

Priorities for the Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence 2015-2020 Strategic Plan

Several populations have been identified as being at higher risk of victimization of sexual violence in New Mexico; these include:

- African Americans;
- Students on campuses;
- Children;
- People living with disabilities;
- Immigrants and refugees;
- People who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning/queer;
- Native Americans;
- Older adults;
- People living in rural communities; and,
- Women.

The disproportionate risks observed in these populations and the considerations needed when conducting sexual violence prevention efforts with these communities are described. Also briefly included is reference to work underway as required by the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

Objectives to meet the following goals are detailed throughout the plan:

Goal 1: Change norms surrounding the acceptability of sexual violence in NM.

Goal 2: Create safer environments through changes to organizational policies and infrastructure in NM. And,

Goal 3: Increase use of the public health approach in statewide sexual violence prevention efforts in NM.

As far as background on the plan, this context provides greater understanding: The NMDOH, New Mexico Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, Inc. (NMCSAP) and the UNM School of Medicine Prevention Research Center (PRC) previously collaborated on a 3-year strategic plan (2009-2012) that focused specifically on building capacity for primary prevention of sexual violence. This was accomplished through targeted training around root causes of sexual violence, what evidenced-based primary prevention is, and how to apply primary prevention principles to programming. The Technical Assistance (TA) UNM PRC provides actually started because of the first strategic plan, as providing TA to assist programs in implementing training content was a primary focus of the plan. The capacity building was aimed at rape crisis centers and behavioral health organizations that provided sexual assault counseling services. The current plan is taking a much broader approach to move primary prevention from a focus solely on programming to include environmental and policy strategies at state and local levels.