

Rape Prevention & Education Program (RPE)

FY25 Appropriation: \$61.75 million
FY26 Appropriation: \$61.75 million
FY27 President's budget: TBD
FY27 Request: \$100 million



National Alliance to
End Sexual Violence

WHAT IS RPE?

RPE formula grants are administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Injury Center. Grants provide essential funding to states, 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 people to become actively engaged and involved in preventing sexual violence and creating safer communities by:

- Engaging boys and men as partners in ending sexual violence;
- Educating individuals 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.

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

Reductions in force at the CDC Injury Center Division of Violence and Suicide Prevention has severely limited communities' ability to implement prevention strategies. Adequate staffing and funding are needed to support vital programs like RPE.

PREVENTION IS CRITICAL

According to a 2025 report from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: Nearly half of women (45.1%) and more than 1 in 6 men in the United States experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetimes. (Leemis et al., 2025)

Source:
Leemis RW et al., 2025 – NISVS 2023/2024 Sexual Violence Data Brief, CDC

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

Source:
Peterson C et al., 2017 – Lifetime Economic Burden of Rape Among U.S. Adults, Am J Prev Med

Demand for prevention programs has grown beyond providers' capacities. Victims of sexual violence are more likely to be revictimized AND those who have perpetrated are more likely to reoffend, pointing to the increased need to stop the violence before it ever happens.

A 2025 survey by NAESV revealed that 56% of programs saw an **increased demand** for prevention and education while 50% of programs reported **reduced funding** for prevention.

One of the biggest challenges we faced this year was delivering sexual assault prevention education to rural and underserved communities. While demand for programs grew, limited staffing and transportation resources made it difficult to reach certain schools and community groups.

–Ohio Rape Crisis Center (RCC)

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RPE IS EFFECTIVE

RPE IS SUPPORTING CUTTING-EDGE PREVENTION EFFORTS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

In two separate randomized controlled trials of the TakeCARE video-bystander program, college students reported increased bystander behaviors at 1-month and 2-month follow-ups after watching a brief, 24-minute video. (Jouriles et al., 2016) Additionally, in two randomized controlled trials with high school students, students reported engaging in more helpful bystander behavior at a 1-2 month (Sargent et al., 2017) and 6-month (Jouriles et al., 2019) follow-ups than those in a control condition.

Sources:
Jouriles RW et al., 2016 – TakeCARE College Randomized Controlled Trials
Sargent KS et al., 2017 – High School TakeCARE Evaluation
Jouriles RW et al., 2019 – Adolescent Bystander Randomized Controlled Trial

IN ANOTHER STUDY:

Male college students who completed the RealConsent program reported significantly more prosocial bystander behaviors and were 73% less likely to perpetrate sexual violence at a 6-month follow-up when compared to students in a control condition. (Salazar et al., 2014)
Female college students who completed the RealConsent program experienced less sexual violence, engaged in more alcohol protective behaviors, and were less likely to binge drink at a 6-month follow-up when compared to students in a control condition. (Salazar et al., 2023)

Sources:
Salazar LF et al., 2014 – RealConsent Randomized Controlled Trial with Male College Students
Salazar LF et al., 2023 – RealConsent Randomized Controlled Trial with College Women
Schipani-McLaughlin AM et al., 2024 – Acceptability of RealConsent Web-Based Risk Reduction Program

AN INCREASE IN RPE FUNDING IS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT OUR CHILDREN WILL HAVE A FUTURE FREE FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

There are so many times that we have been contacted by our Crimes Against Children investigators locally who inform us that a child has disclosed abuse due to our prevention programming in their school, and that they were able to make an arrest and get the child [to] safety. Those are the greatest examples we can express.

–Alaska RCC

Over the past year, our organization has partnered with local middle and high schools to bring healthy relationship and sexual assault prevention presentations directly into classrooms. What began as a small pilot program has now reached thousands of students across the county, creating meaningful conversations and empowering young people with skills they will carry throughout their lives.

–Minnesota RCC

After a recent session at a county middle school, teachers shared an inspiring success story. Students approached them to talk about how our healthy and unhealthy relationship prevention sessions had impacted their lives. They expressed how the lessons helped them make more positive choices and recognize the importance of healthy relationships. It's incredible to see the immediate and lasting difference these sessions are making!

–Ohio RCC

Over the past year, we implemented a sexual assault prevention program at a local college, focusing on consent, healthy relationships, and bystander intervention. One student shared that she applied the skills she learned to safely intervene when a peer was being pressured into an uncomfortable situation. This success demonstrates how prevention education can empower students to protect themselves and others.

–Texas RCC

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