

# PRIORITY POLL 2018 PREVENTION

The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) seeks feedback from the 60 state and territory sexual assault coalitions and 55 Rape Prevention Education grantees at state and territory Departments of Health on prevention priorities in the biannual Priority Poll. Below are the top three priorities related to the prevention of sexual violence.

## SOCIAL NORMS CHANGE

Our culture's social norms tolerate sexual violence. Social norms are unwritten rules on how to behave. Harmful social norms permit people to hurt others in ways that are socially acceptable and without consequence.<sup>1</sup>

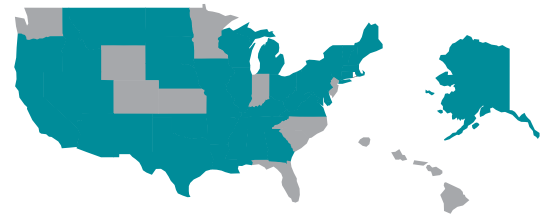
## PRIMARY PREVENTION

Primary prevention takes place before sexual violence occurs to prevent victimization.<sup>2</sup> The goal of primary prevention efforts is to decrease the number of individuals who commit sexual violence and thus the number of individuals who are victimized.

## BYSTANDER INTERVENTION

A bystander is someone who intervenes when they see or hear something that promotes sexual violence.<sup>3</sup>

**IN TOTAL 55** health departments and sexual violence coalitions participated in the survey.



**37% INCREASE**

Compared to the 2016 prevention poll, responses increased by over 37%. Responses highlighted the same top priorities this year.

Other top identified priorities included prevention work with communities of color and engaging men and boys.



<sup>1</sup>World Health Organization. (2009). *Violence prevention: the evidence: Changing cultural and social norms that support violence*. Retrieved from [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/norms.pdf](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/norms.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2004). *Sexual violence prevention: Beginning the dialogue*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/svprevention-a.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>National Sexual Violence Resource Center. (2015). *Engaging bystanders*. Retrieved from [https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/2015-01/publications\\_nsvrc\\_factsheet\\_media-packet\\_engaging-bystanders\\_0.pdf](https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/2015-01/publications_nsvrc_factsheet_media-packet_engaging-bystanders_0.pdf)