

For Deaf, By Deaf: what STOP administrators can do to support Deaf survivors' healing and justice

A Webinar for STOP Administrators

**Nancy Smith
Center on Victimization and Safety
Vera Institute of Justice**

**Erin Esposito
IGNITE**

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Training Goals

- Identify Deaf cultures and communities in the United States;
- Summarize what is known about victimization of Deaf, including sexual assault and domestic violence
- Discuss common barriers Deaf survivors face with hearing services and systems; and,
- Identify strategies you can take to support culturally and linguistically specific services to Deaf survivors.

Deaf Culture

“Deaf people as a linguistic minority have a common experience of life, and this manifests itself in Deaf culture. This includes beliefs, attitudes, history, norms, values, literary traditions, and art shared by Deaf people.”

Source: World Federation of the Deaf

Deaf People & Deaf Culture

- Cultural-Linguistic Minority Group
- Deaf identities (culture vs. disability)
- Deaf families (10% Deaf of Deaf)
- Deaf community and subgroups
- Languages: American Sign Language (ASL) and Pro-Tactile ASL (PTASL)

Deaf People & Deaf Culture: Visual Beings, Keen Observers, Tactile

- Eye contact
- Body Language/Facial Expression
- Communication & Getting Attention
 - Tap shoulders
 - Stomp on floor
 - Flick lights

Deaf Communities

Deaf BIPOC (Black
Indigenous People
Of Color)

DeafBlind

Deaf LGBTQ

Grassroot Deaf

Deaf of Deaf

Children of Deaf
Adults (CODA)

Oral Deaf

Late-Deafened

Hard of Hearing

Senior Citizen Deaf

Deaf Immigrant

Deaf People & Deaf Culture: Flavia Fleischer, Ph.D.

1st video – Flavia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1xQaRbWHus>

Deaf People & Deaf Culture: Nathie Marbury, Ph.D.

2nd video – Nathie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDrNZuZ-Dr0>

Deaf people are at greater risk of violence.

Prevalence rates of lifetime forced sexual experiences



One in every ten hearing women will experience a forced sexual experience in her lifetime.



One in every four Deaf women will experience a forced sexual experience in her lifetime.

Why?

- Not fully understanding DV/SV
- Oppression and Audism
- Devaluation
- Presumed lack of credibility
- Seen as “easy targets”

Specific Deaf Community Issues

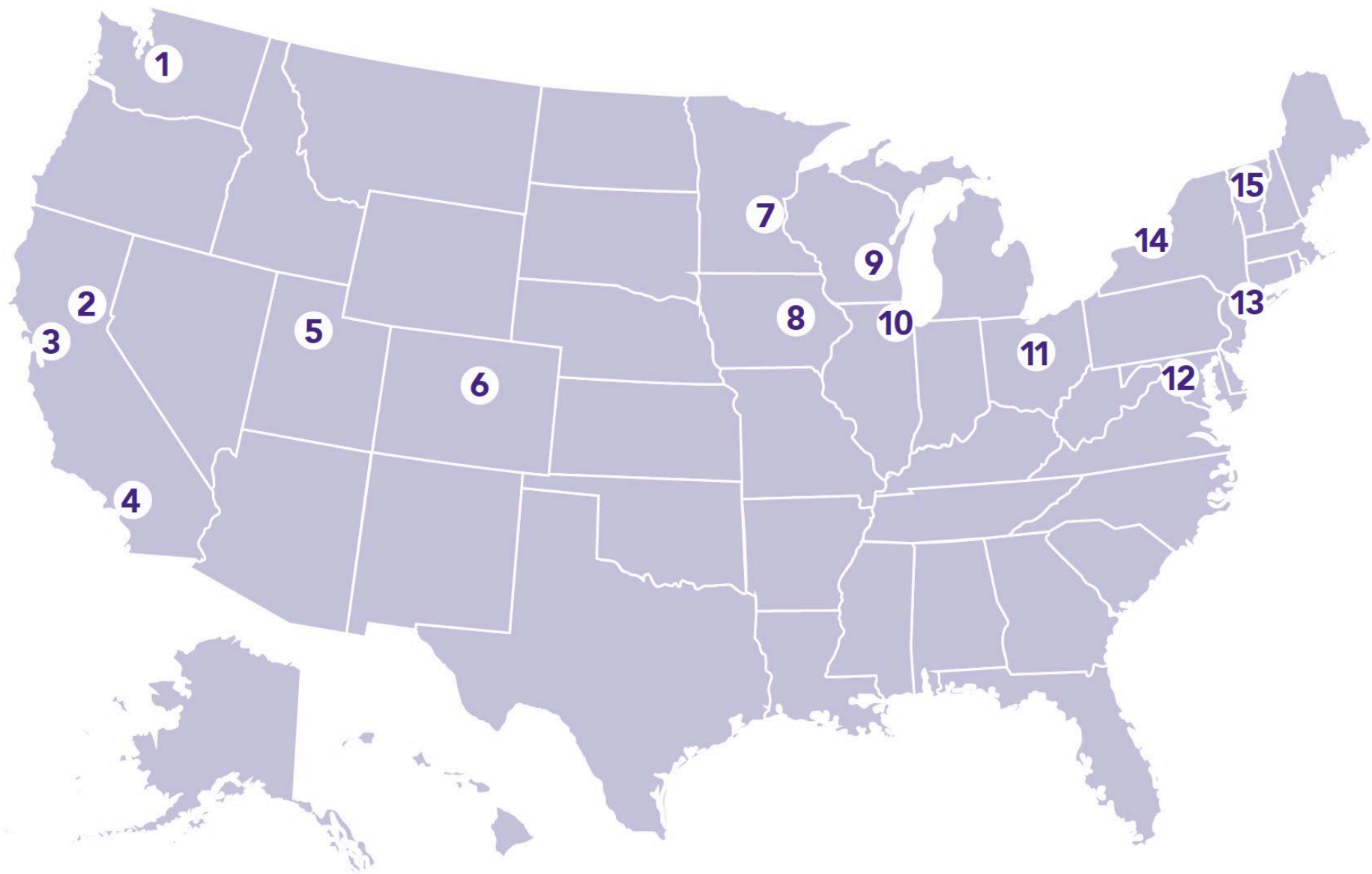
- Deaf Hierarchy
- Small World/Close-Knit
- Deaf Grapevine
- Dual Relationships
- Fear of negative changes with Deaf community members or family

Abuse of Deaf people has unique dynamics.

- Injure a victims' hands to prevent effective communication in ASL or by using assistive equipment
- Threaten to or actually move away from the victim's established Deaf community or to an area with very few Deaf people to further isolate the victim
- Abusing or threatening to abuse a service animal
- Deny tactics by saying the tactics are culturally appropriate behaviors within the Deaf community
- Destroy devices used for communication, including smartphones used for texting, videophones and TTYs

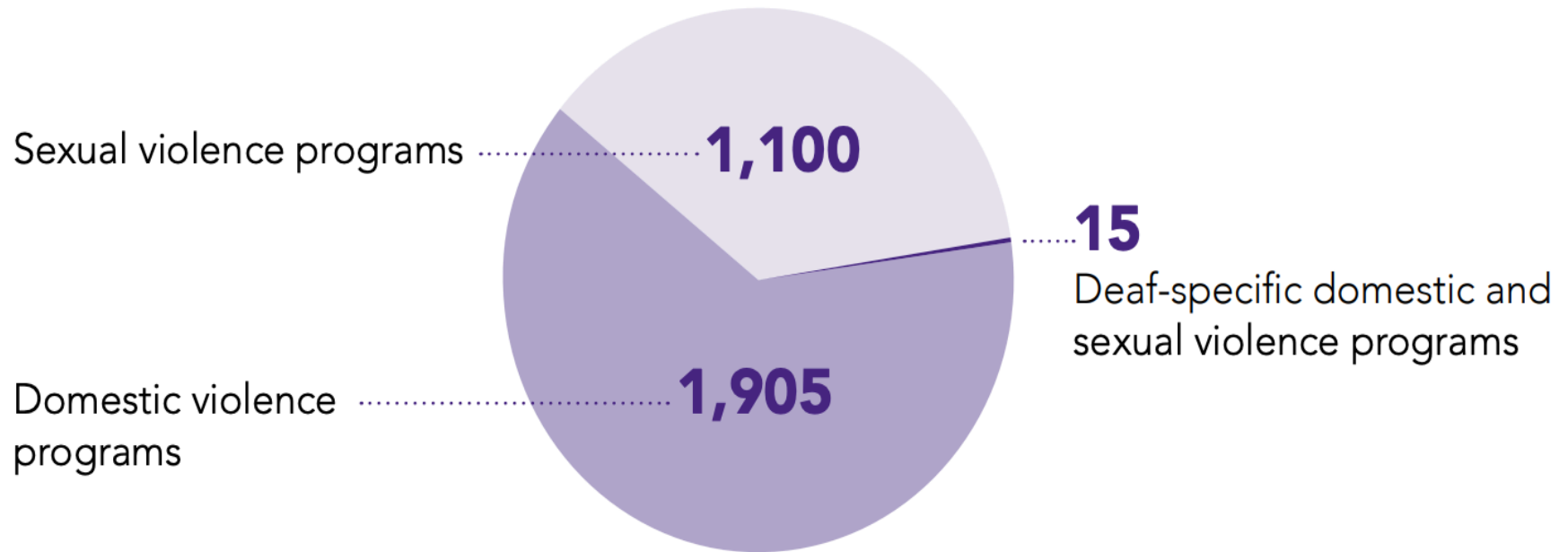
Significant underreporting

- Communication/Cultural Barriers
- Lack of access by service providers
- Lack of effective criminal justice response
- Don't know how to report/reach out for help
- No place to go – less than 20 Deaf programs in USA



Agencies providing Deaf-specific services to Deaf survivors in the United States

Number of programs addressing domestic and sexual violence in the United States



Common barriers in hearing services and systems.

- Invisibility: Limited to no exposure to Deaf survivors
- Lack of Specialized Outreach
- Lack of Language Access
- Lack of funds allocated for accessibility
- Lack of coordination between anti-violence and Deaf organizations and law enforcement.
- Lack of cultural competency in victim services and advocacy.
- Lack of specialized training for law enforcement and prosecutors.
- Audism in mainstream services and systems.

Experiences of Deaf Survivors with hearing services and systems.

3rd video (Deaf survivor)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8sNIbO4JI4&t=124s>

Key Considerations

- Budget for Access
- Increasing Exposure to and Building Relationships with the Deaf Community
- Partnering with Deaf Organizations
- Conducting Access Reviews and Creating a Plan to Remove Barriers
- Exploring the Use of Technology

Contact Information

Center on Victimization and Safety
Vera Institute of Justice

Nancy Smith
(917) 535-7564
nsmith@vera.org

IGNITE

Erin Esposito
erinaesposito@gmail.com