

Building Community Safety

in Michigan Black Communities to Prevent Sexual Violence



Did you know?

53.8%

of Black women in Michigan have experienced unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime

SOURCE: NISVS 2010-2012 STATE REPORT

19.4%

of Black men in the U.S. have experienced unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime

SOURCE: NISVS 2010-2012 STATE REPORT

9.6%

of Black Michigan high school students have experienced sexual violence

SOURCE: YRBS HIGH SCHOOL DATA, 2019

'Sexual violence' is any sexual activity that happens without consent, including sexual assault, harassment, abuse, and rape.

There is hope!



Black communities and allies can help prevent sexual violence by increasing

Protective Factors

which are strengths that make it less likely that someone will experience sexual violence or choose to commit sexual violence.

Community Safety

is an important protective factor for Black communities in Michigan.



What is Community Safety?

Community safety means: I can use support services, such as healthcare, emergency services, and law enforcement, without experiencing fear, discrimination, stigma or harm. I can live and express myself freely without fear of harm. My community fully supports my safety and wellbeing.

The Michigan Community Sexual Violence Prevention Assessment (CSVPA) heard from Black community members around the state about how to increase community safety. The following page shares needs and actions you can take to help prevent sexual violence in Michigan Black communities.

What are the needs?

Black communities need healthcare systems and professionals that they can trust.

Black people often **experience discrimination** and harm in medical care, emergency services, and mental healthcare, which creates a lack of trust in the healthcare system.

The healthcare system **lacks** trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and inclusive healthcare professionals.

The **myth** that Black people need different medical treatment contributes to mistreatment and health disparities.



What can you do?

- **Give honest feedback** to healthcare professionals, such as in surveys and public reviews, about the quality of care you receive.
- **Learn skills** to talk with your healthcare providers about your needs and concerns to make sure you're getting the best care possible.
- **Share resources** and public reviews with others about trusted doctors and therapists who offer respectful care.
- **Participate in local health fairs** and support bringing mobile healthcare into your community to build relationships and trust.



Within the Black community, **there is this huge medical distrust** because of the historical bias against Black bodies...There is this belief in the medical field that Black people do not experience pain the same way as other groups do. I think that's reflected in the kinds of treatments that are applied to Black folks versus other groups of people.

-CSVPA interview participant



Background: These are select findings from the Michigan Community Sexual Violence Prevention Assessment (CSVPA). The CSVPA included interviews with individuals from Michigan's Black communities, guidance from an Advisory Council including Black professionals working in the field of sexual violence prevention, and secondary data collection. To learn more about the CSVPA and sexual violence prevention work in Michigan, visit: www.mphi.org/svp

1. Smith, S.G., Chen, J. & Basile, K.C. et al. (2017). The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report. [Table 3.11.b]. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs-staterreportbook.pdf>
2. Smith, S.G., Chen, J. & Basile, K.C. et al. (2017). The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report. [Table 3.6] <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs-staterreportbook.pdf>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). High school youth risk behavior survey data. <https://yrbs-explorer.services.cdc.gov/#/graphs?questionCode=H20&topicCode=C01&location=Ml&year=2019>