



# Mobilizing Partnerships to Advance a Provincial Intersectoral Network on Trans-affirming Practice to Support Sexual Assault Survivors

## Sharing our Work in Presentations

We recently shared the work of the trans-LINK Network in two poster presentations: one at the OSSD (Organization for the Study of Sex Differences) Annual Meeting 2023, Calgary; the other at Women's College Hospital's Day of Excellence in Research 2023, Toronto.

### Building a research agenda on addressing sexual assault and intimate partner violence against trans and gender diverse people: Differences in priorities by gender

Authors: Dr. Hannah Edrington, C. Emma Kelly MA, S. Daisy Kosa PhD, Rachel Chung MSW, Josephine Bailey MPH, Brittany A. Johnson PhD, Sydney Brundage-Coyne BA, S. Shari Macdonald MN

**CONTEXT**  
Trans and gender diverse (TGD) people experience high rates of sexual assault (SA) and intimate partner violence (IPV). TGD survivors often receive inadequate care and experience stigma and discrimination when seeking support from healthcare and social service providers. Research can inform the development/improvement of health and social services, policies, and practices to better meet the needs of TGD survivors of SA/IPV. Prevaling research on SA/IPV has often overlooked the experiences of TGD survivors.

**OBJECTIVE**  
The primary objective of this study was to determine priorities for research on SA/IPV against TGD people.

**METHOD**  
A 3-stage approach (Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative) was used to determine research priorities. It involves two stages: generation and evaluation of research topics/questions.

**RESULTS**  
79 stakeholders across Canada responded to and evaluated research priority items. Stakeholder representation included: Health care (24/30.4%), Government/policy (3/3.8%), Advocacy (19/24.1%), Healthcare (28/35.4%), Social services (23/29.1%), Professional associations (13/16.5%), Funding agencies (1/1.3%), Transgender organizations (24/30.4%), SA/IPV advocates (26/32.9%), and Other/relatives (2/2.5%).

**TOP RANKING RESEARCH QUESTIONS BY GENDER**

Question	TGD Rank	RPS	Cisgender Rank	RPS
How do trans people define what constitutes intimate partner violence?	17	87.9%	8	85.4%
What factors are related to diverse trans survivors (e.g., BIPOC, transsexual, transmasculine) leaving a situation of sexual assault or intimate partner violence (e.g., leaving, seeking social support)?	12	88.2%	9	85.4%
What factors are related to diverse trans survivors (e.g., BIPOC, transsexual, transmasculine) leaving a situation of sexual assault or intimate partner violence (e.g., leaving, seeking social support)?	6	93.5%	11	86.2%
What factors are related to diverse trans survivors (e.g., BIPOC, transsexual, transmasculine) leaving a situation of sexual assault or intimate partner violence (e.g., leaving, seeking social support)?	8	92.1%	13	84.5%
How has the current justice system (e.g., justice responses) related to sexual assault and intimate partner violence by trans survivors?	12	91.0%	5	87.9%
How can barriers and resources diverse trans survivors and intimate partner violence be improved and made more accessible across a variety of settings for diverse trans people (e.g., different gender identities, cisgender women, transsexuals, transmasculines)?	7	93.0%	20	79.5%
How can barriers and resources diverse trans survivors and intimate partner violence be improved and made more accessible across a variety of settings for diverse trans people (e.g., different gender identities, cisgender women, transsexuals, transmasculines)?	11	91.4%	10	85.3%
What factors are related to diverse trans survivors (e.g., BIPOC, transsexual, transmasculine) leaving a situation of sexual assault or intimate partner violence (e.g., leaving, seeking social support)?	3	96.4%	3	87.2%
What factors are related to diverse trans survivors (e.g., BIPOC, transsexual, transmasculine) leaving a situation of sexual assault or intimate partner violence (e.g., leaving, seeking social support)?	2	97.9%	19	80.7%
What factors are related to diverse trans survivors (e.g., BIPOC, transsexual, transmasculine) leaving a situation of sexual assault or intimate partner violence (e.g., leaving, seeking social support)?	10	91.8%	4	87.1%
How can barriers and resources diverse trans survivors and intimate partner violence be improved and made more accessible across a variety of settings for diverse trans people (e.g., different gender identities, cisgender women, transsexuals, transmasculines)?	5	96.1%	1	88.2%
How can barriers and resources diverse trans survivors and intimate partner violence be improved and made more accessible across a variety of settings for diverse trans people (e.g., different gender identities, cisgender women, transsexuals, transmasculines)?	9	91.8%	7	86.3%
What factors are related to diverse trans survivors (e.g., BIPOC, transsexual, transmasculine) leaving a situation of sexual assault or intimate partner violence (e.g., leaving, seeking social support)?	4	96.2%	6	86.4%

**CONCLUSIONS**  
TGD people have distinct and valuable perspectives that should informally inform research on SA and IPV against TGD persons. These priorities form Canada's first research agenda on SA/IPV against TGD persons, which reflect the needs of TGD and other key stakeholders, and will guide future, much-needed work on the topic.

### Developing a curriculum to address the needs of transgender and gender diverse survivors of intimate partner violence: A learning needs assessment survey of Ontario health and social service providers

Authors: Hannah Seo BHS, Student, C. Emma Kelly MA, S. Daisy Kosa, Sydney Brundage-Coyne BA, Robin Mason PhD, Sheila Macdonald MN, Janice Du Mont EdD

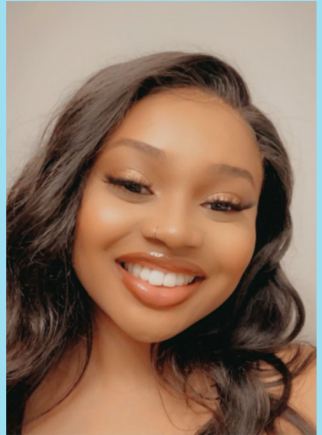
**PROBLEM & NEEDS**  
Trans and gender diverse (TGD) persons experience heightened rates of gender-based violence as compared to cisgender persons and face unique forms of intimate partner violence (IPV). Current "cisgender" models of care inhibit healthcare and community service providers' responses to IPV against TGD persons, presenting barriers to TGD survivors' well-being and recovery.

**SURVEY FINDINGS**  
883 providers (72% response rate) completed the survey. 65.0% were cisgender female, 35.0% were cisgender male, and 0.0% were transgender or gender diverse. 100% of providers reported having worked with TGD survivors. 100% of providers reported having worked with TGD survivors. 100% of providers reported having worked with TGD survivors.

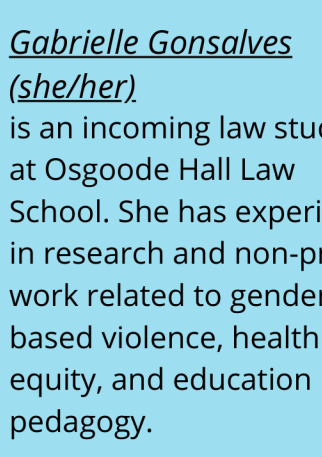
**STRENGTHS & LIMITATIONS**  
Study addressed an important gap as the first in Canada to examine the learning needs of healthcare and social/community service providers serving trans survivors of IPV. Results may not be generalizable to other jurisdictions in which providers working in health and community-based organizations could operate under different conditions (e.g., legislation, training environments).

**DISCUSSION**  
Most providers reported extensive experience in their role and described having served TGD survivors of IPV, yet they largely reported mid or low-level expertise supporting this population. Few providers had participated in training or followed guidelines on IPV against TGD persons and were in almost unanimous agreement that they would benefit from additional training. Providers' lack of education and low expertise on this topic is a cause for concern; in the absence of appropriate training and guidance, providers may perpetuate significant harm against TGD survivors.

## Welcoming new students to the team to work on our curriculum on supporting TGD survivors of IPV



**Mechaela Alfonso (she/her)** is an MSW student at Carleton University. Mechaela has expertise in gender and race issues, with a specialization of knowledge of intersectionality theory and Black Feminist Thought.



**Project Coordinator**  
Daisy Kosa (she/her)

**Project Director**  
Janice Du Mont (she/her)

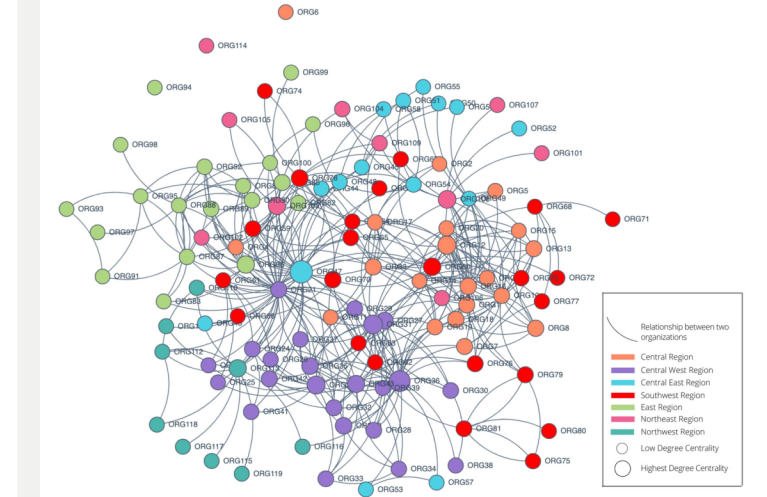
## Thank you

For your participation in:

- the learning needs assessment survey
- the webinar presenting the results

## Recent Publications

We have a new [open access article](#) on the evaluation of the our trans-LINK Network:



Please read and share with your colleagues!