



How Chapters Can Get Involved in Prevention Insights from ATSA's Prevention Committee

Background

We, ATSA's Prevention Committee, are excited to support a growing number of ATSA Chapters who have expressed interest in getting involved in sexual violence prevention¹. We believe that ATSA members can play a key role in contributing to discussions related to prevention efforts, particularly perpetration prevention, while acknowledging the pain that is caused to victims and survivors of sexual violence.

ATSA and ATSA members offer a unique perspective on efforts to stop the perpetration of unhealthy, harmful, dangerous and illegal sexual behavior. Preventing the perpetration of sexual violence is a part of the larger frame of prevention that others are beginning to acknowledge. We advance the conversation by offering information about what puts someone at risk for causing sexual violence and what may prevent the first-time perpetration of sexual abuse, and how to prevent further sexual abuse by those who have abused. The ultimate goal, and center point for our frame, is making our society a safer place to live for everyone

Getting Started

ATSA and ATSA's members have been working on prevention for decades, and we do not have to do this work in isolation. There are many others who have been working towards preventing sexual violence in our communities. Who are these potential key partners? To begin your work, we suggest that you start with an environmental scan of the key work that is already being done in your area – our advice to you is, be efficient and impactful; don't recreate the wheel.

Seek out statewide and local key partners and potential partners that may include:

- Sexual assault coalitions,
- State agencies (e.g., Department of Public Health, Department of Mental Health, Child Protective services and other state specific initiatives),
- Children's trust fund,
- County prevention task forces and county victim services
- Statewide organizations for child advocacy centers, legislative allies, etc.,
- Local rape crisis centers,
- Local child advocacy centers,

¹ Although ATSA talks about sexual abuse, the term sexual violence is used more in the victim advocacy world. Because this document is about reaching out to key stakeholders, the terms used by the stakeholders is also used here.

- Faith based programs, local mental health clinics and organizations, and other non-sexual violence specific programs, and
- Domestic violence shelters (even though their primary focus is not on sexual violence, the issues are largely intertwined).
- Your local police may have initiatives that address prevention.
- Other partners may include schools, youth serving organizations, colleges and universities, probation, sex offender management programs, etc.

Support yourself with Key Resources from ATSA's Prevention Committee

ATSA members will bring a much-needed perspective to prevention and specifically to preventing the perpetration of sexual violence. Before making any contact with these other organizations, please take some time to review just some of the resources that ATSA Prevention Committee has created to help you with your journey. The key documents are listed below:

- 1) [Sometimes It's Not the Picture, It's the Frame](https://www.atsa.com/pdfs/Prevention/ATSA_Prevention_Framing_2014.pdf) is a framing document that can help jump start a conversation about the unique perspective that ATSA members offer to the conversation.
https://www.atsa.com/pdfs/Prevention/ATSA_Prevention_Framing_2014.pdf
- 2) To more easily convey the important information from ATSA to a more general public, the ATSA Prevention Committee has created two infographics (and the supporting text materials for those who want to look more deeply at these issues.)
 - a. [5 Things to Know about Preventing Sexual Abuse](http://www.atsa.com/preventingsexualabuse) provides an overview of the unique perspective ATSA offers to the field <http://www.atsa.com/preventingsexualabuse>.
 - b. 5 Things to know about Adolescents and Children with Sexual Behavior Problems offers insights into the different approach for this younger population
<http://www.atsa.com/infographic>.
- 3) Given that language is key to building connections and to establishing closer collaborations with other agencies, the ATSA Prevention Committee has written a document called, [Talking About Prevention](http://www.atsa.com/pdfs/Prevention/TalkingAboutPrevention.pdf). This paper covers the basic definitions of prevention and will be helpful in these initial conversations with key stakeholders.
<http://www.atsa.com/pdfs/Prevention/TalkingAboutPrevention.pdf>
- 4) Prevention Podcasts in collaboration with Prevent-Connect:
 - a. In this interview, Maia Christopher, Executive Director of ATSA and David Prescott, Immediate Past President of ATSA discuss how ATSA has focused on sexual violence prevention. [The Work of ATSA to Prevent Sexual Abuse](http://www.preventconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/files/mail/newsletter/2010-09-20.html#A) ;
<http://www.preventconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/files/mail/newsletter/2010-09-20.html#A>.
 - b. In this interview Sally Thigpen and Joan Tabachnick, co-chairs of ATSA's Prevention Committee, discuss the results of a recent survey of ATSA membership about their

interest, experiences and opportunities for primary prevention of sexual violence.

[Collaborating with ATSA for Prevention; http://www.preventconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/files/mail/newsletter/2010-09-20.html#A](http://www.preventconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/files/mail/newsletter/2010-09-20.html#A)

For more information about sexual abuse prevention, we suggest the following resources

- **[NSVRC \(National Sexual Violence Resource Center\)](https://www.nsvrc.org/)** The NSVRC's Mission is to provide leadership in preventing and responding to sexual violence through collaboration, sharing and creating resources, and promoting research. Founded by the [Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape](#), the oldest and one of the largest state sexual assault coalitions, the NSVRC is funded through a cooperative agreement from the [Centers For Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Violence Prevention](#). The NSVRC is one place that can help identify local services that may partner with ATSA members. <https://www.nsvrc.org/>
- **[Prevent-Connect](http://www.preventconnect.org/)** is a national project of the [California Coalition Against Sexual Assault](#) with funding from the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), [National Center for Injury Prevention and Control](#). The goal of Prevent Connect is to advance the primary prevention of sexual assault and relationship violence by building a community of practice among people who are engaged in such efforts. <http://www.preventconnect.org/>
- **[NCSBY \(The National Center on Sexual Behavior of Youth\)](http://www.ncsby.org/)** provides information, training and technical assistance for working with children and adolescents with sexual behavior problems and illegal sexual behavior. The Center was developed jointly through the Office of Juvenile Justice and the University of Oklahoma. <http://www.ncsby.org/>
- **[CSOM \(Center for Sex Offender Management\)](http://csom.org/)**. Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) enhances public safety through improving the management of adult and juvenile sex offenders in the community. CSOM provides ready access to the most current knowledge and effective practices in the field. <http://csom.org/>
- **[Safer Society Foundation \(SSFI\)](http://www.saferociety.org/)** is a non-profit agency providing national research, advocacy, and a referral center for those providing treatment services for sexually abusive behaviors. <http://www.saferociety.org/>
- **[NEARI Press](http://nearipress.org/)** is a nonprofit agency providing national research and resources (e.g., books, webinars, newsletter of research) for professionals working with adult sex offenders or with adolescents or children with sexual behavior problem. <http://nearipress.org/>
- **[Stop It Now!](http://www.stopitnow.org/)** The vision of Stop It Now is establish child sexual abuse as a preventable public health problem, to make helping adults and communities take responsibility to prevent and stop sexual abuse of children a main focus of prevention, and to create effective programs based on these principles. <http://www.stopitnow.org/>
- **[National Children's Alliance \(NCA\)](http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/)** is the national association and accrediting body for Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs). A Children's Advocacy Center is a child-friendly facility in which law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical and victim advocacy professionals work together to investigate abuse, help children heal from abuse, and hold offenders accountable. <http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/>

Get Ideas from What Other ATSA Members are DOING!

Many individual ATSA members are already actively participating in prevention. Many are providing trainings on preventing sexual violence, some are on the boards of local organizations to prevent sexual violence, some sit on statewide and national task forces to address issues of prevention, and many other approaches. To get a sense of who is doing prevention work and may have materials of interest to you, look at the following blogs:

- [100 Difficult Conversations with Dan Knoepfler](https://sajrt.blogspot.com/2015/08/100-difficult-conversations-talking.html) <https://sajrt.blogspot.com/2015/08/100-difficult-conversations-talking.html>
- [The Prevention of Sexual abuse and violence in the UK.](https://sajrt.blogspot.in/2015/06/the-prevention-of-sexual-abuse-and.html) <https://sajrt.blogspot.in/2015/06/the-prevention-of-sexual-abuse-and.html>
- [What it means when one ATSA member invests in prevention.](https://sajrt.blogspot.com/2016/01/talking-prevention-with-charles-flinton.html) <https://sajrt.blogspot.com/2016/01/talking-prevention-with-charles-flinton.html>
- [Step One of Cultural Competency Addressing Privilege and Power.](https://sajrt.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2017-09-07T04:54:00-04:00&max-results=7) <https://sajrt.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2017-09-07T04:54:00-04:00&max-results=7>
- [Having the Talk](https://sajrt.blogspot.com/2017/07/having-talk.html) <https://sajrt.blogspot.com/2017/07/having-talk.html>
- [Bridging the Gap: A conversation about the intersection between victim and offender treatment](https://sajrt.blogspot.com/2017/06/bridging-gap-intersection-between.html) <https://sajrt.blogspot.com/2017/06/bridging-gap-intersection-between.html>.
- [For a link to search for past blogs, visit the website at https://sajrt.blogspot.com/.](https://sajrt.blogspot.com/)

Final Thoughts

Thank you for your interest in expanding the role of ATSA within your state! As dedicated professionals, we all have similar goals. We can't end sexual violence alone, we need to collaborate, create alliances and be a resource for others in positions of intervening on future perpetration. Share your wisdom, experiences and passion. As members of ATSA you have unique resources and perspectives that can advance prevention efforts in your own backyard!

Please don't hesitate to reach out to ATSA's Prevention Committee for ideas, support or share your experiences!

Contact ATSA at (503) 643-1023 or atsa@atsa.com