiple sectors. Not only have we gone from educating about 2000 students per year to 3000 students per year, we have also increased the number of community trainings and supporters as well.

Ohio Prevention Program

RPE MUST INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY TO ENSURE OUR CHILDREN FACE A FUTURE FREE FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The following quotes were provided from 11th grade students in a post-presentation survey on consent: "One of the most informative and engaging presentations I have been to, it took a very serious topic and made it fun;" "I wish this had been given sooner (like 9th grade);" "they didn't sugar coat it and told us the hard truth, it was lovely." Their feedback, particularly the suggestion to introduce this education earlier, emphasizes the potential long-term impact of early intervention in shaping attitudes and behaviors.

Minnesota Rape Crisis Center

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