

Ending Sexual Violence in One Generation



RALIANCE

Ending Sexual Violence in One Generation

A progress report for
the United States



Raliance is a collaborative initiative dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation. Composed of three top sexual violence prevention organizations – the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA)-PreventConnect and the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV) – Raliance serves as the central hub for effective allocation and distribution of programmatic funding in sexual violence prevention and as the go-to resource for policymakers, advocates, service providers and the media. Raliance is funded through a \$10 million multiyear commitment from the National Football League. The name was inspired by the entity’s intent to rally engagement from stakeholders and align goals and resources behind its overarching mission of putting a stop to sexual violence once and for all. Learn more at [Raliance.org](https://raliance.org).

Ending Sexual Violence in One Generation

Executive summary

This report analyzes progress in the movement to end sexual violence and how it is shaping public conversation and, ultimately, our culture in how we address this important societal issue. Although much work remains to be done, significant accomplishments have been made and additional positive changes are underway.

Understanding this watershed moment and the potential to create real and lasting cultural change requires a nuanced discussion about many on-going contributing factors, including the following:

- **Media** – including entertainment and news channels – help shape the national conversation about sexual violence. These platforms have the ability to tell more complete stories that enhance the public’s understanding of sexual violence and break down misconceptions and myths.
- **Advocacy and activism** play a significant role in elevating awareness of social injustice and in advancing a culture of equality necessary to advance prevention efforts. Activists recognize the importance of partnerships in achieving these objectives, and opportunities for new collaborations are emerging, including those with legislative leaders.
- **Strong federal leadership** helps generate **policy solutions** to counter sexual violence, including enhanced laws and expanded funding to support services for survivors and advanced prevention solutions.
- **Research and evaluation** made possible through new funding opportunities support a growing body of evidence on effective prevention solutions as well as intervention opportunities for those at risk of committing acts of sexual violence.
- **Resources committed to prevention** help communities create and implement effective community-based solutions.
- **Institutions** such as colleges and universities, youth-serving organizations, the military, and communities of faith are recognizing their **responsibility** to help create and sustain safer environments. “Corporate America” and youth, college and professional sports are institutions uniquely positioned to engage new voices and continued innovation.

Raliance is poised to continue this momentum, and to do so by helping drive innovation, changing conversations about sexual violence, engaging youth as change-makers, and actively listening and engaging service providers in the field. We look forward to highlighting increased progress in years to come, and in the meantime we challenge everyone to define the important role they play in ending sexual violence in one generation.

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This is the generation that will end sexual violence.

It has started.

Individuals, systems, and institutions are recognizing the important role they play in turning the tide – from a culture that creates and condones sexual violence to one that increasingly takes a stand and moves toward a world where each person is valued and respected.

Although much work remains to be done, preventing sexual violence is possible and it is happening.

This report highlights some of the recent key events and activities that are setting the foundation for progress and hope.

A substantial proportion of women and men in the United States experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime, with many experiencing this trauma in childhood.



1 in 5

Women will be raped at some point in their lives.



1 in 71

Men will be raped at some point in their lives.



1 in 2

Women have experienced sexual violence victimization other than rape.



1 in 5

Men have experienced sexual violence victimization other than rape.

Sexual violence is never acceptable. Fortunately, despite these statistics, preventing sexual violence is possible and it is happening in communities across the country.

(Black et al., 2011)

How did we get to this watershed moment?

Statistics offer alarming truths to what many already understand: Sexual violence is a widespread problem, one that affects each of us and impacts survivors, loved ones, communities, and society. Sexual violence violates a person's trust and feelings of safety, and happens to people of all ages, races, genders, sexual orientations, religions, professions, incomes, and ethnicities (National Sexual Violence Resource Center [NSVRC], 2016a).

Why is society paying attention to sexual violence now?

Recently, entertainment media and news coverage of sexual violence elevated this conversation to national platforms; the entire country witnessed and participated in this dialogue. Advocates and activists shed light on how sexual violence thrives when other forms of injustice are also tolerated, such as racism, gender inequality, nationalism, and homophobia. Strong federal leadership led to policy solutions to counter sexual violence as well as funding to support prevention strategies. Institutions such as colleges and universities, the military, and communities of faith discussed their responsibility to create and sustain safer environments.

These important conversations and courageous stories raised the nation's consciousness about sexual violence, moving it from the silent shadows to the sports page and awards shows. Individuals, groups, communities, and society no longer ignore sexual violence and actively ask important questions and seek appropriate answers to effect lasting change to end sexual violence.

Media

Entertainment media

When fiction and reality collide, sexual violence achieves a visible saturation point within entertainment media. In the past couple of years, film, television, and books all played a critical role shaping this popular conversation. As more stories addressed the impact on individuals, the nation moved beyond awareness to change long-held beliefs that keep many survivors silent.

The Hunting Ground documentary (Dick & Ziering, 2015) follows two college student sexual assault survivors and the Title IX cases they brought against their school. Their complaints alleged the institution suppressed their cases, required them to undergo a lengthy and complicated bureaucratic process, and perpetuated an environment where those who sexually harm continued to act with impunity. The film galvanized grassroots activism on campuses and appealed to a wider national audience as celebrity and high-profile individuals rallied their support to influence social change.



REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni

Lady Gaga recorded an original song, “Til It Happens to You” for *The Hunting Ground*, performing it at the 2016 Oscars. She was introduced by Vice President Joe Biden and joined on stage by other male and female survivors of sexual assault with messages scrawled on their exposed arms, such as, “We believe you,” “It’s on us,” and “Unbreakable” (Lady Gaga, 2016).

In ***Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town*** (Krakauer, 2015), popular author Jon Krakauer recounted the stories of five women who reported being raped at the

University of Montana, as well as the response of local law enforcement and the prosecutor’s office and the U.S. Department of Justice’s handling of some 80 other concurrent investigations that were open at the time of writing. Krakauer concluded that people within the systems protected the accused members of the university’s football team from repercussions, and authority figures seemed indifferent to those who were raped. Krakauer recognized the trends he observed in Missoula are replicated in communities across the nation. The actions – or lack thereof – of people working within systems frequently perpetuate environments and barriers to justice that ultimately silence victims, enable people who perpetrate acts of sexual violence to inflict harm on additional people, and keep the serious, widespread problem of rape undetected.

The 2015 film ***Spotlight*** (McCarthy, 2015) followed the true story of *The Boston Globe*’s Spotlight investigative team as they reported in 2002 on widespread, systemic child sexual abuse concealed by the local Catholic Archdiocese. The impact of the story resonated throughout Boston and beyond. The Spotlight team uncovered evidence that everyone, from *The Globe* to the Church, had an opportunity to intervene at times and did not. The coverage spurred individual action as well as conversations about the collective role of the community in condoning sexual violence as well as preventing it. Reporting by survivors spiked at call centers. Advocates and other leaders were empowered to address powerful institutions, such as the Catholic Church and state and federal



Vice President Joe Biden introduced Lady Gaga's performance, noting, "Let's change the culture. We must and we can change the culture, so that no abused woman or man, like the survivors you will see tonight, ever feel they have to ask themselves 'What did I do?' They did nothing wrong!"

(The White House Office of the Vice President [OVP], 2016)

REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni

government, calling for more reasonable legislation, including eliminating the statute of limitations for these crimes. It also sparked the Catholic Church to examine internal operations and policies, fund child protection and safety programming within the church, increase reporting mechanisms, and publicly address the widespread mishandling of sexual abuse. The Church paid millions of dollars of restitution to victims in civil cases. *Spotlight* garnered the Academy's top award, an Oscar for Best Picture, in 2016 (The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 2016).

The critically acclaimed *American Crime* (Ridley, 2015) television show debuted its second season in December 2015 with a storyline on the intersections of class, race, and gender norms, as well as cyberbullying. A scholarship student at an elite private school in Indianapolis is sexually assaulted as part of a hazing ritual by members of the school's championship basketball team. The abuse is captured on cell phone video and posted online. As the family seeks justice, the series examines the disbelief, victim blaming, and cover-up by school administrators and coaches, as well as the impact rape has on the student body, families, and the community. This show illustrates the myriad factors that perpetuate rape culture.



Spotlight, 2015.

Across television, books, and film, sexual violence dominated the creative storytelling space. The power of storytelling shows how sexual violence impacts the individual as well as the community and larger society. This conversation played out in other spaces beyond entertainment media as well. The news media also set the tone and provided context.



“Making prevention part of the public conversation about sexual violence depends on drawing attention to the broader context in which sexual violence occurs, including the risk and protective factors, actors with responsibility and power to change environments, and social norms that shape how we understand sexual violence and our behaviors.”

(Mejia, Somji, Nixon, Dorfman, & Quintero, 2015, p. 13).

News

Journalists play a critical role informing the public about important topics and educating on public policy issues. News outlets set the bar for what constitutes an important topic for national attention, making coverage of sexual violence all that much more important. News coverage plays a role in shaping perceptions of who is causing and who should be solving the problem of sexual assault.

Berkeley Media Studies Group (BMSG) recently analyzed news coverage of sexual violence (Mejia et al., 2015). Their findings highlight how news often reinforces commonly held negative beliefs, doubting victims and demonizing offenders without offering any hope or solutions to prevent sexual violence. According to the report, the news rarely included the consequences of sexual violence or the longer-term impact on victims and families. To change this, BMSG concludes that advocates and journalists require resources and to work more effectively together to provide broader context and to broaden stories beyond two individuals.

Making progress

When advocates and members of the media work in collaboration, language that influences perception about sexual violence also changes. **Rights4Girls** (Vafa, 2016), a nonprofit dedicated to ending gender-based violence, successfully campaigned to end the use of the term “child

“Everyone in a community is responsible for changing the kind of thinking that would lead a man to see an unconscious body, or a girlfriend who is clearly saying ‘stop,’ or a friend who has had too much to drink, as a fair sexual partner.”

(Andrews, 2015)

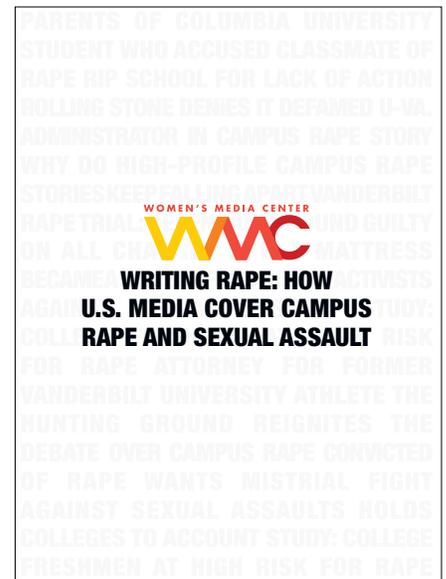
prostitute” in news media. Their Change.org petition garnered more than 150,000 names (Pettigrew, 2015). The Associated Press revised the AP Stylebook, making it clear that a child, by definition, cannot consent to any sexual act and should not be associated with the term (The Associated Press, 2016).

Many journalists also recognize their responsibility to accurately report sexual violence. To increase sensitivity and accuracy in reporting on sexual assault, the **Women’s Media Center** published *Writing rape: How U.S. media cover campus rape and sexual assault*, a critical examination of the gender of reporters and sources. The study showed “coverage is significantly skewed toward the bylines and voices of men” (Wolfe & Brown, 2015, p. 2). The gender disparity was even more glaring in sports stories referencing sexual assault or in stories written by sports reporters. The research found that the writer’s gender appeared to affect how stories were told: Female journalists interviewed victims more often than male journalists, and a higher proportion of women wrote about the impact of the attack on victims.

Many reporters get it right, not feeding into cultural myths or reinforcing misconceptions about sexual violence, and they are to be applauded for their dedication to good storytelling and neutrality. Recent stories captured hearts and minds. It is not statistics alone that have swayed popular beliefs, but rather a human connection and narrative that moved society to change attitudes and behaviors, the basis for true societal change.

Looking ahead

As this work continues, society requires news perspectives that highlight collective or institutional responsibility, as well as strategies on how to prevent sexual violence and messages to counter sexual violence’s tolerance by society in the culture.



© 2015 Women’s Media Center

BMSG offered recommendations to help change this conversation:

- Reframe sensational coverage to raise awareness about the widespread problem of sexual violence.
- Voices in leadership roles must bring attention to solutions and illustrate everyone’s responsibility through the involvement of communities and socially responsible organizations.
- Investing in prevention is critical, as is investing in community rape crisis centers and other support services for those impacted by sexual violence.

(Mejia et al., 2015)

Advocacy and activism

Hatred or bias accepted or condoned by a predominant culture reinforces systems that devalue certain groups. This is known as oppression and creates the conditions needed for a person to decide to commit sexual violence (NSVRC, 2014a). Research has shown sexual violence disproportionately impacts women, but also sexual minorities and ethnic and racial minorities. Sexual violence does not occur in a vacuum; those building a culture that values equality and respect must also address how inequality is allowed to thrive.

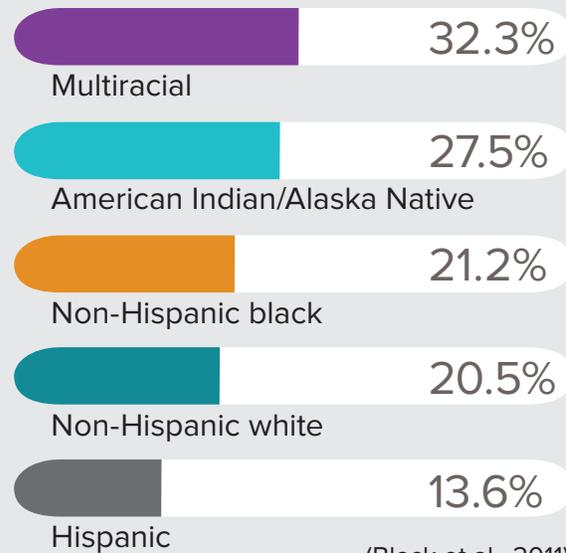
Related movements for social justice, racial and gender equality, and LGBTQ rights recently played significant roles in preventing sexual violence and advancing a culture of inclusion. **Black Lives Matter** (Cullors, Tometi, & Garza, 2016), for instance, unifies a national grassroots campaign on social media, elevating social and racial injustice, as well as seeking solutions to the school-to-prison pipeline that disproportionately impacts youth and children of color. Community mobilization and activism by **Stop Street Harassment** (Kearl, 2016) and **HollaBack!** (May, 2016) countered sexual harassment and gender-based violence in both the streets and online. On college campuses, student leaders and community partners hosted screenings and discussions of *The Hunting Ground* during Sexual Assault Awareness Month and **It's On Us** campaigns. Many moved this advocacy beyond campus to the larger community to reinforce the strategy.

In *Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence*,

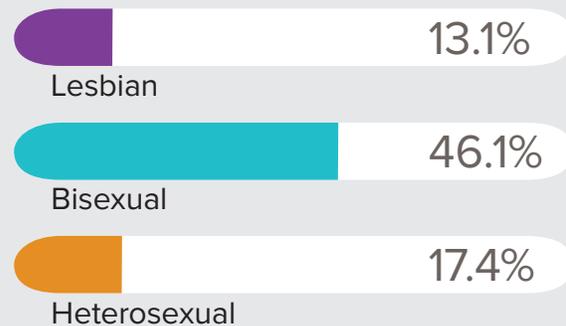
the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) described how many forms of violence intersect, connect and impact communities and individuals across their lifespans (Wilkins, Tsao, Hertz, Davis, & Kleven, 2014). In the ensuing strategic vision document, the CDC outlined strategies for collaboration across social justice and public health movements to prevent violence and encouraged communities to elevate expertise, share resources, and support one another in achieving common goals.

At the same time, essential conversations are being led by leaders in the sexual violence community to reconnect to our social justice roots. **The Black Women's Truth & Reconciliation**

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN WHO ARE RAPED IN THEIR LIFETIME BY RACE



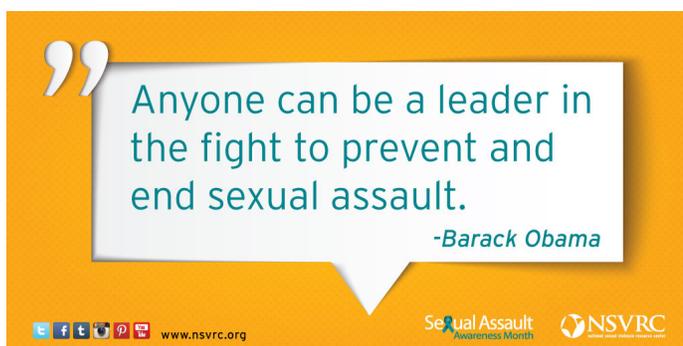
PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN WHO ARE RAPED IN THEIR LIFETIME BY SEXUAL ORIENTATION



Commission on Sexual Assault (Black Women’s Blueprint [BWB], 2016a) brought together survivors and allies in New York City in Spring 2016 to bear witness and testify, signifying the first time our nation recognized the historical and contemporary abuse of Black and African American women. Black Women’s Blueprint boldly asked, “What does this nation owe to black women?” (BWB, 2016b).

What’s needed

These indicators of collaboration across social justice movements are heartening. To counter sexual violence, communities require messaging on sexual health promotion that is informed by healthy sexuality and healthy relationship programming. Aligning sexual violence prevention and response with this messaging to build a culture of respect requires shifts in policy as well as strong leadership.



Federal leadership and policy

The highest office in the U.S. issued a bold declaration in 2014. President Obama and Vice President Biden publicly challenged college campuses to change their culture to prevent sexual assault. The **White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault**, led by the Office of the Vice President and the White House Council on Women and Girls, was established to coordinate a federal response to campus sexual assault. Since its inception, the Task Force has issued **Not Alone: The First Report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault** (2014); created an MOU, Building Partnerships among Law Enforcement Agencies, Colleges and Universities (2015a); and issued a series of recommendations and toolkits to aid schools in conducting campus climate surveys (2015b). The White House launched the **It’s On Us** (Somanader, 2014) campus public awareness campaign on bystander intervention. The campaign seeks a personal commitment of all Americans to be a part of the solution and be actively engaged in establishing new expectations to prevent sexual assault.

Strong leadership set the tone for change to follow whether at the federal, state, or local level – or on campuses, in corporations, or in communities.

Policy and legislative remedies that support survivors, increase access to needed services and resources, and prioritize prevention are all critical to changing the culture. The continued support of legislative leaders as well as new champions is required to secure the attention and resources necessary to achieve these priorities.

We hope to see continued or renewed support from leaders across policies such as the following:

- The **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)**: Reauthorized in 2013, VAWA outlined a new and stronger focus on the criminal justice response to sexual assault, the housing needs of survivors, and rights for marginalized communities. Set for reauthorization in 2018, VAWA discussions will focus on analysis of the criminal justice response to the crimes of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking as well as addressing gender bias and racial injustice and strengthening responses on campuses. (U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs [OPA], 2015c).
- The **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)**: In FY 2015 appropriators tripled the amount of funding available through VOCA to support services from \$745M in FY 2014 to \$2.36B in FY 2015 (National Alliance to End Sexual Violence [NAESV], 2016). In 2016, grassroots advocacy helped ensure that the VOCA funding increase was maintained. Progress continues as advocates seek to ensure adequate funding is available to provide services to communities as well as create a dedicated funding stream for Native American tribal communities, acknowledging the high rates of violence and low access to services experienced by this community.
- The **Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP)** in the Office on Violence Against Women (U.S. Department of Justice, 2016): Appropriators increased SASP in FY 2015 and 2016. Despite high demand for services, SASP is not yet funded at its full authorization.
- The **Rape Prevention & Education Program (RPE)** administered by the CDC (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS], 2016b) helped states, territories, and local communities implement primary prevention programs. Congress recognized the need to expand evaluation of the program in FY 16 with a \$5.6 million increase (DHHS, 2016a). Despite high demand and one-third of local rape crisis centers having a wait list for prevention programs, Congress did not fully fund this program (NAESV, 2015).

When Rape Crisis Centers are underfunded, they can't meet the needs of sexual assault survivors, and prevention programs are sidelined.

THE NEED FOR FUNDING AT RAPE CRISIS CENTERS



Almost half of programs experienced an overall decrease in funding over the past year.

3 - 100

The number of survivors on waiting lists for counseling.

2 - 12 Weeks

Wait times for survivors.

Prevention is side-lined



Almost half of rape crisis centers decreased public awareness and/or prevention services to their communities.

It's time to increase funding for survivor services and prevention.

Based on an NAESV 2015 internet survey of rape crisis centers

- Recently, advocates and members of Congress worked closely on a variety of legislative and policy approaches to address sexual assault and improve access for survivors to forensic medical exams, ensure rape kit evidence is preserved, update the **Prison Rape Elimination Act**, preserve the rights of students in K-12 and postsecondary education, and ensure military survivors have access to an impartial military justice response.
- The **Office for Civil Rights** (OCR) at the Department of Education protects students from sexual violence and ensures campuses are responding responsibly. Legislation and policies currently under discussion seek to enable OCR to enforce its vital Title IX Guidance. Advocates strongly encourage the inclusion of policy language requiring campus partnerships with community-based sexual assault programs and/or state coalitions to make certain survivors have access to comprehensive and confidential services as well as advocate expertise.
- The **Office on Violence Against Women** (OVW) announced millions of dollars in grants to strengthen the U.S. Department of Justice’s systems to support public safety projects in Indian Country; to develop and strengthen criminal justice and community partnerships to address sexual assault, domestic violence, dating, and stalking; and to reduce sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on college campuses (OPA, 2015b).
- In 2014 The Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (**SMART Office**) announced a series of campus-focused sexual assault perpetration prevention and education grants that focus on community-level and comprehensive situational-based strategies (OPA, 2015a).

Despite a history of federal departments working independently in their efforts to address sexual violence, recent initiatives marked a noted shift toward greater coordination. The White House **United State of Women Summit** (The White House, 2016) showcased several federal departments supporting a focus on violence against women. Federal partners are jointly sponsoring a track related to responding to and preventing sexual violence on college campuses at the **2016 National Sexual Assault Conference** (NSVRC, 2016b).

Strong federal collaboration and leadership ensures important work continues to support those impacted by sexual violence and to advance a prevention agenda that includes evaluating what works to make lasting, positive change.

Research and evaluation

Research informs programs, policies, and strategies to prevent sexual violence and reduces its negative impact. An abundance of recent research backs up what many have long known – sexual violence is pervasive and also preventable. Prevalence studies continue to reinforce a staggering fact that 1 in 5 women in the U.S. will experience sexual assault in their lifetime, many while in college (Cantor et al., 2015; Krebs, Lindquist, Bersofsky, Shook-Sa, & Peterson, 2016; Walters et al., 2013). Moving beyond the scope of sexual violence to its prevention requires additional investment in evaluation of effective programming and strategies.

The CDC’s focus on prioritizing opportunities for prevention programming evaluation marks an important shift.

To that end, the CDC funded a review of thirty years of evaluation research available to identify best strategies for effective primary prevention (DeGue et al., 2014; NSVRC, 2014b). This growing body of research on what makes prevention strategy effective was bolstered with CDC’s additional allocation of \$5.6 M (DHHS, 2016a) for programmatic evaluation. The CDC’s focus on prioritizing opportunities for prevention programming evaluation marks an important shift. By including a wider view of evidence types as well, evaluation of culturally relevant and community-specific prevention programs can ensure that findings are relevant for all communities.

Initiatives continue through grassroots programs addressing sexual violence in community and culturally specific settings. These grassroots programs doing important and groundbreaking work have lacked access, however, to the tools and financial resources to conduct large-scale program evaluation. To address this gap, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center has supported state organizations and community programs through technical assistance and tools to conduct important internal programmatic evaluations to begin to measure impact.

Advocates have also advanced systems to support earlier intervention of problematic sexual behaviors. Critics of the Campus Climate Survey Validation Study (Krebs et al., 2016) cite missed opportunities. A focus on victimization ignores the underlying perpetration culture. Therefore, they argued, perpetration studies are “crucial because individual characteristics, peer attitudes, and campus norms that encourage and sustain sexual aggressors, as well as the likelihood of accountability for sexual misconduct, are the only potential points for science-informed, comprehensive campus rape prevention planning and innovation” (Koss, Cook, White, & Swartout, 2016).

There is no single remedy to prevent sexual violence; communities require support to implement strategies and programs that will work for their communities and that have been evaluated and backed by evidence and research.

“There is substantial research evidence that effective prevention strategies are comprehensive, appropriately-timed, culturally relevant, and theory-driven; they use varied teaching methods and well-trained staff; they foster positive relationships; and they are long enough (or have ‘sufficient dose’) to create meaningful and lasting change.”

(NSVRC, 2014b, pp. 5-6).

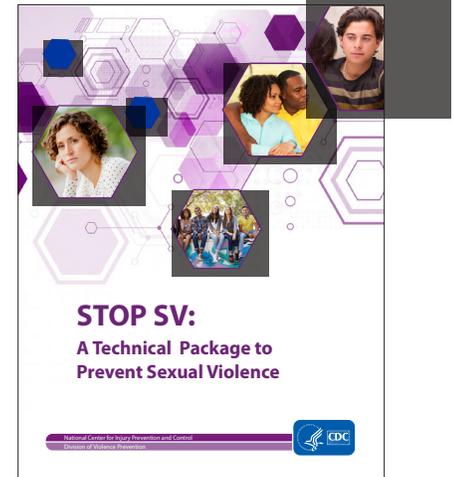
Prevention

Tremendous momentum propels initiatives to increase public awareness of sexual violence as well as change the cultural attitudes and behaviors that enable it to exist and persist. This level of change requires effective prevention policy, evidence-based prevention programs, robust evaluation methods, as well as clear messages communicated in learning environments. Fortunately, proven expertise helps communities prevent sexual violence.

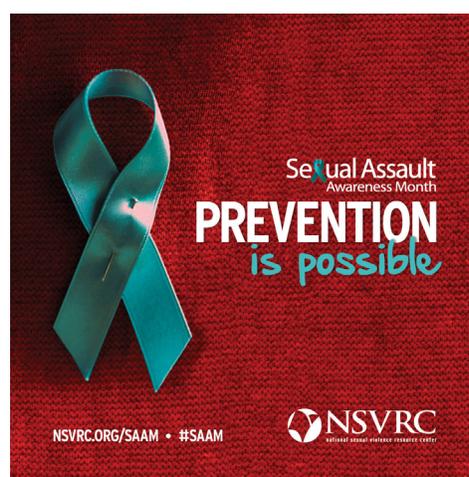
Many communities navigating options for prevention programming start with a needs assessment to understand the environment, attitudes, and behaviors to influence. Many campuses have

conducted climate surveys to establish a baseline. Resources have been distributed and campaigns have been launched on prevention strategies to use by individuals, organizations, and communities, including the following:

- The CDC’s **STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence** (Basile et al., 2016) suggests the promotion of new social norms through bystander approaches, mobilizing male allies, and teaching skills through social-emotional learning models and empowerment-based training.
- **Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2016** created a holistic community-based approach through its theme, **Prevention is Possible** (NSVRC, 2016c), to engage all individuals, communities, and systems to consider how to promote positive behaviors, thoughtful policies, and healthy relationships in order to create a culture of respect and safe environments. Communities reduced risks through efforts that promote respect, equality, and accountability.
- In 2016, the **California Coalition Against Sexual Assault/PreventConnect** released the report *Sexual Assault Prevention on U.S. College Campuses: A National Scan* (Hoffman, 2016) providing valuable information on ways campuses are preventing sexual violence.
- **Shifting Boundaries** (National Institute of Justice, 2012) is an intervention model for dating violence and sexual harassment in middle schools involving elevated awareness through a poster campaign, environmental changes and “hotspot” mapping, and school staff monitoring in conjunction with classroom curriculum.



Impacting systems, institutions, and cultures requires multi-faceted, comprehensive approaches that address individuals across all their spheres of influence. Communities and organizations, as well as businesses and corporations, play important leadership roles to ensure prevention strategies are implemented.



Institutional responsibility

Campuses, youth-serving organizations, faith communities, and the military are all examples of institutions addressing sexual violence within their ranks. Progress is being made in a positive direction with more diverse organizations and institutions realizing the role they play to end sexual violence. Now it is Corporate America's turn to step up and be involved. There are also exciting opportunities through sport to envision prevention.

Campus sexual assault

Many factors converged to bring sexual assault on college campuses to light. High-profile cases were shortened to the name of the school or the town; the ensuing national news frenzy put this topic in everyone's living room and newspaper.

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) responded to this deluge in 2011 with the "Dear Colleague Letter" (OCR, 2011) outlining the obligation of educational institutions to address sexual assault on campuses under Title IX, a provision protecting students from sex discrimination in any federally funded education program or activity. The letter calls upon institutions to take proactive measures to prevent sexual violence and provide prompt investigation and resolution to grievance complaints. This level of oversight holds institutions accountable under penalty of losing federal funding to create safer environments.

With many colleges and universities under the microscope of public and OCR scrutiny, student activists and community advocates have mobilized to demand action. Examples of their efforts include the following:

- The **2015 Sexual Assault Awareness Month** (NSVRC, 2015b) campaign focused on providing resources on campus sexual violence prevention using the theme *It's Time to Act. Safer Campuses. Brighter Futures.*
- **It's On Us** (Somanader, 2014) brings awareness to the role of bystanders, and campuses readily adopted the campaign.
- The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault's **PreventConnect Campus** (CALCASA, 2016) brings the weight of a growing national online community of practitioners together specifically to address effective policy and resources to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence and dating violence on college campuses.

200 
Postsecondary Institutions

 **257**
Sexual Assault Cases

As of July 20, 2016, there are 257 sexual violence cases under investigation by the Office of Civil Rights at 200 postsecondary institutions.

(OCR, 2016b)

102
Open Cases in Elementary
and Secondary Schools

There were also 102 Title IX open cases in elementary and secondary schools.

(OCR, 2016a)



- Campuses have examined the role campus culture plays in preventing sexual assault in addition to holding those who harm others accountable and responding effectively to those who have been harmed. Findings from the **Campus Climate Survey Validation Study** (Krebs et al., 2016), for instance, reinforce the need to shift campus culture to one of respect: “campuses where students perceived greater tolerance for sexually harassing and sexually violent behaviors demonstrated higher levels of actual incidences of sexual harassment and sexual assault. Conversely, on campuses where these types of behaviors were perceived to be unacceptable, lower rates of actual harassment and assault were found” (Galbraith, 2016).

Administrators at colleges and universities are not the only leaders examining their responsibility and accountability to address sexual violence within their environments. Youth-serving organizations, communities of faith, the military, as well as corporations are aware of their unique ability to create safer spaces and cultures and to inspire change.

Other institutions

- **Youth-serving organizations** protect those they serve through robust prevention policies that address attitudes and behaviors before they escalate.
- **Communities of faith** deeply impacted by child sexual abuse perpetrated by faith leaders are examining the policies, practices, and attitudes that allow institutional concerns about reputation and public perception to trump institutional responsibility for safe environments, offender accountability, and the wellbeing of victims and their families.
- In the **military**, the Department of Defense implemented a department-wide prevention strategy through the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO), recognizing that tracking incidences was a first step to understanding reporting barriers and prevalence (U.S. Department of Defense, 2016a). SAPRO also publishes annual reports on sexual harassment and violence at military service academies (U.S. Department of Defense, 2016b).
- **Corporate America** has been identified as an important partner moving forward, and leaders are required to step up. Corporate America has incredible potential to not only create change in unique spaces, but also to support wider-ranging prevention strategies through collaboration, resource sharing, and promotion.

- **Sport** represents a sphere of tremendous influence. From racial inequality to challenging gender stereotypes and rights for LGBTQ athletes, sport has long held space for challenging social discussions and changing societal norms. It is a space that helps link individuals across race, class, gender identity, or sexuality and has the potential to dramatically influence the larger culture. Sport is also a critical place for youth development where values and life lessons are taught and reinforced by trusted role models.



- Amidst many incidents of prominent athletics involved in sexual assaults, many national organizations are responding. The **National Football League** has emerged as a visible leader in the sports world investing in the prevention of sexual violence and “striv[ing] to reflect the changes it wishes to see across society as a whole” (NFL, 2015, p. 26). In recent years, Commissioner Roger Goodell initiated an organization-wide examination of the way NFL may have historically contributed to long-standing social norms to silence and ignore domestic and sexual violence and how to be a part of prevention and openness for those in need of services. NFL mandated its staff complete on-going broad-based domestic and sexual violence awareness training over the last three years emphasizing “substance abuse and character education, and initiatives to increase diversity and inclusion across all clubs” (NFL, 2015, p. 26). NFL has trained more than 200 critical response team personnel to provide immediate and confidential crisis interventions to NFL staff

and family members (NFL, 2014). NFL’s 2015 social responsibility report notes that all 32 NFL clubs partnered with local domestic violence and sexual assault organizations to engage in and support over 75 community-based initiatives (NFL, 2015).

Corporate America has incredible potential to support wider-ranging prevention strategies through collaboration, resource sharing, and promotion.

NFL also worked closely with the Joyful Heart Foundation (Hargitay, 2016) and the NO MORE campaign (Witt, 2016), airing “Listen,” a domestic violence and sexual assault public service announcement during the 2015 Super Bowl seen by more than 100 million viewers (NO MORE, 2015). This marked the first time a high-profile sporting event was used as the vehicle for this discussion. NFL followed this up by airing NO MORE’s “Text talk” at the 2016 Super Bowl (NO MORE, 2016), a PSA showing a text message exchange to bring awareness to warning signs of both domestic and sexual violence. Advocates welcome access to this size and diversity of an audience to begin to break down misconceptions and advance the dialogue.

The NFL’s investment to create Raliance marks the first major corporate funding to end sexual violence; their leadership hopefully will spur additional engagement across other corporations and associations.

Sexual violence will not be the cultural legacy for this generation.

The path forward

As this progress report shows, strong leadership in effectively addressing sexual violence has led to significant accomplishments in addressing and preventing sexual violence, and the good news is further positive changes are underway. While there is more work to be done, this watershed moment affirms the commitment of many to increase the momentum required to end sexual violence. Entertainers, journalists, policymakers, educators, corporate leaders, athletes, and coaches must continue to join advocates in becoming agents for societal and cultural change.

Recognizing we each have a role to play in ending sexual violence, Raliance commits to several actions towards achieving the ultimate goal of ending sexual violence in one generation and shaping a world where each person is valued and respected.

How Raliance is making an impact

We are driving innovation.

- Raliance is funding a competitive grant program to develop and enhance the most promising, replicable practices or policies that: improve the response to victims of sexual violence; reduce the likelihood of perpetration of sexual violence; and strengthen communities' and organizations' capacity to create safe environments. Twenty-seven grants were awarded in 2016 totaling \$1.2M. Raliance plans to release an additional \$600,000 to another set of initiatives in early 2017.
- By mapping promising sexual violence prevention practices and programs throughout the sports pipeline from youth to professional leagues, we are working to better understand effective and replicable initiatives as well as opportunities for new efforts. We will host think tanks to further consider how sports at all levels have the potential to be drivers of social change.
- We will also bring together leaders from across social justice and advocacy movements to inform a comprehensive public policy agenda that drives innovative solutions to fully support survivors as well as create safe environments that support sexual violence prevention.

We are changing conversations about sexual violence.

- We will engage journalists and members of the entertainment industry to tell more complete stories about sexual violence that help increase our country's understanding of sexual violence and how to prevent it.
- We are also researching and testing effective prevention communication that most resonates with stakeholder audiences.

We are engaging youth as change-makers.

- To end sexual violence in this generation, young people and their ideas must inform our work. Planning is underway for a youth summit in 2017 to hear from this group and formulate new ideas for action.

We will engage the field and actively listen.

- Raliance is poised to support a continued discussion with service providers on the most promising and effective response and prevention strategies.

We look forward to highlighting increased progress in years to come. We also challenge all individuals and institutions to define their unique role in helping end sexual violence in one generation.

Together, we will.

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Additional information and resources available
at: NSVRC.org, endsexualviolence.org,
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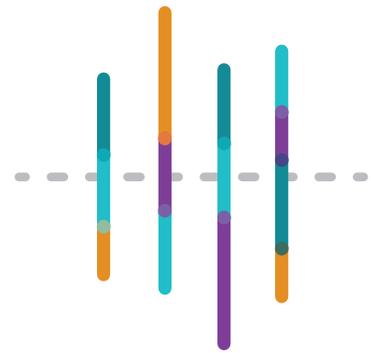
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One generation



Rally stakeholders



Align resources