

Rape Prevention & Education Program (RPE)

Funding authorized: \$80 million
FY 12 Appropriation: \$39.4 million
FY 13 Request: \$40 million

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

Based on a 2010 CDC report of RPE funded programs:

- **155,280 professionals** were trained in sexual violence issues
- Over **2.5 million people** participated in rape prevention programs including:
 - 680,638 elementary school students
 - 578,934 middle school students
 - 658,752 high school students
 - 138,267 college students
- RPE funds supported hotlines in 20 states and territories including responses to **302,077 callers**.

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

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

- Engaging boys and men as partners;
- Supporting multidisciplinary research collaborations;
- Fostering cross-cultural approaches to prevention; and
- Promoting healthy, non-violent social norms, attitudes, beliefs, policies, and practices.

RPE is working. Building on the success of the innovative Green Dot bystander intervention campaign on campuses, Kentucky RPE programs are expanding into high schools. In an evaluation done on over 7,900 undergraduates, students trained in Green Dot had lower rape myth acceptance scores and engaged in significantly more bystander behaviors such as speaking up when they see a friend who is being hit or who looks scared or finding a trusted adult who can support in intervening when they witness acts of violence.

Across the country, states and communities are engaged in cutting-edge prevention projects.

- In California, billboards, radio ads, posters, and other media reach young men with the message, “My Strength is Not for Hurting.” In My Strength Clubs, young men in high schools involve their peers in prevention.
- *The Minnesota Summit: The High Cost of Sexual Violence* convened 200 of Minnesota’s best minds to create a statewide plan to prevent losses caused by sexual violence.
- RPE programs in New Jersey are conducting a statewide study to measure social norms as they relate to sexual violence.
- Tens of thousands of Texans participate in community-driven prevention strategies every year and enhance the capacity of other community organizations and citizens to implement prevention activities broadening the reach of prevention messaging.

Why fully fund RPE?

The societal costs of sexual violence are incredibly high including medical and mental health care, law enforcement response, and lost productivity. Annual victim costs for rape are estimated at \$127 billion (excluding the costs of child sexual abuse), making rape the most costly of all crimes.

According to 2010 data from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey:

- Nearly 1 in 5 women have been the victim of rape or attempted rape and nearly 1 in 2 women have experienced some form of sexual violence.

- Most female victims of completed rape (79.6%) experienced their first rape before the age of 25; 42.2% experienced their first completed rape before the age of 18 years.
- More than one-quarter of male victims of completed rape (27.8%) experienced their first rape when they were 10 years of age or younger.

Yet a 2010 survey by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence of 644 rape crisis centers indicated that 66% had to reduce prevention education and public awareness efforts because of funding losses.

If our children are to face a future free from sexual violence, RPE must be fully funded.

HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Contact Terri Poore, Policy Chair at (850) 363-2918 or tpoore@endsexualviolence.org.

For a full list of references, visit:
www.endsexualviolence.org/brochurecitations