

WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ+

Common fears of reporting include:

- Homophobic/Transphobic responses from first responders
- Being “outed” (especially in small communities)
- Not being able to have partners present without judgment
- Legal identification/anatomy that doesn't match current gender identification
- Being misgendered or not having correct pronouns/names used
- Not being understood
- Being seen as a traitor by one's LGBTQ+ community

Safety Considerations in Small Communities

LGBTQ+ communities, particularly within any rural community, are very small. While it is common for information to spread quickly in rural areas, this is even more so the case for information regarding a survivor who identifies as LGBTQ+. Thus, a LGBTQ+ survivor may prefer to access services directly from a LGBTQ+ program or a sexual assault program outside the community.

Advocates can foster relationships with LGBTQ+ specific programs and/or brainstorm around specific privacy concerns survivors may have. For example, an advocate may be able to meet with you at a different location like at the library or a nearby eatery. Advocates may additionally be able to provide you with information about other safe people and places that will not shame or harass you in your community.

LOCAL SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT PROGRAM:

Our statewide helpline can connect you to a local certified sexual assault program:

1-888-956-7273

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LGBTQ+ SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Information

Resources

Support

Sexual violence hurts people of all sexual orientations and gender identities – including people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+).

FCASV stands with ALL survivors.



SEXUAL ASSAULT OF INDIVIDUALS

Perpetrators of sexual assault can be of any gender, just as the victims can be of any gender. Sexual assault is not defined by the biological sex or gender of the person offending or the sex or gender of the victim.

- Sexual violence is often used as a means of oppressing those who challenge social norms around gender and sexuality.
- Transgender people and bisexual women face the most alarming rates of sexual violence and the vast majority of sexual assaults continue to be perpetrated by cisgender, heterosexual males.
- Sexual assault may include forced or coerced vaginal or anal penetration (with any object), oral sex, touching, or ANY other type of sexual activity that was not expressly consented to.
- Same-sex sexual assault can happen on a date (hook-up or while “chilling”), between acquaintances, friends, partners, family members, or strangers.

Due to the societal oppression that individuals and communities who identify as LGBTQ+ experience, victims are less likely to report their assault to the police or seek support.

85% of victim advocates surveyed by the NCAVP reported having worked with an LGBTQ+ survivor who was denied services because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

