

Prevention of Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence in South Carolina



A Status Report by
South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
(SCCADVASA)
2017-2019





Prevention as Mission and Vision

SCCADVASA is the collective voice promoting the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault in South Carolina. In addition to working alongside our 22 member organizations to support comprehensive services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, SCCADVASA works with members, partners, allies, and communities to prevent first-time occurrences of harm. Since domestic violence and sexual assault are products of a culture that perpetuates violence and aggression, we can prevent sexual and domestic violence by changing values, attitudes, behaviors, social conditions, and environments. Our vision is a South Carolina free from domestic violence and sexual assault.

We seek to engage entire communities in taking on the responsibility of preventing domestic violence and sexual assault, supporting equitable, non-violent relationships, and challenging harmful social norms. In this way, our prevention efforts will simultaneously develop communities that also support the safety and healing of survivors.

Imagine what South Carolina will look like when violence is completely eliminated. What more will we be able to accomplish in our families and communities? When we reach that goal, we will be able to fully devote our attention to supporting healthy relationships, where all individuals are respected and cared for. To help us move toward that vision, we are excited to release this document, which is a report of the strengths, barriers, and needs of prevention efforts at SCCADVASA and its 22 member organizations and a three-year strategy for advancing prevention efforts across South Carolina in 2019.

Strengths and Barriers to Violence Prevention Programming in SC

SCCADVASA and its members are experts in the field of violence prevention programming and educational outreach. Our collective aim is to promote safe, healthy relationships through effective primary prevention programming, social change, and resource development. Primary prevention programs are those that focus on building an understanding of healthy relationships and respect in order to reduce the likelihood of sexual assault or relationship violence from occurring in the first place. Many of the domestic and sexual violence organizations have a decades-long history of providing in-depth, multi-day training sessions with youth in schools, aftercare facilities, churches, and other youth-serving facilities. In 2017, the 15 rape crisis centers that are members of SCCADVASA's Coalition provided over 5,230 trainings and speaking engagements to educate youth and train community members.

To capture a picture of the current status of sexual and domestic violence prevention efforts, in 2016 SCCADVASA conducted a statewide strengths and needs assessment¹ of our 23¹ member organizations and following up with several surveys of membership staff and leadership. From that information, SCCADVASA created a strategy for the Coalition to use between 2017 and 2019 to support prevention efforts within its member agencies and beyond. *(See the appendix on pages 12 and 13 for results of the assessment.)*

Identified Strengths of Member Agency's Prevention Programming:

- Provision of multi-session programs in schools and youth-serving organizations covering topics such as characteristics of healthy relationships, gender norms, gender equality, warning signs of abuse, consent, the role of technology in abuse, bystander skill building, bullying, empathy, and community services available for teen dating violence
- Provision of prevention-based education and awareness programs with colleges and universities
- Engagement with faith communities
- Approaching prevention within a social justice framework
- Potential for legislative support from the passing of Erin's Law in South Carolina

Identified Challenges of Member Agency's Prevention Programming:

- Lack of funds, sufficient staff, and expertly trained professionals to deliver primary prevention programs with fidelity
- Lack of understanding among community partners and internal staff and leadership about the differences between prevention, intervention, and risk reduction
- Lack of engagement within school systems and schools, especially those that do not have a history of discussing sexual violence and healthy relationships, or those that are resistant to discussing these sensitive topics
- Resistance from some parents who did not want children receiving education on sexual and intimate partner violence and healthy relationships
- Barriers to reaching and including parents in prevention efforts
- Resistance from community partners and schools to do multi-session programs/desire for single events, which have demonstrated limited efficacy
- Difficulty establishing long-term collaborative relationships with community partners
- Territoriality among agencies and partners
- Difficulty in developing strong, consistent, and cohesive messaging and communications across the state
- Challenges expanding the reach of programming, especially into previously untapped markets or in unserved/underserved communities
- Programming that is only focused on individual and relationship-level prevention/not incorporating environmental community change, creation of safe communities, or societal change

¹ In January 2017, SCCADVASA's membership decreased from 23 to 22 organizations due to the merging of two organizations.

Based on the needs identified in the strength and needs assessment, SCCADVASA identified the following challenges as the agency's focus for 2017 through 2019:

- SCCADVASA will gain a greater understanding of prevention efforts happening across the state, will disseminate this information among member organizations, and create greater clarity on SCCADVASA and its member organizations' role in local and statewide violence prevention programming.
- Through training, technical assistance, and the exploration of expanded funding, SCCADVASA will build the capacity of its member organizations to conduct primary prevention programming. Special consideration will be paid to domestic violence organizations because there is a greater lack of funding at those agencies to do prevention work.
- SCCADVASA will incorporate anti-oppression, equity, and intersectionality frameworks into the Coalition's prevention efforts and will make prevention programming more inclusive of marginalized communities.
- SCCADVASA will expand prevention efforts at the community and societal levels.
- SCCADVASA will continue to strengthen their ability to provide advanced prevention-focused technical assistance and be a statewide voice on the primary prevention of sexual and domestic violence.

State and National Prevention Strategies Across the Social-Ecological Model

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) use a four-level approach to better understand the factors that cause and impact violence. This Social-Ecological Model can be a guide to understanding how SCCADVASA works to complement and support the prevention strategies of its member organizations. When the Coalition and its membership work in tandem along the Social-Ecological Model, the complex, intersecting nature of these issues will be addressed.



SCCADVASA Primary and Secondary Prevention Strategies

INDIVIDUAL	RELATIONSHIP	COMMUNITY	SOCIETY
<p>Capacity building and technical assistance to service providers and prevention professionals</p> <p>Facilitation of trainings on the culture of violence and social justice</p> <p>Legislative advocacy and policy development to hold offenders accountable</p> <p>Social media campaigns to spread knowledge to individuals</p>	<p>Development of networks among and between service providers and other professionals</p> <p>Legislative advocacy and policy development that supports healthy, equal relationships and supportive parenting</p> <p>Collaboration with and support to child- and parent-serving organizations such as DSS and DJJ</p> <p>Social media campaigns about healthy relationships</p>	<p>Coordination of prevention roundtables and multidisciplinary groups for member organization staff, external partners and other professionals</p> <p>Support for the development of community-based multidisciplinary groups</p> <p>Prevention trainings for membership and broader community</p> <p>Capacity building and technical assistance to service providers and other professionals to support the creation of safe communities for all</p> <p>Legislative advocacy and policy development to support and create safe, equitable communities and affordable housing</p> <p>State-wide prevention media campaigns about safe communities and social justice</p>	<p>Participation on and leadership in statewide committees and taskforces</p> <p>Legislative advocacy and policy development to promote systemic change and support justice for all</p> <p>Strategic prevention planning for the state</p> <p>Advocacy for funding for prevention programming</p> <p>Participation in national and state lobbying efforts</p> <p>State-wide and national media and social media campaigns</p> <p>Resource sharing to statewide and national partners</p>

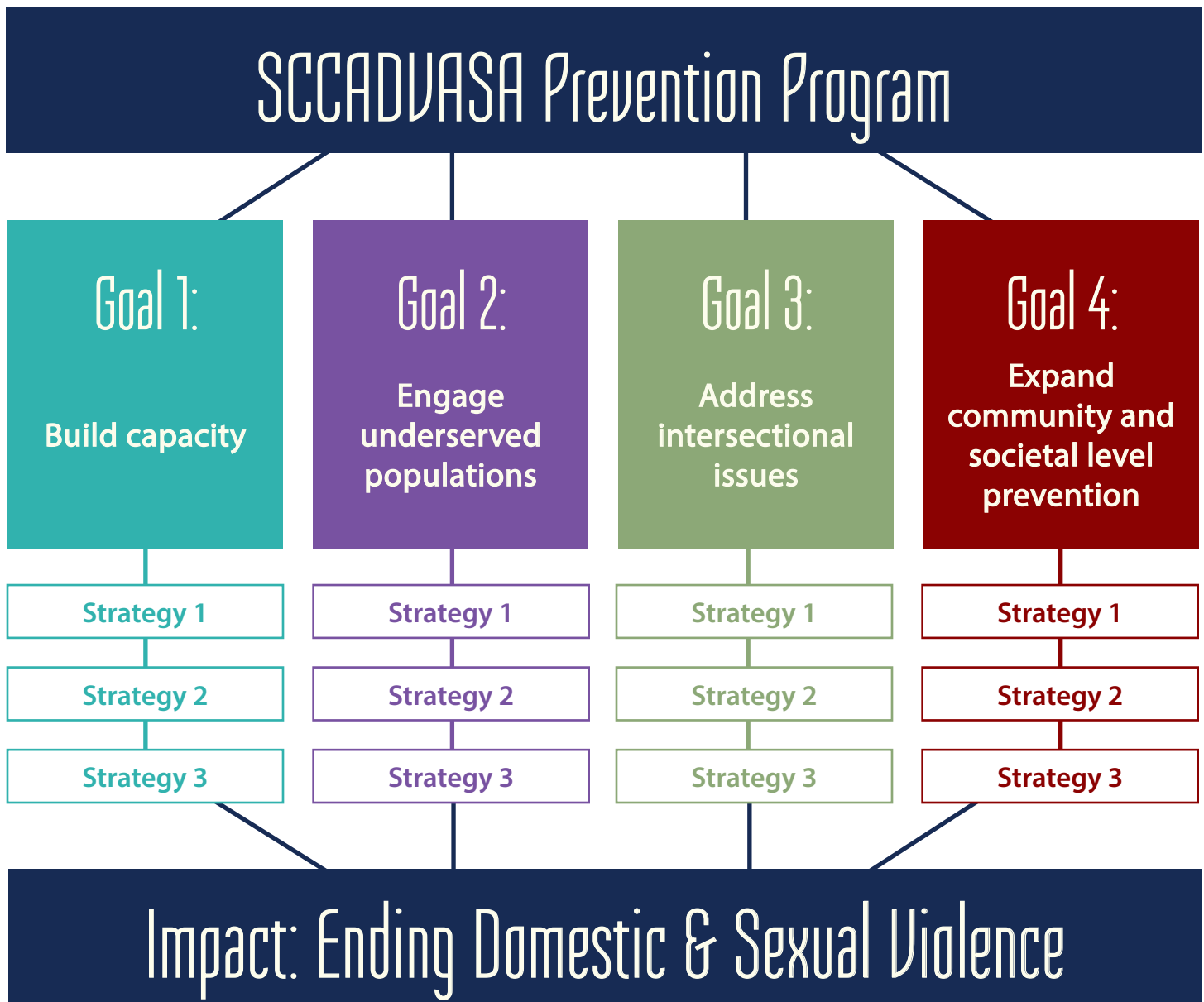
Member Organizations' Primary and Secondary Prevention Strategies

INDIVIDUAL	RELATIONSHIP	COMMUNITY	SOCIETY
<p>Skills-based education for students in schools and community programs</p> <p>Teaching youth and college students about consent, violence, emotions, self-esteem, etc.</p> <p>Mentorship for at-risk youth</p> <p>Psychoeducational groups for perpetrators and survivors</p> <p>Social media campaigns to spread knowledge</p>	<p>Healthy relationship-skills education for students in schools and community programs</p> <p>Parent-child relationship strengthening programs</p> <p>Support for clubs and groups in schools, colleges/universities, and community centers</p> <p>Psychoeducational groups for perpetrators and survivors</p>	<p>Prevention initiatives aimed at changing community norms around violence</p> <p>School-based programs that change school climate and support school-wide policy change</p> <p>Support for clubs and groups in schools, colleges/universities, and community centers</p> <p>Participation and leadership in community workgroups, multidisciplinary teams, and taskforces</p>	<p>Participation in state-wide lobbying efforts</p> <p>Engagement with policy development initiatives</p>

SCCADVASA's Primary Prevention Strategic Plan 2017-2019

SCCADVASA continues to use our tools of advocacy, collaboration, and education to promote the prevention of first-time occurrence of sexual and domestic violence, as well as to support secondary prevention and the protection of survivors. From 2017 through 2019, we will use a multi-pronged approach to focus on four key areas: 1) building the capacity of statewide members and allies to facilitate and manage effective programming, 2) engaging historically underserved and marginalized communities to promote more inclusive prevention and intervention services; 3) exploring the intersections of social justice with sexual and domestic violence prevention, and 4) expanding community and societal level prevention programming. At the end of 2019, the outcomes will be better-trained staff to facilitate prevention programming at rape crisis and domestic violence centers, an increase in number of Coalition members conducting prevention programming in their communities, an increase in programming at member agencies that targets the creation and support of safe communities, improved collaboration among prevention professionals within and outside of Coalition membership, and increased understanding of the intersecting barriers faced by historically marginalized and underserved communities.

The following pages describe the strategies that are or will be used through 2019 to achieve these goals, and some status updates as of mid-year 2018.



Goal 1. Develop capacity for member organizations to engage in/or expand prevention work

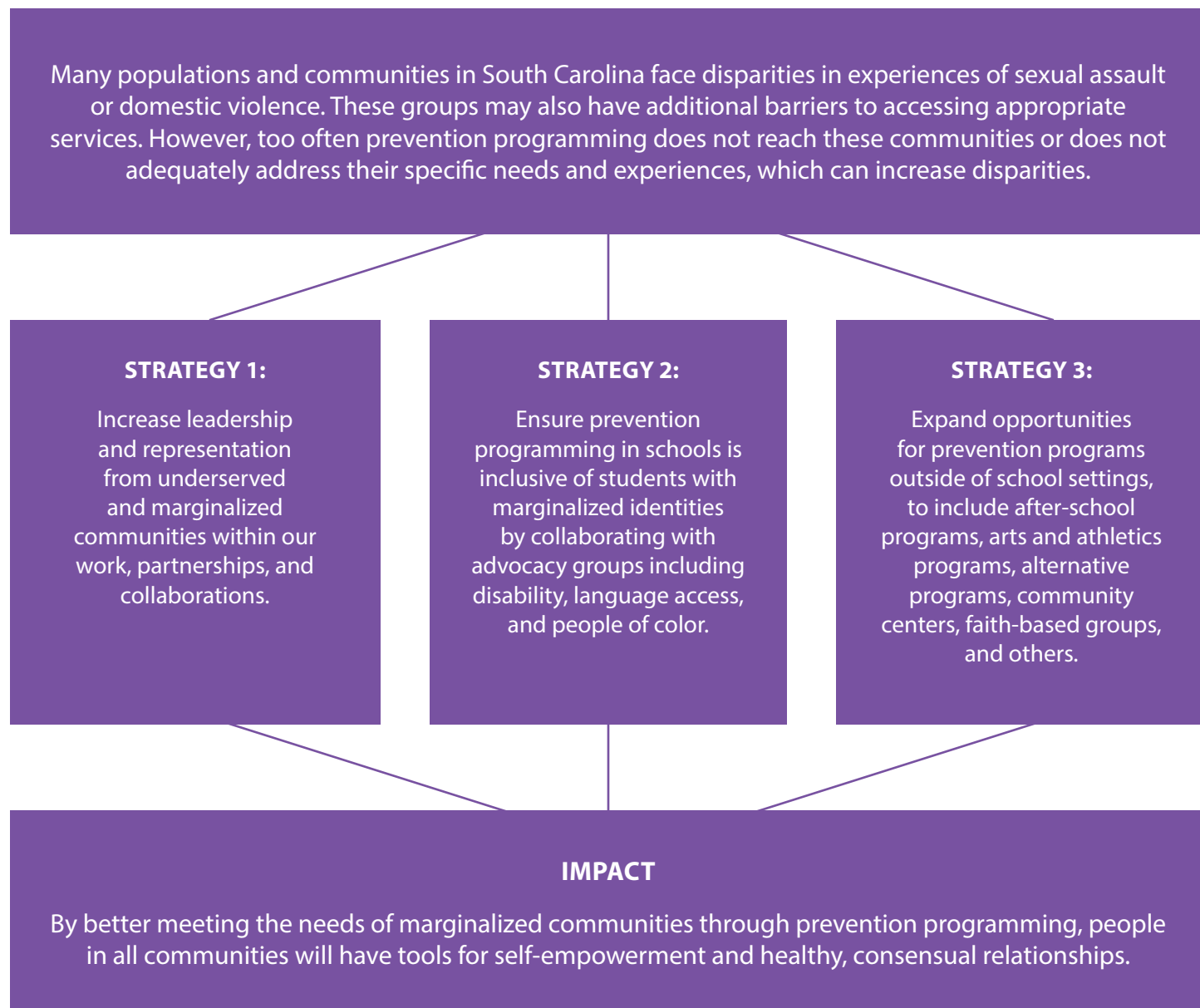


Status Update and Highlights:

In 2018, SCCADVASA worked with SC DHEC to host a series of state-wide prevention conferences. In May, domestic violence and sexual assault organizations strategized how to incorporate community-level programming into their current prevention initiatives. In October, member organizations and allies were brought together to learn about an example of community level prevention and to explore potential partnerships to create safe communities.

SCCADVASA hosts the Community Educators roundtable, which brings together prevention educators from member organizations and provides opportunities to share resources, brainstorm common challenges and solutions, receive ongoing training, and provide support through relationship-building. The group meets bi-monthly in person and also communicates regularly through an email group. In 2018, SCCADVASA developed a Prevention Educators' toolkit with resources to help orient new prevention staff at member organizations and connect them to the broader network of prevention educators in the state.

Goal 2. Increase engagement with underserved and marginalized communities to better meet their needs around prevention programming



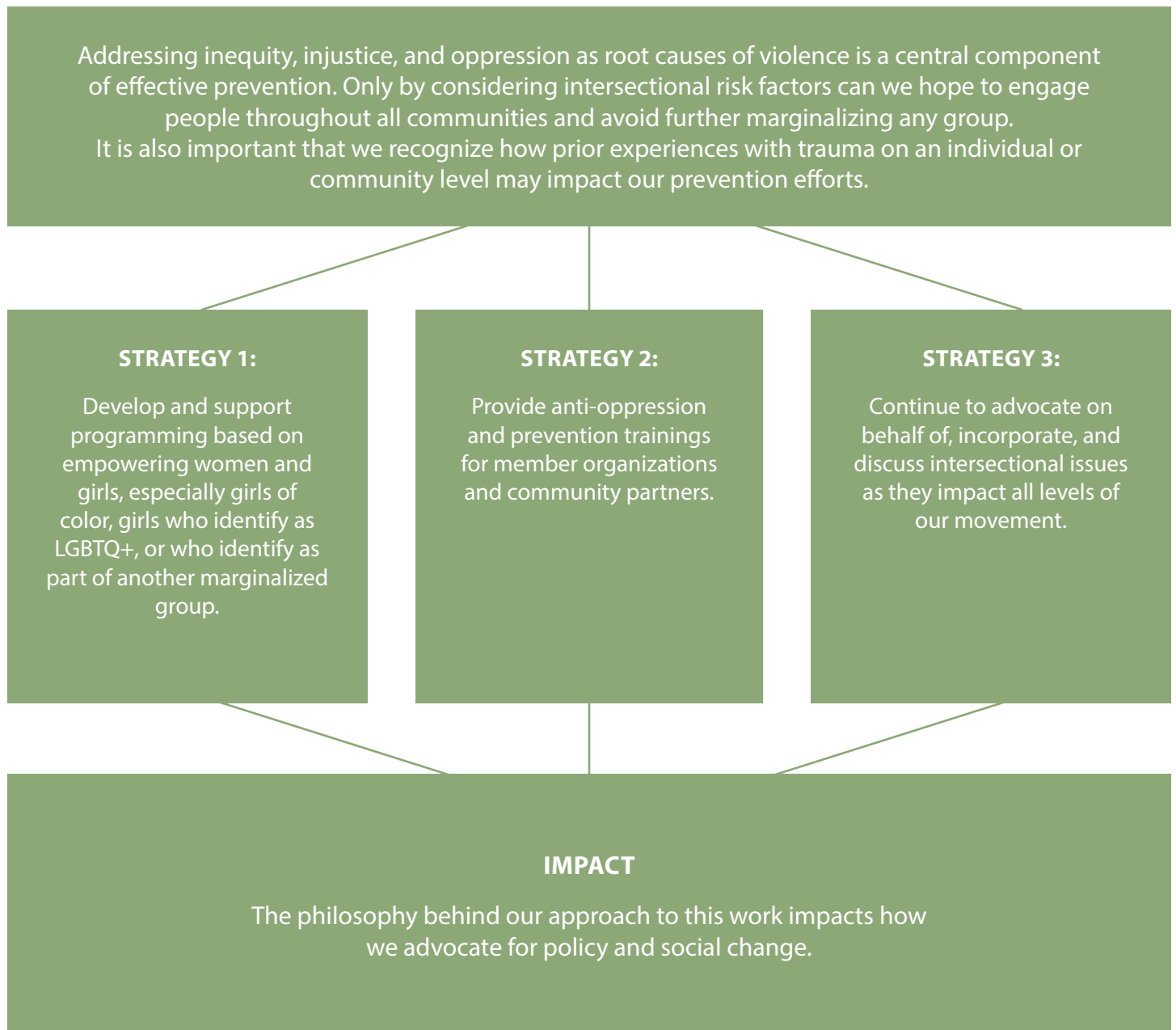
Status Update and Highlights:

In 2017, SCCADVASA created new prevention trainings on topics including:

Empowering youth for violence prevention and healthy relationships; Human Trafficking Collaboration, Advocacy, and Prevention; The #MeToo Moment and Meaningful Progress; Preventing Sexual Violence in Online Dating; Linking Response and Prevention; Equity in Victim Services.

SCCADVASA also engages a Communities of Color Project and coordinates the Centering Voices Roundtable. Both projects work to improve understanding of the barriers to serving marginalized groups (specifically African American women and LGBTQ+ survivors, respectively) and to create/promote tools to address their specific needs.

Goal 3. Operate from a social justice framework and address intersectional issues in sexual and domestic violence

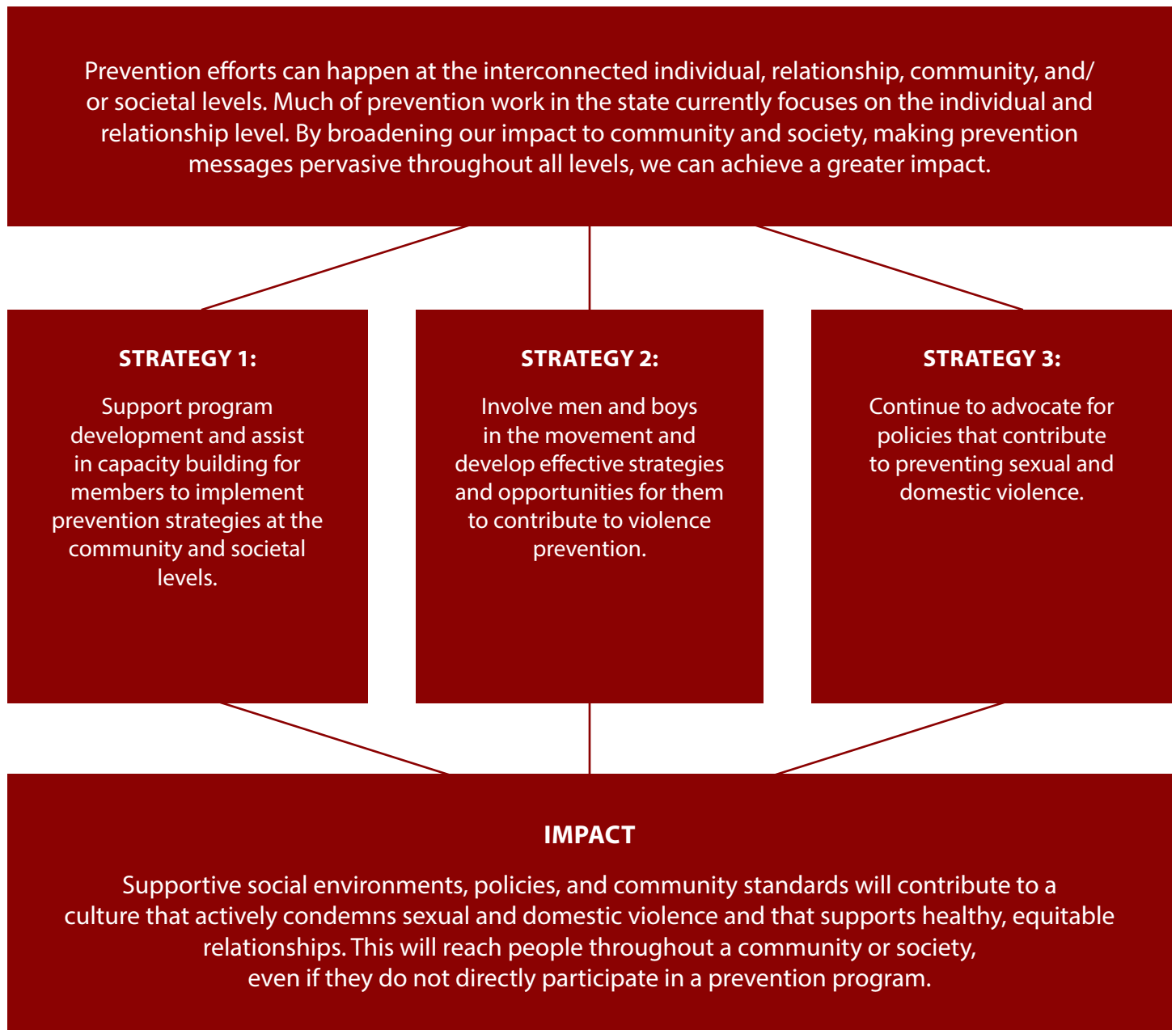


Status Update and Highlights:

In 2017 and 2018, SCCADVASA participated in many community events that were targeting intersecting issues such as: Charleston World AIDS Day, SC Pride Day, SC Youth Empowerment and Access - Safe Schools Summit, EQUIP Young Adult Leadership Group at ABLE SC, SC PASOs Health Fair, The Hive Community Circle, Love Thy Neighbor Unity Day, Ujima's Listening Sessions, SC Farmworkers Institute, and National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

SCCADVASA is actively engaged on the following committees and groups: Ujima, The State Alliance for Adolescent Sexual Health, Palmetto State Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition, Domestic Violence Coordinating Councils (multiple counties), Sexual Assault Response Teams (multiple counties), Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee, and Attorney General's Human Trafficking Workgroup.

Goal 4. Expand prevention efforts to have impact at community and societal levels



Status Update and Highlights:

The SCCADVASA College Consortium on Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence is a collaborative network of colleges and universities and their local domestic violence and sexual assault organizations working toward comprehensive prevention programming and advocacy for all survivors on SC campuses. From 2017-2018, the Consortium has grown to almost 100 members.

In July 2018, SCCADVASA created a database of programs and curricula, many of which are used around the state to engage men and boys in violence prevention. This project was complimented by individual interviews with organizations around the state to gather the details of their programs. Research and interviews showed that programs targeted at healthy masculinity and mentoring that are in gender specific spaces are most common.

Looking Ahead

In collaboration with our 22 member organizations and community partners, SCCADVASA works toward a unified vision of a state free from domestic and sexual violence. By focusing on the goals and desired impacts outlined in this three-year strategic prevention plan, we will take several leaps forward toward reaching that vision. How do you see yourself in this vision? We cannot do this work alone. Consider reaching out to SCCADVASA's prevention team or one of the prevention professionals at a member organization to learn about how you can be part of making South Carolina a state that is safe and healthy for all people.



Contact Us:

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SCCADVASA Member Organizations

Beyond Abuse – Greenwood, Laurens,
Abbeville Counties
www.beyondabuse.info

CASA Family Systems – Orangeburg, Calhoun,
Bamberg Counties
www.casafamilysystems.com

Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons – Aiken,
Allendale, Barnwell, Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda
www.cumbeecenter.org

The Family Justice Center – Horry, Georgetown
www.fjcgtownhorry.org

The Family Resource Center – Kershaw, Lee
www.thefamilyresourcecenter.org

Foothills Alliance Center – Anderson, Oconee
www.foothillsalliance.org

Hopeful Horizons – Beaufort, Hampton,
Colleton, Jasper, Allendale
www.hopefulhorizons.org

Julie Valentine Center – Greenville
www.julievalentinecenter.org

Laurens County SAFE Home – Laurens, Saluda,
Abbeville
www.thesafehome.org

Meg's House – McCormick, Edgefield, Greenwood
www.megshouse.org

My Sister's House, Inc. – Charleston, Berkeley,
Dorchester
www.mysistershouse.org

Palmetto CASA – Lancaster, Chester, Fairfield
www.palmettocasa.org

Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic
and Sexual Assault – Florence, Darlington, Marion,
Chesterfield, Malboro, Dillon, Williamsburg
www.peedeecoalition.org

People Against Rape – Charleston, Berkeley,
Dorchester
www.peopleagainstrape.org

Pickens County Advocacy Center – Pickens
www.pickenscountyadvocacycenter.com

Safe Harbor, Inc. – Greenville, Oconee,
Pickens, Anderson
www.safeharborsc.org

Safe Homes Rape Crisis Coalition – Union,
Spartanburg, Cherokee
www.shrcc.org

Safe Passage, Inc. – York, Chester, Lancaster, Union
www.safepassagesc.org

Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands – Richland,
Lexington, Newberry, Sumter, Clarendon
www.stsm.org

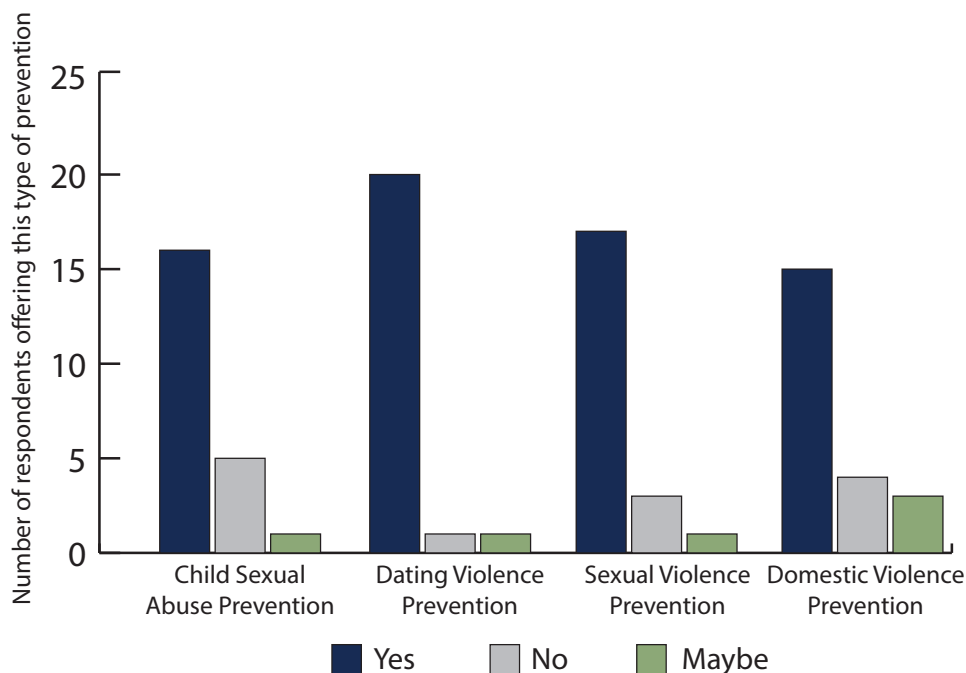
Sistercare, Inc. – Richland, Lexington, Newberry,
Fairfield, Kershaw
www.sistercare.org

The Rape Crisis Center – Horry, Georgetown
www.victimtosurvivor.org

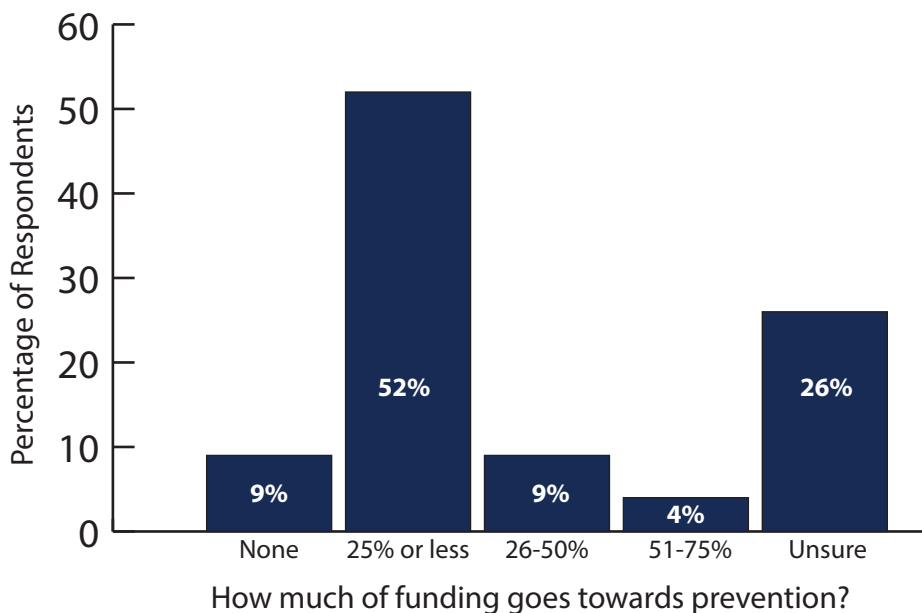
YWCA of the Upper Lowlands, Inc. – Sumter, Lee
www.ywcasumter.org

Appendix: Results of the 2016 Strengths and Needs Assessment

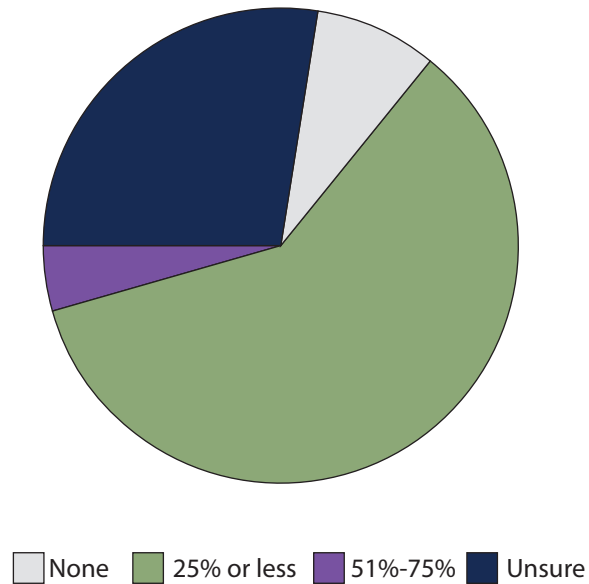
Types of Prevention Programs Offered



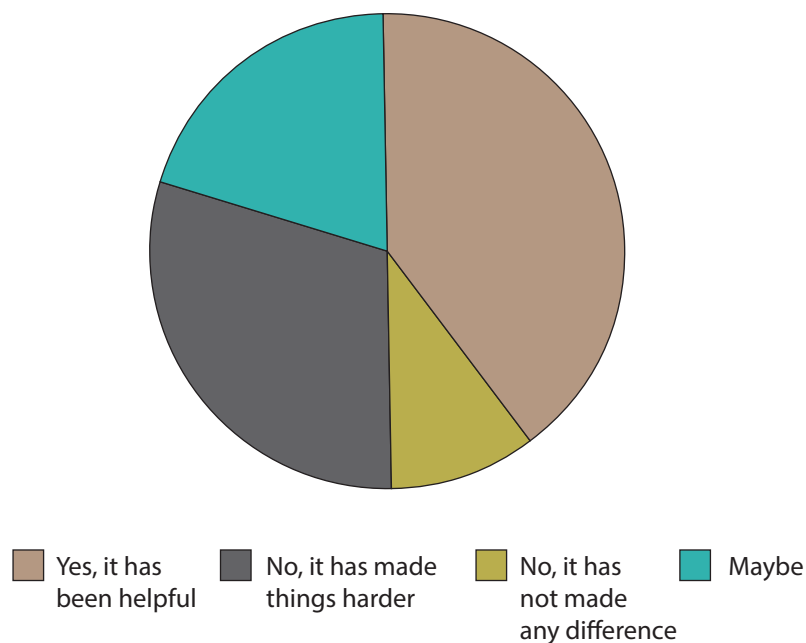
Estimated percentage of resources your organization dedicates to preventing first time occurrence of violence



Of resources allocated to preventing first-time occurrence of violence, what percentage of resources is devoted to activities that engage male-identified individuals?



Have you found Erin's Law helpful in your organization's efforts?





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