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# Building LGBTQ+ Inclusive Services

Lindsey Curtis  
Community Educator/Preventionist  
SAVI at Mount Sinai

Ethan Czuy Levine, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice  
Stockton University  
[www.ethanlevine.com](http://www.ethanlevine.com)

## Agenda

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- ❖ Violence within and Toward LGBTQ+ Communities
- ❖ Institutional responses to LGBTQ+ Survivors
- ❖ SART: Sexual Assault Response Teams



## The Acronym(s)

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**L = Lesbian**

**G = Gay**

**B = Bisexual**

**T = Transgender & Gender Nonconforming**

**Q = Queer & Questioning**

**+ = other sexual/gender minority communities**



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## Violence Within and Toward LGBTQ+ Communities

## Supporting LGBTQ+ Survivors

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- ❖ All of the usual concerns apply!
  - ❖ Knowledge of sexual violence
  - ❖ Support and empowerment
- ❖ So what's different?
  - ❖ Less recognition of LGBTQ+ communities
  - ❖ LGBTQ+ specific causes, effects, barriers
  - ❖ Applying advocacy skills toward support around sexuality and gender identity



## Patriarchy Model

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- ❖ Feminist innovation in 1970s
- ❖ Connected individual men's violence toward women with patriarchal culture
- ❖ Sexual violence as part of a larger story
- ❖ *Limitations*
  - ❖ *Only addresses sex/gender*
  - ❖ *Only accounts for cisgender men's violence towards cisgender women*

## Sexism and Then Some: Recognizing Violence

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### Sexism & Sexual Violence

- ❖ Gender roles in heterosexual dating
- ❖ Putting victims/survivors “on trial”
- ❖ Sexist cultures in education, athletics, Greek life, criminal justice
- ❖ Expectations of “real victim” and “real perpetrator” behavior

### Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia

- ❖ Lack of community visibility
- ❖ Provider knowledge and comfort
- ❖ Homophobic/transphobic cultures
- ❖ Heteronormative depictions of sexual and domestic violence

## Sexism and Then Some: Rape Myths

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### Sexist Rape Myths

- “Women ask to be raped”
- “Women lie about rape”
- “Women enjoy rape”
- “Men can’t help themselves”
- “Husbands can’t rape wives”
- “When women claim rape, they’re really feeling guilty about their own choices”
- “Real victims would fight back”

### Anti-LGBTQ+ Rape Myths

- “Men always want sex”
- “Women are not violent”
- “Women’s violence isn’t as serious”
- “Gay men are pedophiles”
- “Transgender women are really predatory men”
- “Girls in a catfight”/“Men playing rough”
- “(Wo)men can’t overpower each other”

## Sexual Violence and Partner Abuse in LGBTQ+ Communities

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### Stalking, Sexual Violence and Abuse by Intimate Partners<sup>1</sup>

Straight Women	35%	Straight Men	29%
Lesbian/Gay Women	44%	Gay Men	26%
Bisexual Women	61%	Bisexual Men	37%

- ❖ LGB men & women report higher rates of sexual violence than straight men & women<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ **1 in 2 trans people** report lifetime sexual violence<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ **1 in 2 trans people** report lifetime partner abuse<sup>2</sup>

## Barriers to Support

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- ❖ Community recognition
- ❖ Naming our own experiences
- ❖ Shared support systems
- ❖ Forced outness
- ❖ Institutional discrimination
- ❖ Provider capacity to support LGBTQ+ individuals and communities

(sources: 3,4)

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## Institutional Responses to LGBTQ+ Survivors

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## Institutional Responses

What institutions respond to sexual violence?

What institutions serve or interact with sexual  
violence survivors?

## Institutional Responses

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- ❖ Hospitals/Healthcare
- ❖ Police
- ❖ Antiviolence Agencies
- ❖ Therapists/Counselors
- ❖ Courts
- ❖ Prisons
- ❖ **Immigration/ICE**
- ❖ Faith Communities
- ❖ **Social Services**
- ❖ **Employers**
- ❖ Colleges/Universities
- ❖ K-12 Schools
- ❖ Homeless Shelters
- ❖ Child Services
- ❖ Foster Care
- ❖ Adoption Agencies
- ❖ Juvenile Detention Centers
- ❖ **Journalists**

## Small Group Activity

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- ❖ Why/how may sexual violence survivors interact with this institution?
- ❖ LGBTQ+ barriers
- ❖ Demonstrating LGBTQ+ inclusion

## Vanessa Goes to the Doctor

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## Vanessa Goes to the Doctor

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- ❖ Overall reactions?
- ❖ How might this apply to the institutions you were just discussing?

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## SART: Sexual Assault Response Teams

## Sexual Assault Response Teams

- ❖ Interdisciplinary/multi-agency response teams
  - ❖ Forensic nurse examiner
  - ❖ Law enforcement (detective)
  - ❖ Antiviolence advocate (professional or volunteer)
- ❖ "Activated" when a sexual violence survivor pursues, or is brought in for, a forensic exam
- ❖ Activation must occur within 72-120 hours of the sexual assault



## Sexual Assault Response Teams

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- ❖ What is the *role* of each team member?
- ❖ What *professional values* might they bring to an activation?

## Sexual Assault Forensic Exams

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How might *gender identity and/or sexual orientation* come up during a SART activation?

- ❖ Think about the *different roles* of the forensic nurse examiner, detective, and advocate.
- ❖ Think about *group interactions* among the survivor and multidisciplinary professional team.

## Case Scenarios

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Marissa, a heterosexual and transgender woman, was sexually assaulted by a friend at a party. Although she felt uncomfortable contacting police, she decided to go to the emergency department for a SAFE kit.

You are activated as a SART advocate. You arrive before the forensic nurse or detective, and begin speaking with Marissa. She discloses that she is transgender, and asks you to “just explain it to everyone else when they get here.”

## Case Scenarios

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Carlos, an asexual and nonbinary person, was sexually assaulted on a first date with someone they met online. Three days later, they decided to go to a local hospital for a forensic exam.

During the exam, the nurse notices that Carlos is wearing a chest binder. She asks them about it. When Carlos seems reluctant to say anything, the nurse clarifies that “well, whatever that is, we’ll probably need it for evidence. I can give you a t-shirt or bra to wear instead.”

## Case Scenarios

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Hadassah, a bisexual and cisgender woman, attends a Christian university. She lives on campus with her girlfriend, also a cisgender woman, though they describe themselves as "roommates" to school staff and family members.

When Hadassah's girlfriend assaults her, she goes immediately to the emergency department. The SART team is activated. As soon as everyone is present, Hadassah expresses concerns that her school may force her out, or her family may stop supporting her, if anyone learns that she is dating a woman.

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# Thank you!

# Any questions?

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