

Overall Findings



Many survivors identify with more than one underserved or marginalized population.



Survivors feel heard by Maine's sexual assault service providers.



Overall, survivors report that Maine's sexual assault services met their needs related to their victimization.

Still, survivors from underserved or marginalized populations are more likely to answer that their needs were 'mostly' met by services, instead of answer 'yes, their needs were met'.



Survivors from underserved or marginalized populations are less likely to be aware of sexual assault services in their communities.

And those who were aware of services had population-specific reasons for not accessing services.



Formal and informal relationships with allied service providers are the backbone of effective engagement with underserved or marginalized populations.



Population-focused staff roles and population-specific programs lead to more successful outreach with underserved or marginalized populations.



Populations underrepresented in service statistics include adults over 64, individuals with disabilities, and transgender people.

Services to people of color, immigrants/refugees, and non-English speakers were representative of Maine's population, however, an overwhelming majority of those survivors were served by the one culturally-specific center.



Lack of staff capacity, time, or funding to develop specialized outreach or programs is the key barrier to success in serving underserved or marginalized populations.

Methodology

This assessment was conducted through the following means (some of which was in partnership with the Muskie School of Public Service):

1. Collecting data via online and paper surveys from three groups:
 - sexual assault support center staff (45 responses);
 - population-specific partner organization staff (27); and
 - survivors of sexual assault (103 responses, 75 of which identified as being part of an underserved or marginalized population).
2. Reviewing existing data available in our statewide services database and the United States Census Bureau.

Role of this Assessment

The first Underserved Needs Assessment was done in 2015 by Maine Intercultural Communication Consultants to give us more information about Maine's underserved communities and identify the strengths and gaps in the service provision for these communities.

This needs assessment intends to analyze the work we have done, review previous recommendations, and prioritize next steps regarding for training, coalition building, policies, and practices.

Possible Next Steps

1

Prioritize population-specific training, partnerships, and outreach for statistically underserved populations – older adults, individuals with disabilities, and transgender survivors. *Use survey data to identify and address the population-specific reasons survivors did not access services.*

2

Commit resources to services that support multiple underserved or marginalized populations of survivors, like language access, co-delivered services, and ongoing assessment and reflection on this issue as an agency.

3

Use sexual assault support center-specific data and local needs assessments to create individualized plans for centers regarding population-specific programs and outreach.

4

Support, train, collaborate with, and fund population-specific agencies and programs who work with survivors from underserved or marginalized populations.

5

Make a plan for future needs assessment to include more input from survivors and programs serving survivors from underserved or marginalized populations. *Models could include advisory boards, focus groups, and platforms for ongoing feedback.*