

24-HOUR CRISIS LINE

SSAIC provides information, referrals, and support to anyone dealing with issues related to sexual violence.

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP COUNSELLING

SSAIC offers crisis and short-term counselling to anyone struggling with past or recent sexual abuse/assault, and to those who have been impacted by the abuse of others. Group counselling for survivors is also available.

Call our office to make your appointment or discuss group counselling options.

SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE

At any point, you can call SSAIC about your options. What happened is not your fault, and we can answer any questions you might have, in addition to:

- Client support making police reports
- Information regarding the legal process and/or assistance with, preparation for, or accompaniment to court

OUTSASKATOON

OUTSaskatoon offers free peer support and counselling services, social and support groups, sexual health testing, long-term housing for youth (ages 16-21), and a community drop-in. To book an appointment with our counsellor, book online: outsaskatoon.ca/counselling

SSAIC

Saskatoon Sexual Assault
& Information Centre

Visit us in person:
506 25th Street East, Suite 201
Saskatoon, SK S7K 4A7

The SSAIC office is located on the 2nd floor of the Saskatoon Community Service Village (Attached to the YWCA)

Monday – Friday
9am to 5pm
(Closed for lunch from 12pm to 1pm)

Call our office: (306) 244-2294
Send us an email: info@ssaic.ca
Visit us on the web: ssaic.ca



Visit us in person: Top Floor - 320 21st Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 4E6

The OUTSaskatoon office is located on the top floor of the Habitat for Humanity Building

Monday - Tuesday 9am-5pm
Wednesday - Friday 9am-9pm

Call our office: (306) 665-1224
Call Toll Free: 1-800-358-1833
Send us an email: hello@outsaskatoon.ca
Visit us on the web: outsaskatoon.ca

Thank you to our funding partner:



Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
Canada

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**GENDER IDENTITY &
VIOLENCE IN THE
LGBTQ2S COMMUNITY**

[WWW.SSAIC.CA](https://www.ssaic.ca)

Myth: Queer people require “corrective rape” in order to “make them straight and cisgender”.

Fact: Queer people are born with an innate sense of their gender and sexual orientation, just like straight and cisgender people are. No action, including conversion therapy or forced sexual intercourse, will change this.

Myth: Males who are sexually victimized don't suffer as much as female victims: after all, they don't risk becoming pregnant.

Fact: Sexualized violence has devastating effects on all victims, whether they are at risk for pregnancy or not. Additionally, trans folks who have a uterus (i.e. trans men, non-binary people) may still be at risk of becoming pregnant. Trans folks may also suffer due to the social assumptions, and may experience additional discrimination when seeking medical treatment after their assault.

Myth: Trans women can't be sexually assaulted because they're not “real” women and should be able to fight off perpetrators.

Fact: This myth is rooted in transphobia and transmisogyny, and results in high rates of persecution and violence of all kinds towards trans women. It is also rooted in the notion that trans women are not “real women”, and that they are actually cisgender men.

Myth: If we allow transgender people to use the bathroom/change room that aligns with their gender, sexual assault in these spaces will increase.

Fact: This misconception is rooted in the false belief that people who are transgender are sexual predators. There is absolutely no evidence of this. Gender does not determine a person's ability to be violent or dictate their actions. In fact, sex offenders are disproportionately likely to be straight, cisgender men.

Myth: The person committing violence is always bigger, stronger, and more butch, while victims are always smaller, weaker, and more traditionally femme.

Fact: Perpetrators of sexual violence come in all sizes and genders. While size may be an advantage to perpetrators, the fear response from any victim can cause a “freeze” reaction, making the size of the perpetrator (or victim) irrelevant.

LIVED EXPERIENCES

Transgender and gender diverse people (non-binary, two-spirit, etc.) experience disproportionate rates of intimate partner and sexual violence at home, at work or school, and on the streets. In order to address sexual violence, we need to look at the root causes of discrimination and oppression. Below are statistics that highlight the need for accessible, inclusive support for transgender and gender diverse survivors.

- The Transgender Sexual Violence project conducted by FORGE in 2009 found that: 29% of respondents had been sexually assaulted by an intimate partner; and 40% had been assaulted by a family member.
- The 2015 US Transgender Survey found that 47% of transgender people experience sexual assault in their lifetime. These numbers are even higher when people are impacted by multiple forms of discrimination; 48% of Latinx trans people, 53% of Black trans people, and 61% of disabled trans people had been sexually assaulted.
- 21% of transgender college students have been sexually assaulted, compared to 18% of cisgender females, and 4% of cisgender males. <https://www.rainn.org>
- “Across Canadian studies, transgender participants experienced higher percentages of sexual harassment compared to lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual women” (Faulkner, 2006).

There are still major gaps and barriers in service provision for transgender and gender diverse survivors seeking support. All people deserve access to inclusive, safe services, and we are working hard to ensure transgender and gender diverse people feel heard and supported in our service provision.

WHAT IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- Sexual violence, also called sexual abuse or sexual assault, is the forced participation in any type of sexual activity. It can range from unwanted kissing or touching to forced sexual intercourse.
- Child sexual abuse is when a child under the age of 16 is exploited sexually by another person. Sexual abuse of children and youth often involves manipulation, coercion into a sexual situation, bribery, and secrecy.
- Sometimes, alcohol or drugs are used to make the victim more vulnerable.
- Sexual abuse/assault can happen to anyone, regardless of gender, age, race, religion, romantic orientation, education level, or financial status.
- Sexual assault is often committed by someone the survivor knows— a partner, friend, or other acquaintance.

THE EFFECTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

There is no “normal” way to cope with the aftermath of sexual violence, but there are many common short and long-term effects. Keep in mind that everyone reacts differently.

Guilt, shame, blame, and anger Survivors may feel angry and direct that at people they love and trust, but not really know why. They might feel guilty about not having been able to stop the abuse, or blame themselves for what happened.

Self-esteem Survivors may struggle with low self-esteem, which affects many different areas of life such as relationships, school, career, or health. The survivor may feel overwhelmed, inadequate, or helpless.

Physical and emotional effects Survivors may experience headaches, digestive issues, or other pain, develop sleeping difficulties, or become anxious or depressed.

Intimacy and relationships Survivors may struggle to set boundaries that help them feel safe in relationships. Trusting others may be difficult. Survivors may find challenges with intimacy or communication.