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## 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](http://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](mailto:info@ssaic.ca)  
Visit us on the web: [ssaic.ca](http://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](mailto:hello@outsaskatoon.ca)  
Visit us on the web: [outsaskatoon.ca](http://outsaskatoon.ca)

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Thank you to our funding partner:



Department of Justice  
Canada

Ministère de la Justice  
Canada

# SSAIC

Saskatoon Sexual Assault  
& Information Centre



**SEXUAL ORIENTATION  
& SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
IN THE LGBTQ2S  
COMMUNITY**

[WWW.SSAIC.CA](http://WWW.SSAIC.CA)

**Myth:** Sexual violence between two gay men doesn't exist; they are promiscuous and want sex all the time.

**Fact:** This myth is built on a stereotype of gay men. Sexual orientation has no bearing on a person's sex drive; the right to say no to sexual activity exists for people of all genders and sexual orientations.

**Myth:** Lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender individuals deserve to be sexually victimized because of their "lifestyle".

**Fact:** A gym membership is a lifestyle choice. A person's sexuality and gender is not. No one ever deserves sexualized violence.

**Myth:** Bisexual people are sexually curious, and are always ready and willing for sex.

**Fact:** No one is always ready and willing for sex. Bisexual folks are simply attracted to multiple genders; their sexuality has no connection to their sex drive and does not indicate implied consent.

**Myth:** Lesbian rape is less traumatizing/real than straight rape because the perpetrator is closer in size. And anyway, sexual assault requires a penis and/or penetration.

**Fact:** Sexual assault is defined as "sexual contact with another person without that person's consent." It's not the size of the perpetrator but the act of having one's bodily autonomy ignored that creates trauma.

**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. Further, this myth highlights the point that sexualized violence is about a perpetrator's need for power and control, not sexual desire.

## LIVED EXPERIENCES

LGBTQ2S people 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 LGBTQ2S survivors.

- 1 in 5 LBG individuals in Canada experienced physical/sexual violence in an intimate relationship, with bisexual women reporting the highest levels, followed by gay men, lesbian women, and bisexual males. <http://sacha.ca/>
- Victims of intimate partner violence who identified as gay or lesbian reported experiencing spousal violence at more than twice the rate of heterosexuals. Bisexual people reported experiencing spousal violence at 4 times the rate of heterosexuals.
- LGBTQ youth face increased risk of sexual violence. Youth under 30 were found to be 2.5 times as likely to experience sexual violence as compared to LGBTQ people over 30. (NCAVP, 2012) <http://www.openingthecircle.ca/>
- Sexual violence is often driven by a hate crime. Almost 10% of LGBTQ individuals report having experienced sexual trauma due to bias against their sexual orientation, and that the risk of sexual assault, sexual harassment/attempted assault, assault and stalking is higher as compared to other targeted groups. (Gentlewarrior, 2009)

There are still major gaps and barriers in service provision for LGBTQ2S survivors seeking support. All people deserve access to inclusive, safe services, and we are working hard to ensure LGBTQ2S 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.