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

A Webinar for STOP Administrators

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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

- Sexual violence programs: 1,100
- Domestic violence programs: 1,905
- Deaf-specific domestic and sexual violence programs: 15
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=W8sNlbO4Jl4&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

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