

Celebrating 25 years of Empowering Children to be Safe, Strong & Free!

HISTORY OF NEW JERSEY CHILD ASSAULT PREVENTION (NJ CAP) 1978 – 2010



- **1978** -The Child Assault Prevention (CAP) program is developed in Columbus, Ohio. The curriculum is based on an empowerment model that all children should have the right to be "Safe, Strong and Free." From 1978 to the present, 32 states and 12 countries have been trained in CAP curriculum.
- **Fall 1984** – Under the auspices of Governor Thomas H. Kean, the NJ Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect is established, making prevention education a state priority. CAP is selected as a primary prevention program to support the goals of prevention education for the schools throughout the state.
- **Spring 1985** - The Educational Information and Resource Center (EIRC) in Sewell, NJ is chosen to host the CAP program based on its excellent record providing educational services to schools and communities.
- **Fall 1985** - Funds are allocated to EIRC to establish a state regional training center along with 21 county offices and an additional one in the city of Newark and to train 300 CAP facilitators.
- **Spring 1986** - EIRC contracts with the Department of Human Services to provide CAP training to approximately 75,000 children and 15,000 adults on an annual basis. NJ CAP begins implementation of CAP program designed specifically for preschool age children.
- **1986** - NJ CAP initiates the first statewide prevention education program for migrant children and their families.
- **1988** - NJ CAP introduces the Special Needs Curriculum for developmentally disabled children.
- **1989** - The Teen CAP curriculum, which is geared towards 7th -12th grade students is introduced statewide.
- **1990** - NJ CAP, in collaboration with the NJ Battered Women's Coalition, receives a two-year grant to implement CAP in all NJ Battered Women's shelters.
- **1991** - Dr. Jon Conte (University of Chicago) conducts one of the first evaluations on CAP. Evaluation took place in Woodbridge elementary schools and found that older children learned and retained more CAP strategies than the younger students.
- **April 1991** - NJ CAP hosts the first Statewide Child Abuse Prevention Awards Ceremony. Over 90 applicants are reviewed and 19 selected for their outstanding contribution to the field of prevention. This becomes a biennial event to commemorate Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- **1992** - NJ CAP, in collaboration with the Department of Corrections, implements a two-year project of CAP training in adolescent residential correctional facilities throughout the state including the Pinelands project for adolescent offenders. The project demonstrates CAP's effectiveness with high/ at-risk children and teens.

- **1993** - National Assault Prevention Center (NAPC) selects New Jersey because of its outstanding record as a regional training center as the new site for the national office. EIRC, NJCAP's host agency, assumes responsibility for the implementation of CAP nationally and internationally. NAPC is changed to NCAP (National Center for Assault Prevention). ICAP (International Center for Assault Prevention) is initiated to include projects outside the United States.
- **1995** - NJ CAP pilots the "Violence Prevention through Conflict Resolution" (VPCR) Program in three counties with over 400 children participating.
- **1996** - Trainings in Violence Prevention through Conflict Resolution (VPCR) are conducted throughout the state and CAP facilitators add VPCR to their repertoire of curricula.
- **1997** - NJ CAP releases a nine-year study involving over 25,000 classroom teacher evaluations. The study supports CAP's effectiveness.
- **1998** - "No More Bullies, No More Victims" Program for adults is introduced and workshops begin statewide.
- **1999** - NJ CAP pilots the "No More Bullies, No More Victims" whole school approach to bullying prevention in seven counties with 500 staff and parents and over 2000 children participating.
- **2000** - Statewide training of coordinators and facilitators for the "No More Bullies, No More Victims" Curriculum. The program is offered to school districts throughout the state.
- **2001** - Governor Christine Todd Whitman declares February as NJ Child Assault Prevention's "No More Bullies, No More Victims" month.
- **2004** - Rutgers University conducts research which demonstrates the effectiveness of CAP. The study found that youth who had received the CAP program had greater knowledge of how to handle bullying, abuse and assault situations than youth who had not received the intervention.
- **2005** - "No More Bullies, No More Victims" Program is expanded to include kindergarten to third grade. It is piloted throughout the state.
- **2006** - A statewide certification program ensures quality CAP programs and facilitators. NJ CAP works together with the NJ Department of Human Services to secure fingerprinting and background checks for all 200 CAP facilitators.
- **2007** - "No More Bullies, No More Victims" is evaluated by Rowan University. The findings are presented at the International Bullying Prevention Conference and the Family Violence Conference.
- **2007** - All CAP curricula are aligned with NJ DOE Core Curriculum Content Standards.
- **2009** - Three million children and adults have participated in our empowerment workshops. Of that number, thousands of children have received services or are no longer in unsafe environments as a direct result of participating in the CAP program.
- **Fall 2009** - New "Cyber Empowerment" Program is introduced for statewide piloting.
- **2010** - NJ CAP celebrates 25 years of empowering children to be "Safe, Strong and Free".