

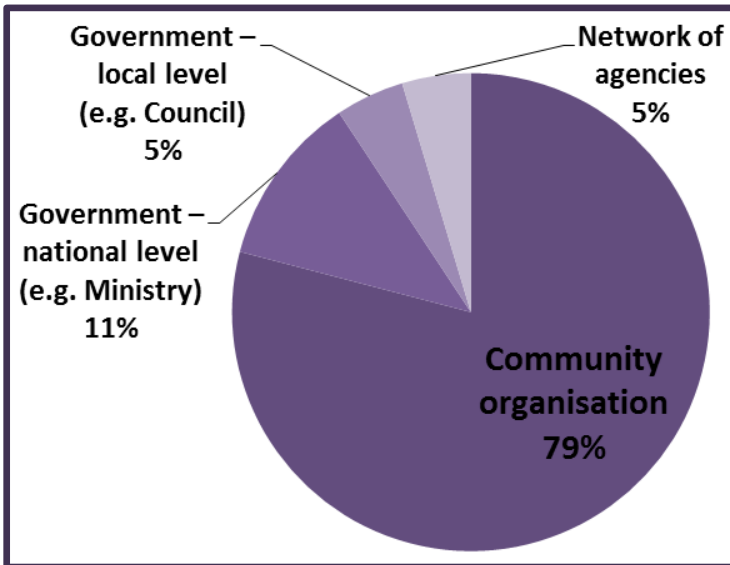


# TOAH-NNEST

Te Ohaakii a Hine - National Network Ending Sexual Violence Together  
TAUIWI CAUCUS

## Preventing Sexual Violence in Aotearoa New Zealand Survey 2012

Forty-four respondent agencies answered questions about their sexual violence prevention activities within Taiwi and Bicultural communities.



Most activities and programmes to prevent sexual violence in New Zealand are provided by the community sector, in particular the specialist sexual violence intervention and prevention sector.

**Just 25 full time members of staff work in the community sector on the primary prevention of sexual violence in Aotearoa New Zealand.**

The median number of staff per agency is one full time and two part time staff members.

## Factsheet 1: Prevention Strategies

This factsheet summarises how respondent agencies define and practise the primary prevention.

*"A couple of years ago, we were working with a local youth group - including young leaders - around "respectful sexuality." We had several sessions to explore positive sexuality, looking after friends and preventing sexual violence. The response from the young people was positive, and working from a prevention level was also positive and different from our usual work."* Community Agency

- Respondents to this survey conceptualise preventing sexual violence in terms of **social change; education; improving community safety, promoting human rights** and promoting **strengths based approaches** to support healthy and respectful sexual relating
- Respondents were most proud of **collaboration** and **community relationships** supporting their prevention activities, an encouraging sign when primary prevention initiatives must mobilise community in order to effectively shift social norms
- Many agencies involved in sexual violence prevention provide a mixture of prevention activities – from primary prevention (influencing social norms) to secondary prevention (working with at risk groups) to tertiary prevention (preventing revictimisation)

- The most common sexual violence prevention activity in Aotearoa is **sexual violence education**, delivered by 81% of respondents in their communities. Topics most frequently covered are **providing information about local services, dealing with disclosures** and **discussing the characteristics, impacts and prevalence of sexual violence**.
- Providing information and awareness raising may reflect low knowledge about sexual violence in many communities in New Zealand. This would usually be seen as a necessary precursor to activities and campaigns focused on skills building and changing social norms and behaviours
- More than half of respondents are also engaged in **public policy advocacy** and **public sexual violence awareness raising activities**. Most common were the **production and distribution of leaflets and posters**, and holding **community discussions and lectures**
- Most respondent agencies are interested in or undertaking a wide range of primary prevention activities. Within current resource levels there is a risk of agencies being stretched too thinly, particularly when they are also involved in other kinds of prevention
- The greatest interest for future prevention activities was in **public awareness campaigns**
- Efforts to provide training, systems and organisational change to other organisations, typically targeted for the audience, are taking place in small scale ways. **Educators** and **youth workers** are most likely to receive **sexual violence prevention** training. Organisational training is most often focussed on **gender roles and diversity** and **bystander interventions**. **Disclosures policies** and **developing training plans** are most often the focus of organisational change
- Publically available evaluation of existing prevention activities is very limited. This is concerning for the growth of best practise in sexual violence prevention in New Zealand
- Local **social norms campaigns**, though small scale, target a range of social norms relevant to sexual violence, including **promoting community responsibility, promoting respectful relationships** and participating in **broad anti-violence campaigns**
- Respondents, particularly those from the community sector, are unlikely to be working with specific communities or cultural groups on sexual violence prevention strategies. This is concerning for developing the most effective cultural responses to preventing sexual violence