

Serving Male-Identified Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Historically, domestic violence programs were born from the women's liberation movement of the 1970s to address the needs of female survivors. Overtime, it has come to be understood that anyone can be a victim of domestic violence regardless of race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

We have come to learn, that a woman-centered approach to advocacy only addresses the needs of a portion of survivors and often times fail to acknowledge and address male victimization.

As advocates it's important that we recognize and respond to survivors across the gender spectrum, while honoring the gender-analysis that helps us understand the root causes of violence and oppression.

“It is not like what I watched my mom go through.”

- Male survivor

7%

Of the **1.2 million survivors** served via Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) funded programs in 2017, we know that almost **89,000 individuals identified as male.**

Providing services to male-identified survivors is not only required by law; it is the ethical and right thing to do.

The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act Final Rule indicates that all survivors must have access to services and programs and must receive comparable services including emergency shelter, victim centered advocacy, crisis counseling, support groups, and referrals to other essential services.

Ask yourself...

When you think about male victims of abuse, who comes to mind?

When it comes to gender-inclusive services, how can you do better?

What is your organizational culture regarding male-identified victims of domestic violence?

What message would you like an individual who identifies as a male-identified victim/survivor to receive from your organization's awareness materials?



Healthy and whole communities can only be realized when all survivors have the support they need to begin the path to healing from abuse.

A Pathway to Healing for Male-Identified Survivors

Male-identified survivors of intimate partner violence may include veterans or active service members, those who are incarcerated, teen boys, men in later life, men in same sex relationships, or individuals who identify as transmen.

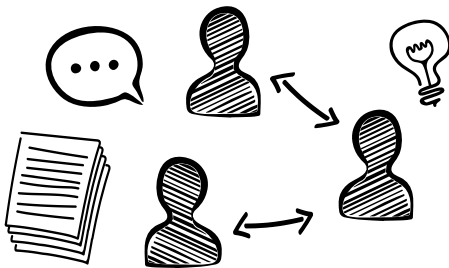
Unique Barriers

Many men face barriers for accessing services for a variety of reasons such as:

- shame
- stigma
- isolation
- diminished self worth
- fear of not being believed
- lack of awareness about the need of male-identified survivors

“ An officer said to me, ‘She must be a really big woman, and stronger than you.’ Society doesn’t believe men like me that go through things like these.”

Creating Gender Inclusive Services



Shifting to embrace trauma-informed, gender-inclusive approaches requires a critical look at your organization’s awareness materials, outreach strategies, service delivery model and the willingness to embrace proactive strategies to engage the populations you seek to serve. This requires an ongoing commitment to serve all members of the communities in which we live.

“ It’s been a great investment. Now we’re seeing a lot more men call, particularly gay men. The need is out there, men don’t think [shelter] is available to them. Since we’ve done it, no one thinks we should go back to how it was.”

– Gender-integrated domestic violence agency ([FORGE, 2016](#))

Expanding your capacity to meet the needs of male-identified survivors

- Create welcoming environments for all victims/survivors
- Develop inclusive awareness materials
- Reach out to men and boys in your community
- Build new partnerships with organizations already serving men and boys
- Ensure advocates are trained to respond to the unique needs of all survivors
- Develop innovative shelter spaces to accommodate male-identified survivors
- Support male-identified survivors who wish to build their capacity to speak publicly and tell their story
- Talk to male-identified survivors who reached out for services and ask them what was most useful or challenging
- Review agency’s policies to ensure non-discrimination standards are met
- Offer opportunities for male-identified survivors to network and build community with peers

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