

Mobilizing Communities for Sexual Violence Prevention: Using Participatory Methods to Design Prevention Programming

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The New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault will facilitate a workshop, *Mobilizing Communities for Sexual Violence Prevention: Using Participatory Methods to Design Prevention Programming*. The workshop will discuss lessons learned from Project ENVISION, a multi-year, multi-site sexual violence primary prevention demonstration project underway in three communities in New York City. Project ENVISION explores the social norms that promote and permit sexual violence as well as community-based strategies for prevention.

The goals of this workshop are to discuss the utility of participatory research not only as an approach to community needs assessment, but as a tool for community mobilization, an approach to coalition building, and as the foundation for promising prevention programming. Presenters will highlight the advantages of participatory methods over more traditional research methods in this community-driven approach to sexual violence prevention, including the use of participatory action research as a tool for recruitment, raising awareness and program development.

Additionally, presenters will discuss strategies for building the capacity of community coalitions to develop effective, sustainable primary prevention programming. Presenters will share decision-making tools, group feedback mechanisms, and leadership styles utilized to promote healthy, equitable group processes that model the participatory nature of Project ENVISION. The workshop will utilize interactive role-playing, brainstorming exercises, story telling, and group discussion to illustrate the effectiveness of participatory methods in mobilizing communities towards prevention of sexual violence.