

# Promoting Trans-Affirming Practice to Better Respond to Transgender Sexual Assault Survivors

Janice Du Mont (she/her)

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**International Association of Forensic Nurses Research Committee**

22 April 2021



# Trans Engagement

With invaluable input from trans communities, as:

- Peer advisors
- Core members of the research team
- Advisory group members
- Representatives of participating organizations



We have been working to improve supports for trans sexual assault survivors

# Collaborating Organizations

# Egale

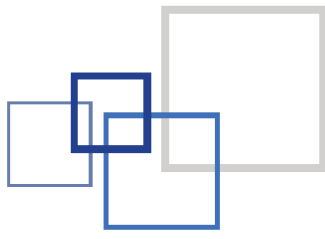


Rainbow Health Ontario  
Santé arc-en-ciel Ontario

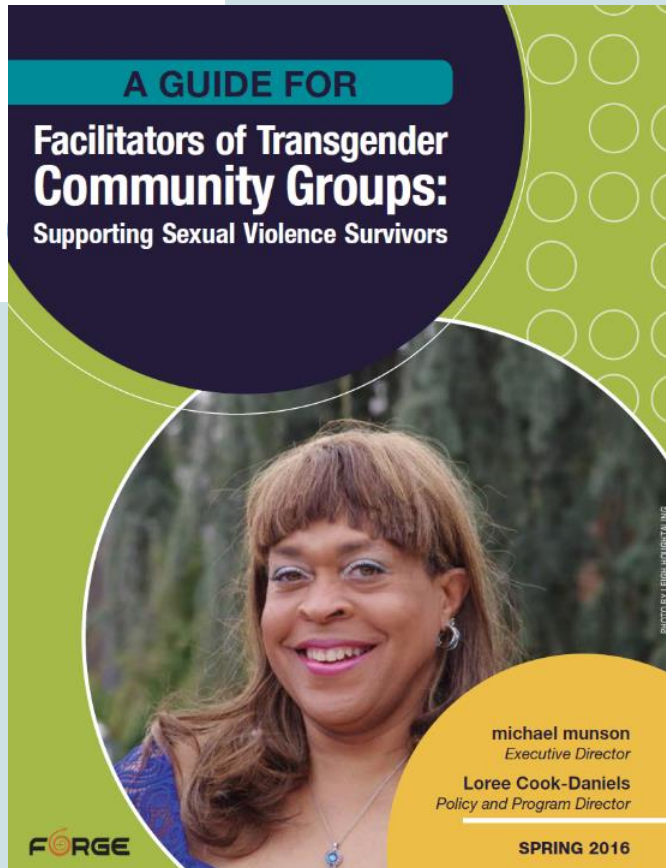


SAVIS  
of Halton





THE REPORT OF THE  
**2015 U.S. TRANSGENDER SURVEY**



# Prevalence of Sexual Assault

- 47% of trans individuals had experienced sexual assault in their lifetimes (James et al., 2016)
- Perpetrators:
  - 34% current or former intimate partner
  - 25% a relative
  - 30% a stranger (James et al., 2016)
- 43% of survivors indicated they were targeted due to their gender identity (munson & Cook-Daniels, 2016)

## National Trans-PULSE survey (2019):

- Approximately 26% of trans Canadians have experienced sexual assault (e.g., unwanted sexual touching or sexual activity) in the past 5 years

(The Trans PULSE Canada Team, 2020)



### **IN THIS CENSUS, TRANS & NON-BINARY PEOPLE COUNT!**

Trans PULSE Canada is a community-based research survey for all trans and non-binary people aged 14+ in Canada.



**TO FIND OUT MORE OR PARTICIPATE**  
(online or on paper, in English, French, or another language with an over-the-phone interpreter):

Visit [transpulsecanada.ca](https://transpulsecanada.ca)

Email [info@transpulsecanada.ca](mailto:info@transpulsecanada.ca)\*

Call toll-free at **1-844-972-6772**

Local Peer Research Associate:



This project is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

\*Please note email is not a secure form of communication.

Photos by Callie Lugosi.  
Graphic design by Ander Swift.

## National College Health Assessment Survey (2014), N ≈ 20,000

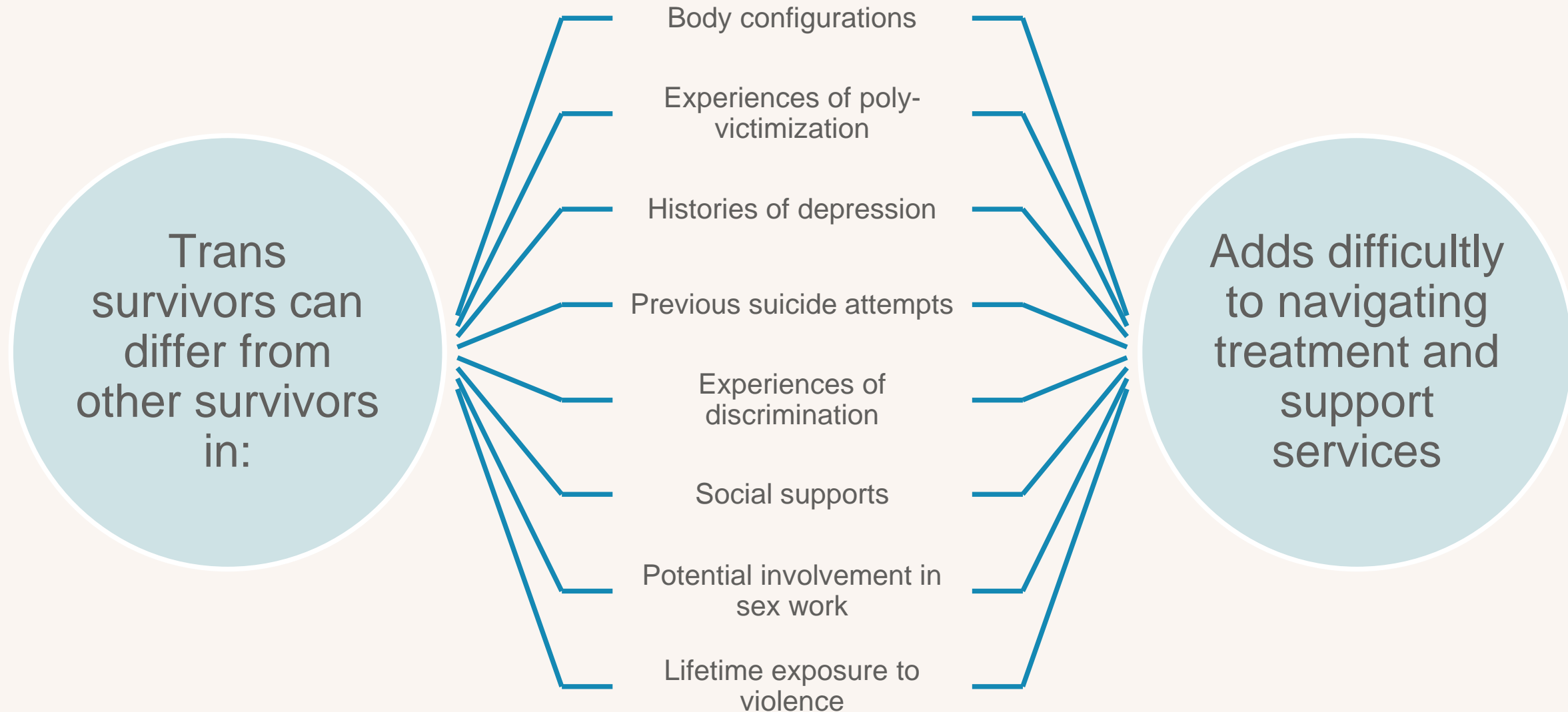
Past 12 months	Sexual touch*	Attempted penetration*	Completed penetration*	Relationship Sexual abuse*
Male+	3.7	1.3	0.8	1.1
Female	12.1	5.3	3.1	2.7
Trans	13.9	6.3	3.8	6.3

Note: + reference category, \*statistically significant

### Trans persons:

- 4x more likely to experience rape (completed penetration) than males
- 2x more likely to experience relationship sexual abuse than females

# Complex Care Needs



# Experiences in Healthcare Settings

Denial of care because of their trans identity/expression	19%
Verbal harassment	28%
Lack of provider knowledge	50%

Source: U.S. Transgender Discrimination Survey, lifetime (Grant et al., 2011)





# PROGRAM OF RESEARCH

# Objective

To work to ensure trans sexual assault survivors receive trans-affirming supports post-victimization

**Trans-affirming:** *Comprises the practices that recognize, account for, and address the unique experiences and needs of trans persons*

# Sequential Studies

**PHASE I:**  
Established need for trans-specific training for nurses at Ontario's SA/DVTCs and increased collaboration with LGBTQI2S+ services



**PHASE II:**  
Developed and evaluated an in-person training with 47 forensic nurses representing the diversity of Ontario's 36 SA/DVTCs



**PHASE III:**  
Adapted in-person training to online format to expand reach to all SA/DVTC forensic nurses across province and evaluated



**PHASE IV:**  
Building an intersectoral network on trans-affirming practice to support sexual assault survivors

**PHASE I:**  
Established need for trans-specific training for nurses at Ontario's SA/DVTCs and increased collaboration with LGBTQI2S+ services



**PHASE II:**  
Developed and evaluated an in-person training with 47 forensic nurses representing the diversity of Ontario's 36 SA/DVTCs

Funded by:



Open access

Research

## BMJ Open Assessment of nurses' competence to care for sexually assaulted trans persons: a survey of Ontario's Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres

Janice Du Mont,<sup>1,2</sup> Sarah Daisy Kosa,<sup>1,3</sup> Shirley Solomon,<sup>3</sup> Sheila Macdonald<sup>3</sup>

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journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/nedt](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/nedt)



Providing trans-affirming care for sexual assault survivors: An evaluation of a novel curriculum for forensic nurses



Janice Du Mont<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Megan Saad<sup>a,c</sup>, Sarah Daisy Kosa<sup>a,c</sup>, Hannah Kia<sup>d</sup>, Sheila Macdonald<sup>c</sup>

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<sup>d</sup> School of Social Work, University of British Columbia, 2080 West Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2, Canada

# Introduction to Training

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubNjsUYHM7o&ab\\_channel=sadvtc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubNjsUYHM7o&ab_channel=sadvtc)

**PHASE III:**  
Adapted in-person training to online format to expand reach to all SA/DVTC forensic nurses across the province; completed an evaluation



**PROVIDING  
TRANS-AFFIRMING  
CARE FOR SEXUAL  
ASSAULT  
SURVIVORS**

e-Learning Curriculum

**WCH** **Ontario Network** **Rainbow Health Ontario**  
WOMEN'S COLLEGE RESEARCH INSTITUTE of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres Santé arc-en-ciel Ontario  
Healthcare | REVOLUTIONIZED A program of / Un programme de Scarborough Health Centre

Funded by: **women's xchange**

Funded by:





▼ Introduction

Providing Trans-Affirming Care for Sexual As...

e-Learning Curriculum Development

Curriculum Features

**Curriculum Outline**

References

▼ Section 1: Introduction to the Issues

▶ Lesson 1: Key Terms

▶ Lesson 2: Experiences of Sexual Assault

▶ Lesson 3: Interactions with Healthcare

▶ Section 2: Core Elements

▶ Conclusion

## CURRICULUM OUTLINE

### Section 1: Introduction to the Issues

- **Lesson 1:** Key Terms
- **Lesson 2:** Experiences of Sexual Assault
- **Lesson 3:** Interactions with Healthcare

### Section 2: Core Elements

- **Lesson 4:** Initial Assessment
- **Lesson 5:** Medical Care
- **Lesson 6:** Forensic Examination
- **Lesson 7:** Discharge and Referral





## Gender

A system of classification that typically refers to culturally recognized roles, norms, and expectations, often based on an assigned sex at birth and socially associated with being a man or a woman. Currently, gender is often considered to exist across a broader spectrum, not solely within the binary of being a man or woman.

## Gender Diversity

Describes gender expression that may not correspond to one's externally perceived sex/gender and/or one's gender identity. In other words, gender diversity can be perceived externally by the outside world, internally by a person who believes they are gender diverse, or both. Also sometimes referred to as gender nonconformity, but often considered outdated.

## Gender Dysphoria

The discomfort or distress that some trans persons experience as a result of the discrepancy between their gender identity and sex assigned at birth, associated gender roles, and/or primary and secondary sex characteristics. In some circles, this experience may also be referred to as gender incongruence: that is, the incongruence a person may experience with their identified gender and sex assigned at birth.

## Gender Expression

# CURRICULUM OUTLINE

## Section 1: Introduction to the Issues

- **Lesson 1:** Key Terms
- **Lesson 2:** Experiences of Sexual Assault
- **Lesson 3:** Interactions with Healthcare

## Section 2: Core Elements

- **Lesson 4:** Initial Assessment
- **Lesson 5:** Medical Care
- **Lesson 6:** Forensic Examination
- **Lesson 7:** Discharge and Referral

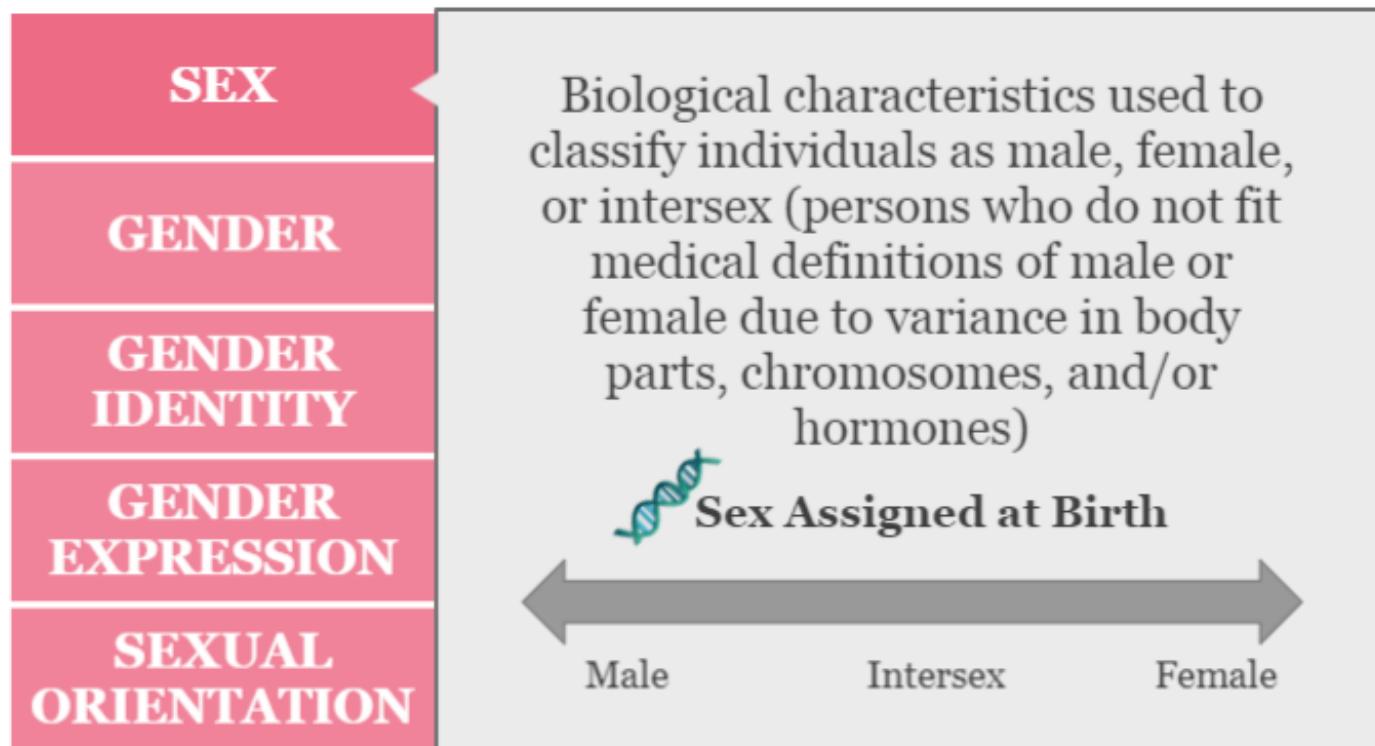






- ▶ Introduction
- ▼ Section 1: Introduction to the Issues
  - ▼ Lesson 1: Key Terms
    - Learning Objectives
    - Core Concepts
    - Definitions**
    - Transfeminine and Transmasculine
    - Correct Terminology
    - Knowledge Check
    - References
    - Summary
  - ▶ Lesson 2: Experiences of Sexual Assault
  - ▶ Lesson 3: Interactions with Healthcare
- ▶ Section 2: Core Elements

## DEFINITIONS



Definitions adapted from Coleman et al. (2012), Davidson (2016), and Planned Parenthood (2016)



Learning Objectives

Hormone Replacement Therapy

HRT and STI Treatment

Emergency Contraception

Transition-related Surgeries

HIV Risk Assessment

Supporting Trans Clients Living with HIV

Introduction to Case Study

Case Study: Alex

Reflection Questions

Knowledge Check

References

References

Summary

▶ Lesson 6: Forensic Examination



# TRANSITION-RELATED SURGERY

## Masculinizing Surgeries

- Mastectomy
- Hysterectomy (with or without bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy)
- Clitoral release
- Metoidioplasty
- Scrotoplasty
- Vaginectomy

## Feminizing Surgeries

- Augmentation
- Mammoplasty
- Orchidectomy
- Labiaplasty



Detailed information including surgical techniques, options, risks, and complications.

(Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, 2016)

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Section 1: Introduction to the Issues
- ▼ Section 2: Core Elements
  - ▼ Lesson 4: Initial Assessment
    - Learning Objectives
    - Appropriate Name and Pronoun Use
    - Pronouns and Language
    - Gender-neutral Language
    - Boundaries
    - Documentation
    - Introduction to Case Study**
    - Case Study: Jae
    - Reflection Questions
    - Gender Dysphoria and Trauma

# INTRODUCTION TO CASE STUDY



**Jae**



- ▶ Introduction
- ▼ Section 1: Introduction to the Issues
  - ▼ Lesson 1: Key Terms
    - Learning Objectives
    - Core Concepts
    - Definitions
    - Transfeminine and Transmasculine
    - Correct Terminology
    - Knowledge Check**
    - References
    - Summary
  - ▶ Lesson 2: Experiences of Sexual Assault
  - ▶ Lesson 3: Interactions with Healthcare
- ▶ Section 2: Core Elements

# KNOWLEDGE CHECK

Please match each term with the correct definition.

<input type="text"/>	A system of classification that typically refers to culturally recognized roles, norms, and expectations, often based on an assigned sex at birth and socially associated with being a man or a woman
<input type="text"/>	One's individual identification with being a man, woman, or an alternative gender (e.g., nonbinary, genderqueer)
<input type="text"/>	Persons who do not fit medical definitions of male or female, which may be due to variance in body parts, chromosomes, and/or hormones
<input type="text"/>	Biological characteristics, including genitals, hormones, and chromosomes, that classify individuals as male, female, or intersex
<input type="text"/>	The manner in which one expresses their gender to the world through social cues, for example, through clothing and behaviour
<input type="text"/>	One's identity in relation to groups they are attracted to

- 
- |            |                 |               |                        |                          |                           |
|------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Sex</b> | <b>Intersex</b> | <b>Gender</b> | <b>Gender Identity</b> | <b>Gender Expression</b> | <b>Sexual Orientation</b> |
|------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|

# Providing Trans- Affirming Care for Sexual Assault Survivors

TRAINING MANUAL

June 2019

# trans-LINK PROJECT

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Planning an intersectoral network of healthcare and community leaders to advance trans-affirming care for sexual assault survivors

Megan Saad, MPH<sup>1,2</sup> ; Joseph Friedman Burley, BAsC<sup>1,3</sup>;  
Melissa Miljanovski, BA<sup>1</sup>; Sheila Macdonald, MN<sup>2</sup>;  
Chett Bradley, MEd<sup>4</sup>; and Janice Du Mont, EdD<sup>1,3</sup> 



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INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF TRANSGENDERISM  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2020.1787911>



 OPEN ACCESS  Check for updates

## Formation of an intersectoral network to support trans survivors of sexual assault: A survey of health and community organizations

Janice Du Mont<sup>a,b</sup> , Sarah Daisy Kosa<sup>a,c</sup> , Shilini Hemalal<sup>a</sup>, Lee Cameron<sup>d</sup> , and Sheila Macdonald<sup>c</sup> 

<sup>a</sup>Women's College Research Institute, Women's College Hospital, Toronto, Canada; <sup>b</sup>Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada; <sup>c</sup>Ontario Network of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatments Centres, Toronto, Canada; <sup>d</sup>Egale Canada, Toronto, Canada

**PHASE IV:**  
Building an  
intersectoral  
network on  
trans-  
affirming  
practice to  
support  
sexual  
assault  
survivors  
(trans-LINK  
Project)

Funded by:

SSHRC  CRSH

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada  
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

# Guiding Framework: Lifecycle Model

Stage	Proposed Activities
Planning	Connect key members, define purpose of network, discuss value of network to individuals and organizations
Formation	Develop collaborations, negotiate network focus and identity, exchange/share knowledge, develop sense of collective and shared ownership over the network
Maturation	Focus and expand network
Sustainability	Continue network activities considered effective
Transition	Transition to other issues/goals

# PLANNING STAGE: Regional Meetings

- Connected leaders from trans+ health and social services to managers of Ontario's SA/DVTCs in 7 regional meetings held from June to July 2019
- Shared nursing training, brainstormed Network (e.g., purpose and value)
- 106 representatives from 96 distinct SA/DVTCs and trans+ community organizations across Ontario attended meetings





# FORMATION STAGE: Survey

Developed and circulated online survey to all meeting participants to gather information on:

- Respondent and Organization Characteristics
- Barriers and Facilitators to Collaboration
- Network Focus & Identity (including activities, deliverables, mission, vision, values)

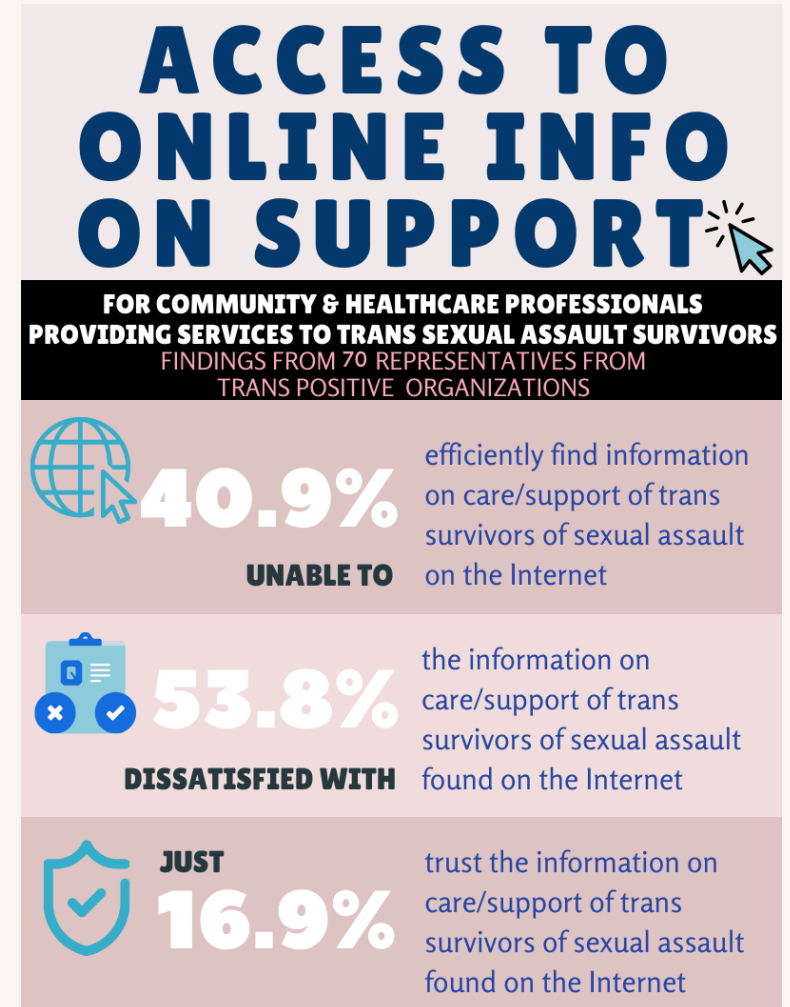


Core Values

# MATURATION STAGE: WebPortal Survey

Developed and circulated online survey to Network members to further focus and expand:

- Availability, accessibility, trustworthiness of information on trans care
- Importance of potential WebPortal resources and features (e.g., membership directory, information sheets, links to websites, existing guidelines, curricula/trainings, short videos/podcasts)



(Du Mont et al., in press)



[About Us](#) [Resources](#) [Education](#) [Research](#) [Events](#) [Network Membership](#)

**trans-LINK: an intersectoral network**  
bringing together community and  
healthcare organizations across  
Ontario to enhance supports for  
trans sexual assault survivors

<https://www.translinknetwork.com/>

# Network Impact

- Could take provincial lead in promoting equitable access to care for trans survivors of sexual assault
- Could inform new and enhanced partnerships leading to future research, training initiatives, programming, and policy in this area
- Relationships could be further formalized and scaled up nationally and internationally

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## **Strengthen collaborations**

and partnerships among service providers and organizations



## **Enhance integration of services**

and continuum of care to address the complex and intersecting needs of trans survivors



## **Improve access to supports**

and availability of resources for trans survivors of sexual assault



## **Ensure care is inclusive**

culturally competent, safe, and safe for all trans survivors



## **Increase capacity of providers**

to support trans survivors through cross-sectoral education



## **Challenge the system**

oppressing trans survivors of violence and advocate for systemic change



## **Prevent Sexual Violence**

against trans persons across Ontario