

**What are the Sexual Assault Prevention Needs of the LGBTQIA2S+ Community in
Peterborough-Nogojwanong?**

Final Report by:

Lori Branch

Host Organization: Arthur Newspaper

Faculty Supervisor: Joel Cahn

Trent Community Research Centre Project Coordinator: Ryan Sisson

Department: FRSC

Term: FALL/WINTER 2019/2020

Date of Submission: May 2020

Project ID: 4932

Research Report First Draft

What are the Sexual Assault Prevention Needs of the LGBTQIA2S+ Community in
Peterborough-Nogojiwanong?

Lori Branch

0607024

FRSC 4890Y

Arthur Newspaper, Joel Cahn

April 29, 2020

Contents

Abstract	3
Introduction	4
Methods	8
Results	11
Discussion	
• Specific ways that that queer people can experience sexual assaults	14
• Factors that can contribute to the occurrence of sexual assaults in the LGBTQIA2S+ community	14
• Specific sexual assault prevention needs	16
Conclusion	19
References	21

Abstract

This research project aims to determine the sexual assault prevention need of the LGBTQIA2S+ (or queer) community in the city of Peterborough-Nogojwanong. To determine these needs, a literature review was conducted, as well as interviews with experts on sexual violence and LGBTQIA2S+ needs. This research determined that queer people can be victimized the same way as non-queer people and in ways that pertain to their queer identities as well, like being forced to have sex in ways that don't align with their gender identities and sexual violence being used as a gender or sexual corrective violence. This signifies that queer people have different sexual assault prevention needs than non-queer people. Some sexual assault prevention needs for the queer community in Peterborough-Nogojwanong include increased consent based education in schools including in catholic schools, an improvement in the relationships between queer people and service providers, mainly police services, and providing individualized care to queer survivors of sexual assault which includes ensuring that they have a positive relationship with the Peterborough-Nogojwanong queer community.

Introduction

The purpose of this community research project is to determine the sexual assault prevention needs of the LGBTQIA2S+ community in Peterborough-Nogojiwanong. By determining these needs, our community can then begin to address them. The host organization for this project is Arthur Newspaper, an Independent Press that covers valuable, constructive, and critical topics at Trent University and in Peterborough-Nogojiwanong. Arthur newspaper is governed by a board of directors, publishes articles written by paid staff writers or volunteers which consist of both students and non-student community members, and receives a levy from Trent undergraduate students. The Arthur aims to bridge the gap between its' target audiences; the Trent and Peterborough-Nogojiwanong communities. This research is important because the LGBTQIA2S+ community has different sexual assault prevention needs than the heterosexual-cisgender community, but the needs that are specific to Peterborough-Nogojiwanong have yet to be addressed (1)(2).

In this research project, the term sexual assault refers to an assault, as defined in Section 265(1) of the Criminal Code, committed in circumstances of a sexual nature such that the sexual integrity of the person who has experienced sexual violence is violated (3). The term sexual violence refers to any sexual act or act targeting a person's sexuality, gender identity or gender expression, whether the act is physical or psychological in nature, that is committed, threatened or attempted against a person without the person's consent, and includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, stealthing, indecent exposure, voyeurism and sexual exploitation (3). The term consent refers to an active, direct, voluntary, unimpaired, continual and conscious choice and agreement between persons to engage in physical contact or sexual activity (3). The term prevention refers to the action of stopping something from happening or arising (4).

LGBTQIA2S+ is an acronym that stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and Two-Spirit. The term lesbian refers to a woman who has same-gender attractions (5). The term gay usually refers to men with same gender attractions, but can also be used to refer to lesbian women (6). The term bisexual refers to a person attracted to both men and women (7). The term transgender refers to a person whose sense of personal identity and gender does not correspond with their birth sex (8). The term queer is denoting or relating to a sexual or gender identity that does not correspond to established ideas of sexuality and gender, especially heterosexual norms (9). Queer is also used as an umbrella term to refer to the entire

LGBTQIA2S+ acronym. The term intersex refers to a person that has both male and female sex organs or other sexual characteristics (10). The term asexual refers to a person who has no sexual feelings or desires (11). The term two spirit refers to a person who identifies as having both a masculine and a feminine spirit and is used by some Indigenous people to describe their sexual, gender and/or spiritual identity (12). The plus sign (+) at the end of the acronym is used to represent the spectrum of sexual orientations and or gender identities that are not listed in the acronym and helps describe the acronym's expansive meaning. It is important that the LGBTQIA2S+ community encompasses people with marginalized sexual orientations, gender identities, sexual practices, and bodies. These groups are fundamentally different from each other and may face different risks, therefore having different sexual assault prevention needs (13). Heterosexism refers to the assumption that some people hold that everyone is heterosexual, and is a subtle, usually non-intentional way that people discriminate against LGBTQIA2S+ people (14). Homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia are terms that describe the irrational aversion to, fear, or hatred of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or trans people and communities, as well as anyone else who identifies as queer in some way (14). Microaggressions, in the context of this study, are subtle comments or actions that express prejudice towards a marginalized group, like the LGBTQIA2S+ community (15). Microaggressions are often unconscious or unintentional by the perpetrator, and are usually experienced by marginalized groups on a regular basis (15). The frequency of microaggressions usually tend to take a psychological and emotional toll on the person experiencing them. Pro-abuser peer support refers to a perpetrator's peers who support and encourage the perpetrator to use force and violence, including sexual violence, to control their partner's behaviour (16). One study claims that receiving pro-abuser peer support is a significant determinant of how likely someone is to commit acts of sexual assault (16). Internalized homophobia occurs when a queer person directs negative feelings about queerness towards themselves (17). It arises from negative external influences and can lead to the desire to be straight/cisgender or the rejection of their queer identity (17). Internalized homophobia is a symptom of minority stress. Minority stress is experienced by marginalized people and causes them to change their behaviour in order to adapt to a hostile environment (17). Minority stress can lead to undesirable side effects like depression and increased substance abuse (18). This is pertinent to sexual assaults because drugs or alcohol can be used to facilitate sexual assaults by affecting the victim's judgement abilities, executive functions, decision making, and memory

(19). Drugs and alcohol can also lower the assailant's inhibitions and lead them to misinterpret cues from the victim or be used as an excuse to commit an assault (19). These definitions are important to understand in order to properly appreciate the contents and discussions within this report. This report will often refer to the aforementioned terms to describe situations and scenarios that illustrate the sexual assault prevention needs of the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

Unfortunately, exact and reliable statistics on the amount of queer people who experience sexual assaults are difficult to come by for various reasons, including the fact that few assaults are ever reported in the first place (14)(20). This is what criminologists refer to as the dark figure of crime: crimes that are not accounted for because they are either never discovered, are not reported by victims or witnesses, or are never recorded by law enforcement. People choose to not report sexual assaults to the police for many reasons including believing that the crime was too minor to report, believing the crime was too private to report, not reporting because no one was harmed, not wanting to deal with the police, thinking the police would not consider the crime to be important enough, lack of evidence, not thinking that the offender would be adequately punished, not wanting to deal with the court system, and fear of biased police (20). This lack of reporting is even worse within the queer community because of a historical, longstanding distrust between the police and the LGBTQIA2S+ community (14). For years, queer people have faced discrimination, prejudice, and harassment at the hands of police in Ontario (14). Even as recently as 2019, a Toronto police officer was charged with professional misconduct on the case of Bruce McArthur, serial killer who murdered eight men with ties to Toronto's Gay Village, which perpetuates the distrust between the queer community and police officers (21). Many queer people are still reluctant to report crimes to the police because of this negative relationship.

Current Canadian statistics claim that 80% of sexual violence occurs inside the home, 80% of sexual assaults are perpetrated by a friend or family member of the victim, and that females between the ages of 15 and 24 are at the highest risk of experiencing sexual assaults (13)(22). Additionally, some studies claim that, in Ontario, one in three women, one in six men, and half of trans people will experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetimes (2)(22). In universities, students are at the highest risk of experiencing sexual assaults in the first few weeks of their first year in the fall semester (2). The exact reason for this is unknown, but we can consider the fact that party-like events, like orientation week and homecoming, where drinking usually occurs, take place during the first few weeks of the fall semester. However, we must

keep in mind that these statistics are only estimates and that, for this report, no reliable data was identified on this topic.

In a voluntary survey of Ontarian post-secondary institutions completed in 2018, Trent university students were asked various questions about their experiences with sexual violence (23). This survey did not ask students to self-identify their sexual orientations, however it did ask participants to identify sexual harassment experiences due to sexual orientation or gender identity (23). Results showed that 93.1% of respondents had feelings of disagreement towards negative or harmful opinions, beliefs, and attitudes about consent in sexual situations, 59.2% reported that they had a good understanding of Trent's sexual violence support services and reporting procedures, 68.9% disclosed a sexual harassment experience which included harassment because of sexual orientation or gender identity, 28.1% disclosed a stalking experience, 30.6% reported a non-consensual sexual assault experience, 70.9% stated that they were satisfied with Trent's response to sexual violence, and that 75.4% of bystanders who witnessed events of a person being in potential danger, including witnessing jokes based on gender or sexual orientation, had intervened (23). This survey collected some information that was specific to the Trent university queer community, but most of the questions asked were gender neutral. This survey represents the most recent, publicly-available data on sexual violence in the queer community at Trent University, which gives some insight into the incident rate of sexual violence experienced by queer students. This information helps to acknowledge the existence of gender and sexual orientation-based sexual violence at Trent university which justifies the need for additional prevention initiatives targeted specifically towards queer students.

Current sexual assault prevention initiatives in the Peterborough-Nogojwanong area includes the Consent at Trent training seminar that all first-year Trent university students attend in their first week of University (24). This is an hour-long, expert-facilitated seminar that aims to create a culture of consent at Trent university (24). The Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre (KSAC) currently provides education initiatives on consent education, healthy relationships, bystander intervention and anti-human trafficking work to students from kindergarten through to post-secondary education (2). KSAC also offer counseling services to survivors of sexual assault which are viewed as being preventive because they help survivors build healthier boundaries and end cycles of violence (2). Ultimately, KSAC's sexual violence prevention education aims to

increase awareness of what sexual violence and gender-based violence is by talking about sex positivity, healthy sexuality, healthy relationships and consent language (2). By acknowledging the existing sexual assault prevention initiatives in Peterborough-Nogojiwanong, the gaps in these initiatives can be identified by this report so that they can be addressed and improved.

Methods

This is an exploratory study intended to answer the following research question: “What are the sexual assault prevention needs of the LGBTQIA2S+ community in Peterborough-Nogojiwanong?” This question was answered by conducting a literature review and interviews.

Preceding any research, an ethics application was submitted through Trent university’s Romeo Research Portal and approved by the Forensic Science department and the ethics board at Trent university. This ethics application indicated that research would occur in the form of literature reviews and interviews. Interviews were only be conducted with professionals who had expertise in a field pertaining to the research question, and interview questions would pertain to the participant’s professional expertise, not their personal life experiences, to avoid asking any invasive or harmful questions. Questions were chosen based on their pertinence to the research question and the participant’s field of expertise. They were then approved by the Arthur newspaper editors and Trent university’s research ethics board. The findings of this study were published in a research report, as well as in a series of three articles in Arthur Newspaper for findings to be publicly available. The information obtained from the interviews and the literature reviews were then divided into three categories: Specific ways that that queer people can experience sexual assaults, Factors that can contribute to the occurrence of sexual assaults in the LGBTQIA2S+ community, and Specific sexual assault prevention needs of the LGBTQIOA2S+ community in Peterborough-Nogojiwanong.

The type of literature that was reviewed included peer-reviewed literature as well as literature produced by community organizations and services that provided information that was specific to the Peterborough-Nogojiwanong community. Literature topics that were researched included information on sexual violence within the LGBTQIA2S+ community and how this violence differs from sexual violence within the non-LGBTQIA2S+ community, factors that contribute to the prevalence of sexual violence in the LGBTQIA2S+ community, current sexual

assault prevention initiatives in Peterborough-Nogojiwanong, and known statistics on sexual violence. This was done by searching the Trent university library database using keywords such as sexual assault, sexual violence, queer, variations of the acronym LGBTQIA2S+, gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, consent, prevention, response, and homophobia. As more information was being collected, additional keywords were added such as minority stress, pro-abuser peer support, and internalized homophobia. Information that was specific to the Peterborough-Nogojiwanong area was found by using resources like Statistics Canada and the Peterborough police website. Regional information was also found based on recommendations from interview participants and from this project's hosts, the Arthur Newspaper editors.

The interviews were conducted with Lisa Clarke and Krista Kermer. These participants were selected because the nature of their professions would give them access to information on the sexual assault prevention needs of the queer community specific to Peterborough-Nogojiwanong that may otherwise not be available through literature. Lisa Clarke is the Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre's Executive Director, who specializes in sexual violence knowledge in the Peterborough-Nogojiwanong area. The questions asked referred to current sexual assault initiatives in Peterborough-Nogojiwanong, the strengths and shortcomings of current initiatives, what an ideal sexual assault prevention plan would look like and achieve, the difference between sexual assault prevention needs for the LGBTQIA2S+ community and the non-LGBTQIA2S+ community, sexual assault statistics in Peterborough-Nogojiwanong, and any known patterns in sexual assaults among the LGBTQIA2S+ community. These interview questions were chosen because of their ability to contribute direct and background information to this research project, as well as their pertinence to Clarke's expertise as the executive director of KSAC. Krista Kermer is Trent's Student Retention Programs Coordinator, LGBTQ+ Communities and Resources Coordinator, and Peer Support Coordinator who specializes in queer student needs at Trent university and who runs the queer student support group, Out On Campus. The questions asked referred to the difference between sexual assault prevention needs for the LGBTQIA2S+ community and the non-LGBTQIA2S+ community, whether the LGBTQIA2S+ community is more vulnerable to sexual assaults than the non-LGBTQIA2S+ community, and about factors that potentially contribute to the prevalence of sexual violence in the LGBTQIA2S+ community on the Trent campus. Similar to the interview with Lisa Clarke, this interview's questions were chosen because of their ability to contribute direct and

background information to the research question, as well as their pertinence to Kermer's expertise as Trent's LGBTQ+ Communities and Resources Coordinator and Peer Support Coordinator. The questions for both interviews were developed with the help of the Arthur Newspaper editors and were individualized to the expertise and knowledge of each participant. Interviews occurred in the offices of the participants. These interviews were conducted in order to support the findings of the literature review. The interview participants were able to contextualize the information found in the literature review to the specific region of Peterborough-Nogojwanong. Since there was little existing literature about the sexual assault prevention needs of queer people in Peterborough-Nogojwanong, the interviews with Lisa Clarke and Krista Kermer were able to provide information that would otherwise have remained unknown. Clarke and Kermer have firsthand experience with working with the needs of queer people or in sexual violence prevention, and were able to provide an experienced and professional perspective to this research question that could not have been obtained from a literature review alone.

Results

Table 1. Simplified summary of research findings

<p>Specific ways that that queer people can experience sexual assaults</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being forced to have sex in a way that does not align with one’s gender identity is a type of sexual assault that is usually targeted towards trans, non-binary, genderqueer, or otherwise non-cisgender people (1). • Sexual assault as gender or sexual orientation corrective violence (2).
<p>Factors that can contribute to the occurrence of sexual assaults in the LGBTQIA2S+ community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queer people may be less likely to recognize acts of sexual violence because they are used to relying on social scripts that depict women as the victims of violence perpetrated by men (13). • In certain scenarios, queer people may be at higher risks of experiencing pro-abuser peer support (16). • Internalized homophobia and microaggressions are types of minority stress experienced by queer people that could lead to higher rates of sexual violence (25)(26).
<p>Specific sexual assault prevention needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate social supports to help reduce minority stress (25). • Sexual violence intervention efforts that are specifically targeted to the LGBTQIA2S+ community (18)(26). • Building on the individual strengths of each person (1). • Increased public education programs to educate the non-queer community (2). • Increased education for service providers like medical practitioners and police officers to mend the relationships between these providers and the queer community (14)(17). • Bringing KSAC education programs to the Ontario Catholic School Board (2).

Summarized findings of interview with Lisa Clarke

This section will paraphrase the major findings from the interview with Lisa Clarke. The Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre is a non-for-profit organization that receives funding from the ministry of the attorney general to provide sexual violence prevention education and counseling for survivors of sexual violence (2). They are registered as a third party with the Kawartha Pineridge district school board where they can provide prevention education such as healthy relationship, consent, bystander intervention, and anti-human trafficking education to students from kindergarten to post-secondary (2). However, they are not affiliated with the Peterborough Catholic school board, which is something that they would hope to eventually achieve (2). KSAC offers the MENding program which engages men in ending gender violence, as well as sexual assault survivor counseling services which can help to end cycles of violence (2). These prevention initiatives currently aid in increasing awareness of sexual and gender-based violence in Peterborough-Nogojwanong by engaging conversation about sex positivity, healthy sexuality, healthy relationships, and consent language (2). KSAC also works with Peterborough police and public health services to open a conversation about equity, diversity, and inclusion (2).

Sexual violence disproportionately affects female-identified and trans people, where one in three female-identified people, one in six male-identified people, and one in two trans people will experience sexual violence in their lifetimes (2). There exists government-funded support for female and male survivors of sexual assault, which is exclusive towards non-binary, trans, genderqueer people, and any other survivors who do not identify within the male or female gender binary (2). This is why it is important to have support services available specifically to this demographic. During the time of this interview on March 2, 2020, KSAC was set to implement its' first support group for non-binary, genderqueer, and trans survivors of sexual assault by the end of March (2).

Information that is known about sexual assaults in Peterborough-Nogojwanong is that reports of sexual assaults and intimate partner violence in the queer community increase during Peterborough pride week in September, however the exact reason for this is unknown (2). The month of September is also when Trent university's Head of the Trent event take place, where alcohol consumption occurs which could potentially increase opportunities for alcohol-facilitated sexual assaults (2). Statistically, we understand the sexual assault risks surrounding gender, for example the risks that come with being male, female, trans, or otherwise identified, but it is more

complicated when we try to understand the risks associated to sexual orientation (2). We also know that sexual violence can be used as gender or sexual identity corrective violence by a perpetrator (2).

KSAC strives to increase awareness surrounding intimate partner violence and violence towards trans people (2). This includes understanding the importance of using proper pronouns and not dead-naming people (using a trans person's old name that no longer aligns with their gender identity), because dead-naming and improper pronoun use can perpetuate cycles of violence faced by trans people (2).

Summarized findings of interview with Krista Kermer

This section will paraphrase the major findings from the interview with Krista Kermer. One of the groups that Kermer runs is Out On Campus, a confidential queer discussion group for queer students only (26). Out On Campus runs educational events for the community, and aims to stay away from drinking events in their programming (26). Kermer also works with student retention for any student who may face barriers to accessing equitable education, which includes queer students who may experience various mental illnesses related to harassment and bullying targeted towards their queerness (26). Kermer works to retain these students by including them in Trent's queer community and by providing positive queer role models to these students (26).

Kermer talked about the importance of giving marginalized people the language to identify and recognize ways that they may be experiencing acts of violence so that they can begin to address these acts, for example people experiencing microaggressions may not realize that they are experiencing them until they learn what the term microaggression means (26). There also needs to be more queer representation in sexual assault prevention initiatives (26). People are used to social scripts that depict cisgender women as victims of assaults perpetrated by cisgender men, and more queer representation is needed for queer survivors and bystanders to recognize an act of violence when it occurs (26).

Currently, at Trent university, queer support events and meetings are run by a few niche groups on campus, like Out On Campus or the Trent Queer Collective (26). But an ideal campus would have far more partners running queer programming and queer events for students to have a larger set of options, multiple points of access, and for campus partners to demonstrate their support for queer students (26).

Discussion

Specific ways that that queer people can experience sexual assaults

People in the LGBTQIA2S+ community can experience sexual assaults in the same ways that cisgender-heterosexual people as well as in ways that cisgender-heterosexual people cannot. One way that this may happen is if a person is being forced to have sex in a way that does not align with their gender identity (1). This may happen to people who are not cisgender, like people who identify as trans, non-binary, gender queer, etc. For example, if a person's gender identity does not align with their biological sex and they prefer to not involve certain parts of their body during sexual intercourse, but a perpetrator forces them to sexually involve those body parts. Another way that a queer person may experience sexual assault is if a perpetrator uses sexual assault as a gender or sexual orientation corrective violence (2). For example, a man sexually assaults a woman he knows is lesbian in an attempt to "turn her straight". Queer-oriented sexual assault prevention initiatives are necessary to address these types of assaults, which would not be addressed in a prevention initiative targeted towards a cisgender-heterosexual audience. A more detailed explanation of such initiatives will be given in the "Specific sexual assault prevention needs" portion of this discussion. A sexual assault trend that is specific to Peterborough-Nogojwanong is that reports of sexual assaults within the LGBTQIA2S+ community increase around the time of Peterborough Pride Week in September (2). However, because of the nature of statistics, it is unknown whether this is due to an increase in assaults, an increase in reporting, or due to another factor. This is a topic that requires additional research and could be addressed as its own research project.

Factors that can contribute to the occurrence of sexual assaults in the LGBTQIA2S+ community

There are many studies and reports that attempt to determine the occurrence of sexual assaults among the LGBTQIA2S+ community, but these results are rarely reliable partially because of the dark figure of crime (13)(16)(18). There are many reasons why people fail to report crimes, thus contributing to the dark figure. One possibility for this is that queer people fail to report sexual assaults because they are unaware that they are experiencing sexual violence because they rely on social scripts that depict women as victims of sexual assaults by male perpetrators (13). These social scripts exclude the possibility of non-male perpetrators and non-female victims or survivors which potentially excludes a large portion of the queer community.

This indicates that there is a need for a better understanding, within the queer community, of what sexual assaults and sexual violence is. Education initiatives that allow queer people to learn language for things that they are experiencing, for example internalized homophobia, microaggressions, or pro-abuser peer support, can allow queer people to then begin to address these occurrences (26). Additionally, the lack of positive queer role models or lack of embeddedness in the queer community can result in a lack of spaces to voice concerns and to seek support (16)(26). This may also result in a person recognizing fewer instances of sexual violence that happen to them, which leads to less reporting.

Another factor that could possibly contribute to the occurrence of sexual assaults in the queer community is the prevalence of pro-abuser peer support (16). If the perpetrator of sexual assaults is receiving affirmation from their peers to continue with their abuse and the victimized partner has no support system, a cycle of abuse will occur that will be difficult for the abused partner to escape (16). Reasons a queer survivor may remain in an abusive relationship include wanting to remain in a same-gender relationship as confirmation of their own queer identity, lacking confidence in determining what is acceptable behaviour in a same-gender relationship, and lack of embeddedness in the LGBTQIA2S+ community which results in a lack in friendships, positive peer supports, and role models (16). It is this lack of embeddedness in the queer community that may cause a queer person to lack confidence in their choices pertaining to their queer relationships. Without friendships, peer supports, and role models in the queer community, a queer person's abusive partner may be the only queer relationship that that person has, which can make that person reluctant to end the relationship, even if it is abusive (16). These factors can isolate queer survivors and make it difficult for them to leave an abusive relationship, which increases their risk of experiencing sexual assaults.

Queer communities, like other marginalized communities, often experience microaggressions (26). Because microaggressions can be a mild form of sexual harassment that happen subtly and frequently, they can desensitize a person to the abuse that they face and make them unconsciously more tolerant to this abuse (26). This can lead to queer people tolerating increasingly serious forms of abuse, which can eventually escalate to sexual assault. When queer people experience microaggressions, they must decide when to confront them by speaking up about them because it would be too exhausting to attempt to speak up about every harmful thing being said (26). This may lead perpetrators to believe that their microaggressions are okay or not

harmful because the person receiving the microaggression is not confronting the aggression. Again, this could result in the microaggressions becoming increasingly serious until they escalate to sexual assaults.

Finally, when considering factors influencing the actions of the assailant, one study found that internalized homophobia and minority stress were positively correlated with sexual violence perpetration (25). In other words, a study found that queer people who experience internalized homophobia and minority stress may be at increased risks of perpetrating sexual violence (25). This indicates that there exists a need to address phenomena like internalized homophobia and minority stress that is experienced by queer people in order to address the lateral violence that exists within the queer community. It is important to remember that sexual violence against the queer community can come from both within and outside of the community (2). There exist various support systems in Peterborough-Nogojiwanong that tackle these phenomena, like ones run by KSAC and Out On Campus at Trent university, however further research could be conducted to determine whether a more concerted effort to address these issues within Peterborough-Nogojiwanong would be more effective (2)(26).

Specific sexual assault prevention needs

The principle takeaway from this research project should be that queer people can experience sexual assaults in a magnitude of different ways. Because of this, there is no single way to prevent discrimination based on gender identity expression or sexual orientation (27). Therefore, there is no single way to address the sexual assault prevention needs of the entire LGBTQIA2S+ community. The following sexual assault prevention needs are not representative of the entire scope of prevention needs of the whole LGBTQIA2S+ community in Peterborough-Nogojiwanong. It is a summary of the common needs that have been addressed in literature sources and by community professionals.

Education initiatives already exist in Peterborough-Nogojiwanong and at Trent university, and there are studies that claim that the format that these education programs are taught in can impact their efficacy. One study determined that the most effective prevention programs are professionally facilitated, rather than peer-facilitated, offered during various times throughout the year, and are offered to specific audiences depending on the needs of the audience (28). As mentioned earlier, Trent university had a consent education program called Consent at

Trent, but this program is only offered to students once in their undergrads (24). Ideally, this program would be delivered to students more often, and would be presented to specific audiences depending on the perceived needs of specific audiences, however it is outside the scope of this project to determine whether this is feasible (28). Target audiences could hypothetically include single-gender audiences to address societal gender roles and sexual assault myths, as well as the queer community to address queer experiences like homo/bi/trans-phobia, internalized homophobia, heterosexism, and specific types of microaggressions and minority stressors experienced by queer people (28). The Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre provides education to public elementary and high schools, as well as in post-secondary institutions, but is not currently involved with the catholic school board (2). A positive next step would be for KSAC to get involved with this school board to run educational programming like consent education, healthy relationship education, bystander intervention, and anti-human trafficking work (2). For these prevention initiatives to be as effective as possible, they should explicitly refer to the needs of queer people as opposed to simply using gender neutral language throughout the programming (2)(18). Explicitly referring to the needs of queer people could be achieved by including programming about homo/bi/trans-phobia, internalized homophobia, heterosexism, and specific types of microaggressions and minority stressors experienced by queer people, as well as by using examples of sexual violence involving queer people (26).

In order to address the negative effects of minority stress that queer people experience, queer people need positive social supports (25) To prevent victimization, queer people can build on their individual strengths, for example their supportive friends, family, workplace, etc., and building on the strengths of the LGBTQIA2S+ community (1). However, it is important to consider that some resources that are available to survivors of sexual violence are not viewed as accessible by some queer people, for example health services, law enforcement services, certain workplaces, shelters, etc. (1). Some services were not initially designed with the intention to serve queer communities and must modify their practices if they intend to make their services more accessible (1).

The sexual assault prevention needs of the queer community include the need for the general public to change potentially negative attitudes towards queer people. Practices to be taken by the public and service providers to prevent gender discrimination, which would decrease the prevalence of minority stress, include being mindful of their own beliefs and

knowledge about queer individuals by trying to acknowledge their own potential biases, to attempt to become familiar with queer culture by listening to LGBTQIA2S+ voices by attending and being involved with LGBTQIA2S+ educational events, to challenge the homo/bi/trans phobia and heterosexism around them by confronting discriminatory jokes and remarks, to use inclusive language and ensuring to always use someone's preferred name and pronouns (1). Using incorrect pronouns or deadnaming a person (the practice of using someone's old name that no longer aligns with their gender identity) can be harmful because this person then no longer feels supported and validated. This leads to a person experiencing increased minority stress which leaves them more vulnerable to victimization (2).

Education outreach must also be achieved with service providers like police officers, healthcare providers, shelters, and other providers who may provide services to survivors of sexual assaults. These providers must understand the needs of the LGBTQIA2S+ community so that they can properly meet these needs (14)(29). The longstanding historical distrust between the queer community and police services, as well as other essential service providers, must be resolved in order for queer people to feel safe and accepted while accessing these services (14). Furthermore, the Peterborough police website has a link to a “survivor toolkit” for people who are experiencing sexual assaults or domestic violence (30)(31). This toolkit describes how to recognize sexual assault, but had no information that was specific to queer people or any descriptions of ways that queer people may experience sexual assaults that non-queer people would not (30). It would be important for the Peterborough police website to contain information specifically for queer survivors of sexual assaults because the police may be the first service that some people think to access after experiencing an assault. Suggestions to achieve this would include adding specific examples and information on ways that people, other than women victimized by men, can experience sexual assaults, so that these experiences can be recognized by the survivor. Additionally, the Peterborough police website’s “survivor toolkit” has a list of resources in Peterborough-Nogojwanong available to survivors of sexual assaults, but this list is located at the end of a lengthy document, making it difficult to find (30)(31). The Peterborough police should consider listing these resources in a more accessible part of their website, and should also consider creating a list of service providers that can cater to the specific needs of queer survivors of sexual assaults.

When considering the results of this study it is important to recognize that it assessed queerness and sexual assaults in a vacuum, and did not acknowledge the impact of intersectionality. This means that this study did not acknowledge the prevention needs of queer people who may also experience oppression due to different aspects of their identity such as race, disability, age, culture, language, income level, etc. (27). All of these identities can make a person experience sexual violence in different ways that were not addressed in this study.

Conclusion

One queer person cannot voice the needs of the entire queer community, as the queer community is just as varied and complex as the cisgender-heterosexual community. The input of many voices is needed to completely determine the sexual assault prevention needs of the Peterborough-Nogojwanong LGBTQIA2S+ community. This study summarized the known needs of the queer community, but there are surely more needs that have not yet been acknowledged, as well as future needs that have not been anticipated. It is outside the scope of this study to determine to what extent the needs identified in this report are being met in Peterborough-Nogojwanong. Determining this would be the goal of a follow-up research project to this one. Additional research is also required regarding the increase in reports of sexual assaults during Peterborough Pride week. Another research project could determine whether this occurs because of an increase in assaults, an increase in reports, or because of another factor, and whether or not something needs to be done to address this phenomenon.

The sexual assault prevention needs of the queer community in Peterborough-Nogojwanong are slowly being addressed, but this must be done at a faster rate (2). Another ambitious but possibly necessary research project would be to try and find ways to address and improve the dark figure of crime. If we knew the exact data pertaining to survivors of sexual assaults and exact ways in which sexual assaults occur, we could address these problems in a far more efficient manner.

The sexual assault prevention needs of the LGBTQIA2S+ community in Peterborough-Nogojwanong must be identified so that they can be addressed. This project began the research to identify these needs, but it could not have completely answered such a complex research question. Completely addressing the sexual assault prevention needs of the queer community would require the help from far more community and campus partners to create a concerted

effort that would realise a comprehensive list of needs that can then be addressed through united community efforts.

References

1. Intimate partner violence in rainbow communities. Western Education. Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women and Children. Issue 12. Apr 2015.
2. L. Clarke, Professional Communication, March 2, 2020.
3. Trent University. Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Operations. Approved Nov 30, 2018.
<https://www.trentu.ca/governance/sites/trentu.ca.governance/files/documents/Sexual%20Violence%20Policy%20-%20ACCESSIBLE.pdf> (Accessed 02/10/19)
4. Lexico. Prevention. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/prevention> (Accessed 02/10/19)
5. Lexico. Lesbian. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/lesbian> (Accessed 02/10/19)
6. Lexico. Gay. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/gay> (Accessed 02/10/19)
7. Lexico. Bisexual. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/bisexual> (Accessed 02/10/19)
8. Lexico. Transgender. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/transgender> (Accessed 02/10/19)
9. Lexico. Queer. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/queer> (Accessed 02/10/19)
10. Lexico. Intersex. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/intersex> (Accessed 02/10/19)
11. Lexico. Asexual. <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/asexual> (Accessed 02/10/19)
12. Re:Searching for LGBTQ2S+ Health. Two-Spirit Community.
<https://lgbtqhealth.ca/community/two-spirit.php> (Accessed 02/10/19)
13. Hequembourg AL, Parks KA, Collins RL, Hughes TL. Sexual assault risks among gay and bisexual men. *J Sex Res* 2014 Jan;52(3):282-95. DOI:
10.1080/00224499.2013.856836
14. Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police. Best practices in policing and LGBT communities in Ontario.
<http://www.oacp.on.ca/Userfiles/Files/NewAndEvents/OACP%20LGBTQ%20final%20Nov2013.pdf> (Accessed 10/03/2020).
15. Merriam-Webster. Microaggression. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/microaggression> (Accessed 15/03/2020).

16. DeKeserdy W, Hall-Sanchez A, Nolan J, Schwartz M. A campus LGBTQ community's sexual violence and stalking experiences: the contribution of pro-abuse peer support. *J Gen Based Viol* 2017 Dec;1(2):169-85. DOI: 10.1332/239868017X15099845241783
17. Frost DM, Meyer IH. Internalized homophobia and relationship quality among lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. *J Counseling Psych* 2010;(56):97-109. DOI:10.1037/a0012844
18. Edwards KM, Sylaska KM, Barry JE, Moynihan MM, Banyard VL, Cohn ES, et al. Physical dating violence, sexual violence, and unwanted pursuit victimization: a comparison of incidence rates among sexual-minority and heterosexual college students. *J Interp Viol* 2015;30(4):580-600. DOI: 10.1177/0886260514535260
19. Drouin M, Jozkowski KN, Davis J, Newsham G. How does alcohol consumption affect perceptions of one's own and a drinking partner's ability to consent to sexual activity? *J Sex Res* 2018 Sep;56(6):740-53. DOI: 10.1080/00224499.2018.1509290
20. Statistics Canada. Reasons for not reporting sexual assault to the police, by sex of victim, Canada, 2014. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2017001/article/14842/tbl/tbl09-eng.htm> (Accessed 10/03/2020).
21. Nasser S. Toronto police officer to be charged with misconduct in connection with Bryce McArthur case. CBC. In Press.
22. Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre. Infographic on sexual violence statistics. http://www.kawarthasexualassaultcentre.com/portfolio_page/infographic-on-sexual-violence-statistics/ (Accessed 10/03/2020).
23. Student Voices on Sexual Violence. Summary Report of the Student Voices on Sexual Violence Survey. CCI Research Inc. March 19, 2019. <https://files.ontario.ca/tcu-summary-report-student-voices-on-sexual-violence-survey-en-2019-03.pdf>
24. Trent University. Sexual violence: consent. <https://www.trentu.ca/sexualviolence/student-voices-survey> (Accessed 03/03/2020).
25. Edwards K, Sylaska KM. The Perpetration of intimate partner violence among LGBT college youth: the role of minority stress. *J Youth Adolescence* Dec 2012;52:1721-31. DOI: 10.1007/s10964-012-9880-6
26. K. Kermer. Professional Communication, March 6, 2020.
27. Hixson-Vulpe J. Creating authentic spaces. A gender identity and gender expression toolkit to support the implementation of institutional and social change. The 519.

28. Vladutiu CJ, Martin SL, Macy RJ. College- or university-based sexual assault prevention programs: a review of program outcomes, characteristics, and recommendations. SAGE 2011;12(2):67-86. DOI: 10.1177/1524838010390708
29. Mascis A.N. Working with transgender survivors. J Gay and Lesbian Mental Health. 2011 Apr. 15(2):200-10. DOI: 10.1080/19359705.2011.553782
30. Victim Services Peterborough Northumberland. Out of the shadows: A manual for survivors in Peterborough, Northumberland, Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton. April 2018. 4th Rev. Ed.
31. Peterborough Police Service. Victim Services.
<https://www.peterboroughpolice.com/learn/investigative-services/victim-services/>
(Accessed 10/03/2020).