Sexual Assault Prevention on U.S. College Campuses: A National Scan

ATIXA/SCOPE Joint National Conference, Philadelphia, PA, October 2015
Get Materials

Materials for this session will be provided on [www.PreventConnect.org](http://www.PreventConnect.org)
(Search for “ATIXA/SCOPE”)
Campus Sexual Violence is News

The New York Times

“All the News That’s Fit to Print”

White House to Press Colleges to Do More to Combat Rape

By Jennifer Steenma, April 29, 2014

Fight Against Sexual Assaults Holds Colleges to Account

By Richard Pérez-Peña and Kate Taylor, May 3, 2014

NOT ALONE

The First Report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault

April 2014

106 Colleges Are Under Federal Investigation For Sexual Assault Cases

TIME

The Crisis in Higher Education

Nigeria's Student Girls / Botched Executions

PreventConnect

TITIX

PC

X
National Scan

- key informant interviews
  - promising practices
  - top challenges and gaps for college
  - Top considerations that college campuses need to address
- Literature Review
- Based on PreventConnect / CALCASA experience
- July – November 2014
Appendix C: Reports and Recommendations by SVP Stakeholders

- **2014 California Student Summit on Sexual Assault.** California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) (2014).
- **A Safer Campus: A Guidebook for Prevention and Response to Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking for Ohio Campuses.** The Governor's Office for Women's Initiative and Outreach, Ohio Board of Regents and the Ohio Department of Health (2010).
- **Beyond Title IX: Guidelines for Preventing and Responding to Gender-based Violence in Higher Education.** Futures without Violence and Avon Foundation for Women (2012).
- **California Campus Blueprint to Address Sexual Assault.** California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (2004).
- **It’s On Us to Stop Sexual Assault.** Not Alone (2014).
- **Moving Beyond Blue Lights and Buddy Systems: A National Study of Student Anti-Rape Activists.** SAFER (Students Active for Ending Rape) (2013).
- **Preventing Sexual Violence on College Campuses: Lessons from Research and Practice.** Prepared for the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault (2014)
- **Reconstructing Norms: A Curriculum to Educate College Campuses about Sexual Assault Prevention** (2012). West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services. Adapted from the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.
- **Shifting the Paradigm: Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence.** American College Health Association (2008).
- **West Virginia Sexual Violence Training and Prevention Resource Toolkit for College Campuses.** A partnership of the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (2012).
Many Changes Since Then

- The Hunting Ground
- Rolling Stone
- University of Virginia
- A Rape on Campus
- The New York Times
- Time
- Huffington Post
- PreventConnect
- Greek Students Denounce FratPAC's Proposal On College Rape Investigations
New Research Keeps Coming

Original Investigation
Trajectory Analysis of the Campus Serial Rapist Assumption
Kevin M. Swartout, PhD; Mary P. Koss, PhD; Jacquelyn W. White, PhD; Martie R. Thompson, PhD; Antonia Abbey, PhD; Alexandra L. Bellis, BS

*Importance* Rape on college campuses has been addressed recently by a presidential proclamation, federal legislation, advocacy groups, and popular media. Many initiatives assume that most college men who perpetrate rape are serial rapists. The scientific foundation for this perspective is surprisingly limited.


SPECIAL ARTICLE
Efficacy of a Sexual Assault Resistance Program for University Women
Charlene Y. Senn, Ph.D., Misha Eliaziw, Ph.D., Paula C. Barata, Ph.D., Wilfreda E. Thurston, Ph.D., Ian R. Newby-Clark, Ph.D., H. Lorraine Radtke, Ph.D., and Karen L. Hobden, Ph.D.

New England Journal of Medicine, 372;24 (June 11, 2015)
Campuses starting the discussion

Change the culture that fuels sexual violence on college campuses

250 people including college presidents, administrators, sexual violence victim advocates and students gathered at the University of Virginia this week for a dialogue on addressing sexual misconduct among colleges students. UVA President Teresa Sullivan describe the purpose of the gathering was “...how we might together begin to change the culture that fuels sexual misconduct.”

The event included a panel of college presidents and Education Department's assistant secretary for civil rights, Catherine Lhamon. Media coverage included National Public Radio and Inside Higher Ed.
3-Pronged Approach to Effectively Addressing and Preventing Sexual, Domestic, Dating and Stalking Violence on College Campuses

- **Survivor Centered**
  - Survivors’ needs vary
  - Access to confidential resources
  - Policies that say what they do and do what they say

- **Community Collaboration & Engagement**
  - Partnerships between on- and off-campus resources
  - Systematic Climate Checks
  - Universities and their communities have a symbiotic relationship

- **Comprehensive Prevention**
  - No one strategy can be as effective as multiple strategies
  - Must occur at various levels
  - Must saturate the campus and community
### Public Health

#### Types of Prevention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevention Type</th>
<th>Before Violence Has Occurred</th>
<th>Immediate Responses</th>
<th>Long-term Responses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Prevention</td>
<td>The Prevention Researcher, 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary Prevention</td>
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Comprehensive Prevention

Before violence has occurred

Immediate responses

Long-term responses

Primary Prevention

Secondary Prevention

Tertiary Prevention

ALL FORMS OF PREVENTION
Comprehensive Social Ecological Model

ALL LEVELS OF PREVENTION
Include Institutional in Social Ecological Model
Principles of Effective Prevention Programs

- Comprehensive
- Varied Teaching Methods
- Sufficient Dosage/Exposure
- Theory Driven
- Positive Relationships
- Appropriately Timed
- Socio-Culturally Relevant
- Outcome Evaluation
- Well-Trained Staff

Student Activism
is driving force for change
MANDATES AND REGULATIONS
Mandates and Regulations
Title IX

• Prevent recurrence of sexual violence
• take “proactive” measures to prevent sexual harassment and sexual violence
• implement preventive education programs
Mandates and Regulations

Clery Act

• crime statistics and information about campus crime prevention programs and policies
• requires implementation of Security Awareness Training and informing students and employees about crime prevention.
Both primary prevention and awareness programs and ongoing prevention and awareness campaigns must include:

a) A statement that the institution prohibits dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking;

b) The definitions of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in the applicable jurisdiction;

c) The definition of consent, in reference to sexual activity, in the applicable jurisdiction;

d) A description of safe and positive options for bystander intervention;

e) Information on risk reduction; and

f) Information describing “A statement of policy regarding the institution’s programs to prevent dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking... and of procedures that the institution will follow when one of these crimes is reported.” [(b) (11)], a “description of the institution’s ongoing prevention and awareness campaigns for students and employees” [(k) (2)] and “A description of the institution’s ongoing prevention and awareness campaigns for students and employees.“
Mandates and Regulations
State and Local Laws

Affirmative Consent as State Law in California

- SB 967 passed (2014)
- 2015 Cal OES funding on campus sexual assault require collaboration between campuses and rape crisis centers
- Potential legislation on privilege
CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES
1. Limited evidence of effectiveness of sexual violence prevention.
   - To date, no programs have strong research evidence of effectiveness for preventing sexual violence perpetration in a college population.
   - In addition, few effective strategies have been identified for any population.
   - Research is showing some promising practices.
2. Fragmentation on campuses and in the larger community.

- Sexual violence approaches are often piecemeal, inconsistently implemented and address stand-alone components without a comprehensive, ongoing campus-wide strategy.
Challenges and Opportunities

3. No “solution in a box.”
   - Campuses may seek a single prevention program.
   - Compliance with the federal guidelines on sexual violence prevention provides the starting place for implementing comprehensive prevention efforts, and should serve as a baseline to build a comprehensive approach.
4. **Unique needs of each campus, including historically marginalized communities.**
   - There must be attention to community colleges, trade schools, tribal colleges, religious schools, commuter schools and other types of schools where the student body may be extremely diverse in age, access to resources and background.
5. A complex issue that requires a shift in campus culture.

- Sexual violence cannot be prevented without providing appropriate support to survivors, educating the campus community and instituting policies that hold perpetrators and all stakeholders accountable.
6. **Gender equity perspective in sexual violence prevention.**

- Some sexual violence prevention efforts fail to integrate a gender equity perspective, or the examination of how the social constructs of gender affect culture and create conditions for sexual violence and abuse.

– Assessing prevention outcomes is difficult, especially regarding changes to school climate.

– There is inadequate baseline data on sexual violence.

– Counterintuitively, increases in reported rape rates may be a positive outcome, reflecting increased reporting of incidents.
WIDELY USED PREVENTION APPROACHES
Prevention Elements

- Anti-oppression work
- Bystander intervention
- Connecting alcohol education and policy with SVP
- Consent education
- Engaging men
- Gender equity
- Media literacy
- Restorative justice
- Risk reduction
- Sexual health promotion
- Social norms change
Partnerships

- Campus-based groups and constituencies
  - Athletics
  - Greek Life (Sororities and Fraternities)
- Rape crisis centers
- Coordinated Community Response
  - Police
  - District Attorney
  - Hospital
- Other community-based groups/businesses
  - Bars
- Student participation
Dissemination Modalities

• Awareness events
• Educational workshops
• Online orientations
• Policies as part of a prevention strategy
• Professional and volunteer training
• Social marketing
• Theater-based programs
OPPORTUNITY FOR PREVENTION
Build on Strengths and Opportunities

• Title IX
• Draw upon OVW Grantees experiences
• Draw upon RPE Programs experiences
• SMART Office Campus Prevention
• Join a national community of campus prevention practitioners
• Comprehensive online resource for college stakeholders
• Integrative approaches to the prevention of sexual assault on college campuses
• Development, implementation & evaluation of prevention programs
• Specialized web conferences and peer learning forum
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