

Growing Connectedness in LGBTQ+ Communities to Prevent Sexual Violence



Did you know?

It can be hard to talk about sexual violence, but if we work together, we can prevent it from happening. It's particularly important to talk about prevention in LGBTQ+ communities.

Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual people experience higher rates of unwanted sexual contact than straight communities, and women in these communities even more so.

SOURCE: NISV SURVEY,
2016-2017

Transgender people are also targeted at high rates, particularly those who are Black or Native American.

SOURCE: U.S. TRANSGENDER
SURVEY, 2015

In Michigan, **LGBTQ+** youth experience higher rates of sexual violence than their straight peers.

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!

LGBTQ+ communities and their allies can help prevent sexual violence by increasing

Protective Factors

What is a Protective Factor?

A protective factor decreases the likelihood that a person will experience sexual violence.

Connectedness

is an important protective factor for LGBTQ+ communities in Michigan.

What is Connectedness?

Connectedness is a sense of trust, support, unity and safety between individuals and groups. It's found in many places, such as schools, the workplace, neighborhoods, and between friends and family. It also includes connection to things that the LGBTQ+ community values and shares together.

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

What are the needs?

Safe, stable, and nurturing

relationships with family members of LGBTQ+ people. Having even one supportive adult can be a protective factor for adolescents.



More opportunities

for LGBTQ+ people to communicate and connect to build community with each other, and with the broader community.



Physical and online spaces

where LGBTQ+ people feel safe to be themselves and talk about things that matter to them.

What can you do?

- **Check out** Pride Source (www.pridesource.com) to find out about LGBTQ+ community events and activities.
- **Promote** LGBTQ+ youth activities such as, student organizations, events, proms, and peer mentorship.
- **Support** grassroots efforts for LGBTQ+ community members to help and support each other.
- **Share** opportunities for connection with other LGBTQ+ folks and with the broader community where you live, especially with those who may be isolated.
- **Invite** parents and caregivers into LGBTQ groups or events.
- **Talk** with your faith leaders about setting up community spaces for LGBTQ+ families.



We are **really good at showing up for each other** in the LGBTQ community. We have **chosen family** and these folks play a role in our lives.

-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 LGBTQ+ communities, guidance from an Advisory Council of LGBTQ+ 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. Chen, J., et al. (2023). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) 2016/2017: Report on Victimization by Sexual Identity. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs/nisvsReportonSexualIdentity.pdf>
2. James, et al. (2016). The report of the 2015 U.S. transgender survey. <https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS-Full-Report-Dec17.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=MI&year=2019>