

# Building a Canadian research agenda to address gender-based violence against trans people: Initial findings from a survey of diverse stakeholders

**Rachel Cheung (she/her/they)**

BA, MSW Student

Factor Inwentash School of Social Work, University of Toronto

**Dr. Janice Du Mont, Supervisor**

Summer Student Research Day Presentation

July 20, 2021

# BACKGROUND

- Transgender (trans) persons experience high rates of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Sexual Assault (SA) (Seelman, 2015; Garthe et al., 2018; Carlton et al., 2016)
- When trans survivors of IPV and SA seek support from healthcare, social service and criminal/legal sectors, they often experience barriers and revictimization in these settings (Guadalupe-Diaz, & Jasinski, 2017; Hyman et al., 2020; Seelman, 2015; Carlton et al., 2016)
- Research findings can inform the improvement of services, policies and practices. However...
  - Majority of research on SA/IPV has centred cisgender women (Rogers, 2015; Jordan et al., 2020)
  - Limited research on LGBTQ+ survivors has often ignored the experiences of trans survivors (Seelman, 2015; Jordan et al., 2020)

# OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the current research is therefore to identify research priorities to inform a Canadian research agenda on SA/IPV against trans persons, including non-binary and Two Spirit persons



# METHOD



**Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative (CHNRI):** A systematic methodology that allows diverse stakeholders to identify and evaluate research priorities

Two surveys:

- 1) Stakeholders were invited to propose research questions they believe would be of priority in the area of addressing and preventing SA and IPV against trans persons
- 2) Stakeholders will evaluate a refined list of the proposed research questions using predetermined criteria developed by our research team: Answerability, Feasibility, Impact and Equity

# SURVEY ONE

## Eligibility Criteria

- ✓ Live in Canada
- ✓ Identify with at least 1 stakeholder group:
  - academic/researcher
  - government decision-makers/policymaker
  - advocate
  - healthcare provider
  - social service provider
  - member of professional associations/organizations
  - funder
  - trans community member
  - survivor
- ✓ Can provide informed consent
- ✓ Can read and write comfortably in English

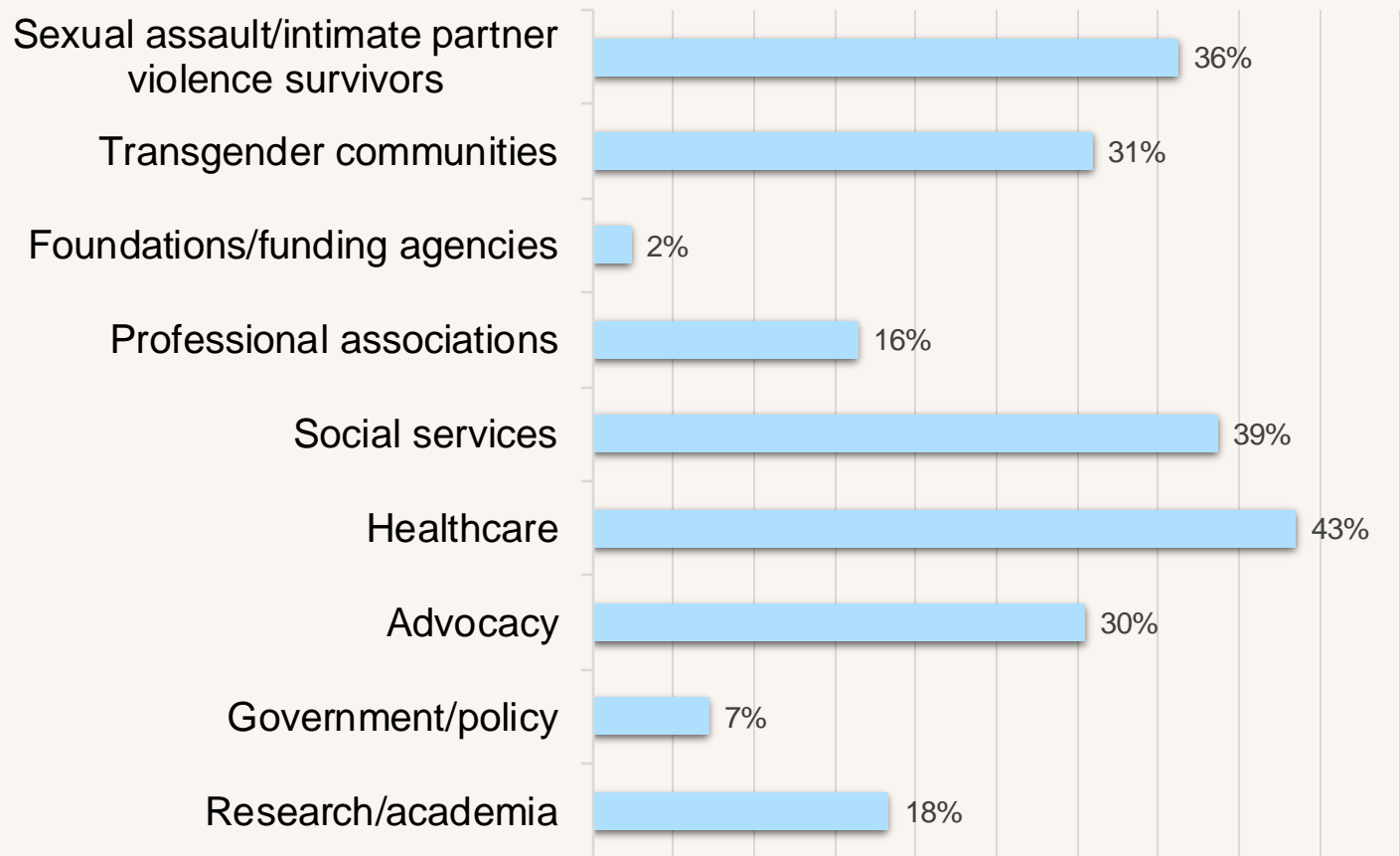
## Data Collected

- Sociodemographic information
- Type of expertise (professional experience, lived experience, both)
- Max. 5 generated research priority questions per respondent
- Sign-up form to participate in Survey 2



# OF SURVEY ONE. SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

**Percentage of Respondents by Stakeholder Group**



- 241 stakeholders responded to the survey
- 102 respondents signed up to participate in the second survey
- All provinces/territories represented, except Nunavut
- Top 5 stakeholder groups represented:
  - 1) Healthcare
  - 2) Social services
  - 3) SA/IPV survivors
  - 4) Trans communities
  - 5) Advocacy

# PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF SURVEY ONE: RESEARCH QUESTIONS



- Total of 505 research questions proposed
- Began the data cleaning and iterative coding process:
  - Flagged questions deemed “out of scope”, “not relevant” or “too specific”
  - Divided double-barreled questions
  - Organized questions into preliminary categories

# PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF SURVEY ONE: CATEGORIES

Categories to date include:

## *Knowledge, training and competence*

“How can we make and facilitate more culturally appropriate and competent training in academic and workplace settings for transgender and Two Spirit survivors of IPV?”

“How can nurses/social workers have a better understanding of trans peoples' experiences?”

## *Risk Factors*

“Why or why not do Trans and Nonbinary people experience higher levels of specific forms of gender-based violence compared to women?”

“What impact does housing (or lack thereof) contribute to trans persons' risk for sexual assault/IPV?”

## *Structural and Institutional Change*

“What would it look like to support trans survivors of sexual violence through an emphasis on community support, especially in the context of conversations around defunding the police?”

“What can we learn from the Indigenous movement toward reconciliation in the context of addressing violence against transgender people?”



# NEXT STEPS

## Launch Survey Two

1. Email stakeholders who expressed interest in participating in survey two
2. Participants will evaluate the final list of questions according to our predetermined criteria: Answerability, Feasibility, Impact and Equity



## Continue Data Cleaning and Analysis of Survey One Results

1. Finish preliminary coding and sorting
2. Count frequency of similar questions
3. Collapse and redraft similar questions into one question
4. Refine total number of questions into a feasible amount for stakeholders to evaluate in survey two



## Survey Two Data Analysis

1. Calculate Research Priority Scores and Average Expert Agreement for each evaluated research question from survey two
2. Rank questions to determine prioritization and finalize research agenda



# REFERENCES

- Carlton, J. M., Cattaneo, L. B., & Gebhard, K. T. (2016). Barriers to Help Seeking for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 17*(5), 585–600. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838015585318>
- Garthe, R. C., Hidalgo, M. A., Hereth, J., Garofalo, R., Reisner, S. L., Mimiaga, M. J., & Kuhns, L. (2018). Prevalence and Risk Correlates of Intimate Partner Violence Among a Multisite Cohort of Young Transgender Women. *LGBT health, 5*(6), 333–340. <https://doi.org/10.1089/lgbt.2018.0034>
- Guadalupe-Diaz, X. L., & Jasinski, J. (2017). "I Wasn't a Priority, I Wasn't a Victim": Challenges in Help Seeking for Transgender Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence. *Violence against women, 23*(6), 772–792. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801216650288>
- Hyman, I., Gana, C., Gunraj, A., & Komiotis. (2020). *Public Health Research for the Transformed Project. METRAC: Action on Violence*. [https://www.metrac.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/11-24\\_TransFormed-ResearchReport.pdf](https://www.metrac.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/11-24_TransFormed-ResearchReport.pdf)
- Jordan, S. P., Mehrotra, G. R., & Fujikawa, K. A. (2020). Mandating Inclusion: Critical Trans Perspectives on Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy. *Violence against women, 26*(6-7), 531–554. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801219836728>
- Rogers, M. (2019). Challenging cisgenderism through trans people's narratives of domestic violence and abuse. *Sexualities, 22*(5–6), 803–820. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1363460716681475>
- Rudan, I., Gibson, J. L., Ameratunga, S., El Arifeen, S., Bhutta, Z. A., Black, M., Black, R. E., Brown, K. H., Campbell, H., Carneiro, I., Chan, K. Y., Chandramohan, D., Chopra, M., Cousens, S., Darmstadt, G. L., Meeks Gardner, J., Hess, S. Y., Hyder, A. A., Kapiriri, L., Kosek, M., ... Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative (2008). Setting priorities in global child health research investments: guidelines for implementation of CHNRI method. *Croatian medical journal, 49*(6), 720–733. <https://doi.org/10.3325/cmj.2008.49.720>
- Seelman, K. L. (2015). Unequal Treatment of Transgender Individuals in Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Programs. *Journal of Social Service Research, 41*(3), 307–325. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01488376.2014.987943>