Public Health Problem

Sexual violence is a major public health problem in Oklahoma. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) conducted in 2010 estimated the lifetime prevalence of rape in the U.S. at 18% for adult women and 1% for adult men. Forty-two percent of women who reported completed rape were younger than 18 years of age when the first rape occurred.

Data from the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) found that 10% of girls and 3% of boys in public schools, grades 9-12, had been forced to have unwanted sexual intercourse, and 13% of girls had been forced to do something sexual by a dating partner in the past year.

According to the University of Oklahoma Public Opinion Learning Laboratory (OU-Poll) Sexual Assault Survey, nearly one-third (31%) of women 18-35 years of age had been sexually assaulted; 1% had been sexually assaulted in the past 12 months.

By taking into account the cultural strengths of the Native American communities in planning prevention activities, Community Crisis Center was able to bring together government staff, Community Crisis Center, and tribal representatives to develop effective strategies to meet such a diverse population's needs.

Effective prevention programs have long recognized the need for culturally appropriate programming. While there are many available strategies, selecting the most effective prevention programming was difficult.

Through partnerships with area tribal government staff, Community Crisis Center was able to bring together community members and develop effective prevention strategies. With higher than average rates of sexual violence and violence rates, Native American tribes have long recognized the need for effective prevention programs. Through partnerships with area tribal government staff, Community Crisis Center was able to bring together community members and develop effective prevention strategies.

New in the last 5 years, many Native American tribes have long recognized the need for effective prevention programs. Through partnerships with area tribal government staff, Community Crisis Center was able to bring together community members and develop effective prevention strategies.

Challenges

Effective prevention programs have long recognized the need for culturally appropriate programming. While there are many available strategies, selecting the most effective prevention programming was difficult.
experts to select, plan, and implement strategies that are culturally appropriate and fit with community norms and strengths.

**Community Collaboration**

Oklahoma’s Native American population and various tribal governments present unique opportunities for partnerships with tribes and organizations serving Native American youth. In Miami, Oklahoma, the local domestic and sexual violence service provider has developed a community-level strategy to increase communication, resource sharing, and partnerships to prevent sexual violence. The Community Crisis Center has partnered with the family violence services divisions of local tribal governments to increase readiness, develop community support, and train providers to implement culturally appropriate sexual violence prevention strategies.

Through the relationships developed by the Prevention Educator at Community Crisis Center, staff from the Miami, Cherokee and Wyandotte Nations, and Seneca Cayuga, Eastern Shawnee, QuaPaw, and Peoria Tribes, are planning or implementing culturally appropriate sexual violence prevention strategies that include a strong theoretical basis in best practices in prevention.

Partners assessed community risk factors and strengths to select appropriate strategies, as well as organizational strengths and existing resources to implement strategies in communities that had been resistant in the past.

By incorporating sexual violence prevention into existing family violence prevention programming, Community Crisis Center has developed a unique solution to challenges of implementing prevention programming in a rural, culturally diverse population.

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