

A Success Story:

Intentional Injury: Rape Prevention and Education for Adolescents Ages 11-19 in Kansas

State Program: Rape Prevention Education Program

National Health Objective: HO 15-35 Rape or attempted rape

Block Grant Role: Supplemental Funding

Block Grant Funding Percentage: 10-49% - Partial source of funding

Block Grant Current Year Funds: \$65,834

Issue:

According to the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), a national survey of high school students, approximately 9% of students reported having been forced to have sexual intercourse against their will in their lifetime (CDC 2004). Sexual violence starts very early in life. More than half of all rapes (54%) of women occur before age 18; 22% of these rapes occur before age 12 (Tjaden and Thoennes 2000). According to the National Violence Against Women Survey, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men in the United States has experienced an attempted or completed rape at some time in their lives (Tjaden and Thoennes 2000). In 8 out of 10 rape cases, the victim knew the perpetrator (Tjaden and Thoennes 2000).

The number of rapes reported to Kansas law enforcement (K.S.A. 21-3502) increased 17.1 percent in 2002 from the number reported in 2001. More than twenty-six percent of all rape offenders are reported to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs during the commission of the crime (Kansas Bureau of Investigation, 2002).

Intervention:

What we know: Use of the ecological prevention model (Jewkes, Sen, Garcia-Moren, 2002) provides a comprehensive approach to the revision of traditional health promotion strategies that seek to integrate social marketing and social mobilization theories in order to integrate personal and environmental approaches. Strategies in support of this method include: 1) Define the Problem, 2) Identify risk and protective factors, 3) Develop and test interventions, and 4) Ensure widespread adoption (Prevention: Beginning the Dialog, CDC, 2004).

What we did: Preventive Health and Health Services Block grant dollars were used by the Kansas Office of Injury Prevention and Disability Programs to develop locally funded projects that reduce intentional sexual violent crime.

- Using the ecological prevention model, pre-injury education programming was implemented seeking to change participants knowledge, attitudes, behavior, and environment regarding sexual violence.
- The Office of Health Promotion provided funding to eight local communities to conduct comprehensive prevention education covering topics including risk reduction, drug facilitated rape, role of bystander, sexual harassment, consent vs. coercion and more.
- Funds were used to train and inform adolescent youth, school personnel, lawyers/judges, substance abuse professionals, private sector, and law enforcement on sexual violence prevention issues.

Impact:

In the past year, 14,121 adolescent youth participated in rape prevention education activities. Several sites reported that due to this grant, an infrastructure supported efforts seeking social change. Success included training all school personnel in the Sedgwick County school district on sexual harassment. The Cowley County project reported success in changing the middle school handbook to include new sections on sexual harassment and bullying prevention. The block grant provided twenty six percent of the funding for this important initiative. Wyandotte County Project evaluation results indicate a positive change in changing attitudes regarding rape myths.

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