

## Understanding and Serving: Male Identified Survivors

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*"It's hard being a survivor when most people view me as the perpetrator of violence. It's like I have to prove that I'm a victim in order for me to get services"*

-Survivor

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## Agenda

- Introduction
- Four Corners
- The Capacity to Serve Diverse Populations
- Working with M.I.S.
- Scenarios 1
- The Grooming Process
- Shared Experiences
- Common Reactions to Trauma
- Resources

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### Four Corners! (Using Chat Box)

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree

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**I am enjoying working from home**

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**Providing services to victims and survivors during this time has been challenging**

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**I feel comfortable working with Male Identified Survivors**

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**Male Identified Survivors and Woman Identified Survivors need different support**

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**I have the resources available to serve survivors who hold multiple identities**

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**It is easier for me to empathize with survivors who I share common experiences and identities**

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### The Capacity to Serve Diverse Populations

- Religion
- Age
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Language
- Career
- Race
- Ability
- Ethnicity
- Social Economic Status
- Marital/relationship Status
- Education

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### *Working with Male Identified Survivors*

- Uncomfortable
- Not much experience
- Anger
- Frustration
- Lack of understanding / knowledge
- Prank/Crank Calls
- Gratification Calls
- Graphic Details
- Explicit Language
- Hoax Stories

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## Scenario 1

Hunter comes into your agency seeking help. He reveals that he was sexually assaulted and is unsure how to handle it. Hunter is calm and sits quietly in your office. While waiting he says, "I should have fought back right?"

*\*What is your response?*

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Hunter begins to cry and starts repeating, "it's all my fault. It's all my fault. How could I let this happen? I can't tell my dad, he'll kill me."

*\*What is your response?*

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In the middle of responding, Hunter interrupts you and says, "I'm sorry, but I just don't feel comfortable sharing this with you. Is there a person of color I can speak with?"

*\*What is your response?*

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## The Grooming Process

- Identifying and targeting the victim
- Gaining Trust and access
- Playing a role in the child's life
- Isolating the child
- Creating secrecy around the relationship
- Initiating sexual contact
- Controlling the relationship

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*"Many survivors believe that in order to have been chosen as a target, there must be something wrong with them, something that makes them weak or even deserving of the pain"*

*(Schroeder, 2016)*

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## Shared Experiences

- **Men who have been sexually assaulted experience:**
  - Anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, flashbacks, and eating disorders (**True/False**)
  - Avoiding people or places that remind you of the assault or abuse (**True/False**)
  - Concerns or questions about sexual orientation (**True/False**)
  - The ability to move on faster than women who experience sexual assault (**True/False**)
  - Feeling like "less of a man" or that you no longer have control over your own body (**True/False**)

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- Feeling on-edge, being unable to relax, and having difficulty sleeping (**True/False**)
- Sense of blame or shame over not being able to stop the assault or abuse, especially if you experienced an erection or ejaculation (**True/False**)
- Are less likely to need mental health therapy (**True/False**)
- Worrying about disclosing for fear of judgment or disbelief (**True/False**)

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Common Reactions to Sexual Violence

(What may be behind the statement? Possible affirmative responses)

- "Maybe I was the one to blame."
- "I should have told someone."
- "Maybe I'm gay."
- "Did I secretly want it?"

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- "Men who allow themselves to be raped are faggots."
- "I'm gay and this is God's punishment."
- "I was so fucking hammered."

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## Historical Context

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## Resources

1. Weiss, R. (2016). Treating Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/love-and-sex-in-the-digital-age/201606/treating-male-survivors-sexual-abuse>
2. Sexual Assault of Men and Boys (2019). <https://www.rainn.org/articles/sexual-assault-men-and-boys>
3. Schroeder, J. (2016). The Secret Lives of Male Sex Abuse Survivors. <https://brightthemag.com/for-male-survivors-healing-through-chat-77132a56dcbf>
4. Walz, G., Bleuer, J. (2015). Understanding Male Childhood Sexual Abuse: Consequences and Considerations. [https://www.counselling.org/docs/default-source/vistas/article\\_X8-65C11716116603abcacff0000bee5e7.pdf?sfvrsn=38](https://www.counselling.org/docs/default-source/vistas/article_X8-65C11716116603abcacff0000bee5e7.pdf?sfvrsn=38)

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Survey

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Thank you!

*Contact Information:*

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