



# **New Jersey 2010: Sexual Violence Primary Prevention Plan**

## **At a Glance**

*In New Jersey, all individuals will be free of the threat, fear or acts of sexual violence in all its forms*

With support from

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention & Control  
and  
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division on Women

Prepared by the Prevention & Public Education Committee of the  
Governor's Advisory Council Against Sexual Violence, NJ

# Stopping Sexual Violence Before It Occurs:

*Creating Safer, Healthier Communities Through Primary Prevention*

## Engaging New Partners in Prevention

The 2010 – 2020 New Jersey Sexual Violence Prevention Plan is the result of a three year collaborative effort by national, state and local partners. Historically New Jersey focused most of its efforts on crisis response and survivor treatment only after an incident of sexual violence had occurred. Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this plan represents a proactive, cutting edge and comprehensive set of actions to stop sexual violence before it occurs in New Jersey.

### The Situation

- Because most sexual crimes go unreported, most of us are unaware of the victims and perpetrators who live in our communities.
- The societal and individual costs of sexual violence are higher than any other crime. The good news is that prevention of sexual violence is a cost effective investment.
- Sexual violence is part of a larger culture of violence that shares risk factors with other societal problems of child abuse, gang violence, bullying, and domestic violence. These problems plague our communities, schools and families and require our joint efforts to solve them.
- Sexual violence harms everyone so everyone has a role in its prevention.
- It is time to start focusing on preventing perpetration while continuing to support survivors of sexual violence. Both prevention and treatment are critical needs in our communities.

### The Solution

- Prepare teens and adults to intervene early when they witness or are aware of behaviors that support a culture of violence, and use these intervention practices to establish community standards that promote safety and equality.
- Institute policies and standards that protect those at highest risk.
- Integrate sexual violence prevention efforts with other types of prevention efforts to ensure that our youngest children learn empathy for others and have strong relationships that protect them from a life of violence.
- Ensure that our increasingly sexualized media environment is challenged and changed.
- Promote gender equity so that both boys and girls feel fully valued and protected as individuals, in their relationships, and in their community.

## **The Key Players**

- The New Jersey State Prevention Team, which includes representatives from state government, social service programs, educational institutions, underserved communities, offender treatment programs and the criminal justice system.
- Leadership support from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA), the New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Violence Prevention.
- County-based Sexual Violence Programs that coordinate prevention efforts in local communities, schools and colleges.
- County-based coalitions that support the state prevention goals and customize prevention efforts to meet local needs.
- YOU – we need everyone at the local and state level to bring our prevention plan to life.

## **The Desired Outcomes**

- Eliminate sexual violence in NJ.
- Promote social norms that support safety and equality.
- Build the capacity of individuals, organizations and communities to implement, integrate and evaluate prevention efforts.
- Coordinate data collection systems to track trends and to evaluate progress and success.
- Ensure dedicated funding streams for prevention and treatment that adequately supports both efforts.

## **Your Role – Become A Partner in Prevention**

- Join your county Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition and become a leader in New Jersey's prevention efforts.
- Become an advocate for sexual violence prevention by becoming a friend of NJCASA on Facebook.
- Sponsor sexual violence prevention training in your middle or high school or at your college or university.
- Attend NJCASA's Training Institute: learn how to help bystanders become interveners; how to change media messages; and how to shape social norms.
- Contact your county's Sexual Violence Program, listed on the NJCASA website, to learn more about other ways to support the prevention efforts in your community. Go to [www.njcasa.org](http://www.njcasa.org) for more information.