

canvas | arts action programs

The C-Word:

Talking about consent with youth.

October 16, 2018

Who are we?

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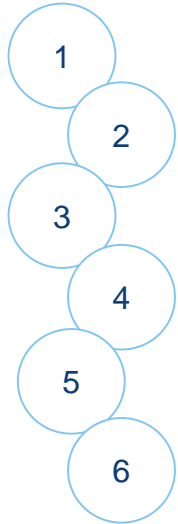
Goals of Presentation

Understand
common
concerns and
questions
youth have
about consent.

Learn
techniques for
teaching
consent
concepts.

Increase
confidence in
answering
tough
questions.

Overview



Mission

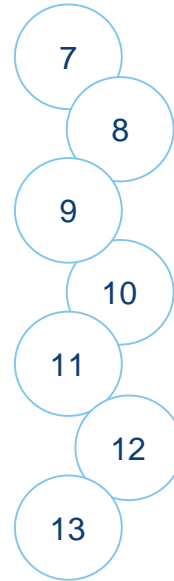
Consent Over the Lifespan

External Influence

What is Consent?

Responsibility

Obstacles



Assumptions

Verbal vs. Non-Verbal Cues

Language Tools

Safe(r) Space

Do's and Don'ts

FAQ

Comments/Questions

Our Mission

Combat homophobia, transphobia, and sexual violence using interactive education.

Our Promise

Expand notions of gender equity, sexual diversity, and consent with creativity and passion.

The Solution

- We teach youth **WHY** consent and LGBTQ2S+ inclusion matter.
- We train educators **HOW** to have the tough conversations.
- We provide **PRACTICAL SKILLS** for safe, positive relationships.

Community Partners



Consent Over the Lifespan

Childhood

Body ownership
Personal Space
Asking for permission

Pre-teen

Sexual pressures
Peer influence
Dating & power

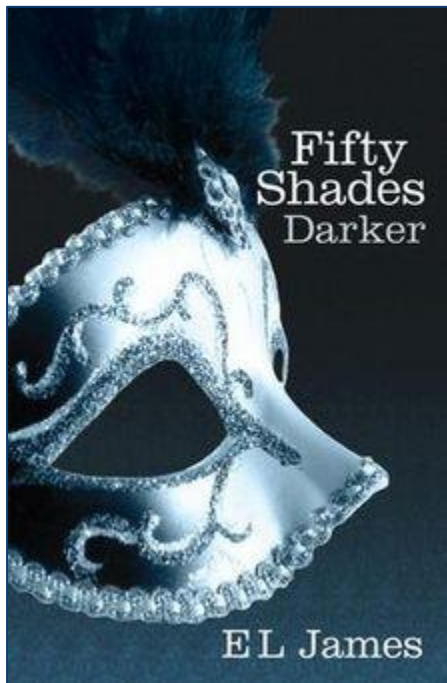
Teenage

Alcohol/drugs
Coercion
Rape Culture



[Childhood] [Pre-teen] [Teenage]

If we don't teach it... who will?



Fictional Movies &
Books



Advertising



Popular Music

What is Consent?

F - Freely Given

R - Reversible

I - Informed

E - Enthusiastic

S - Specific



Responsibility

Whose responsibility is it to get consent?

“Well...everybody! But **ESPECIALLY** the person **INITIATING** the act.”

Regardless of:



Gender



Level of
Intoxication



Sexual
History



Relationship
with Partner

Obstacles



Obstacles - Alcohol/Drugs

What Youth May Think

“If I’m
intoxicated,
I’m not
responsible
for my
actions.”

What to Emphasize

Responsibility
is heightened
when you’re
intoxicated.

Men are more likely to act violently when drunk because they do not consider that they will be held accountable for their behaviour.¹

Obstacles - Power Dynamics

What Youth May Think



What to Emphasize



Obstacles - Awkwardness

What Youth May Think



“Talking about
sex is too
awkward!”

What to Emphasize



Talking helps
ensure
pleasure,
comfort, and
prevents
confusion.

Obstacles - Personal Pressures

What Youth May Think

“Everyone is
having sex. I
should be
too.”

What to Emphasize

Everyone is
talking about
sex. Not
everyone is
having it.

Assumptions

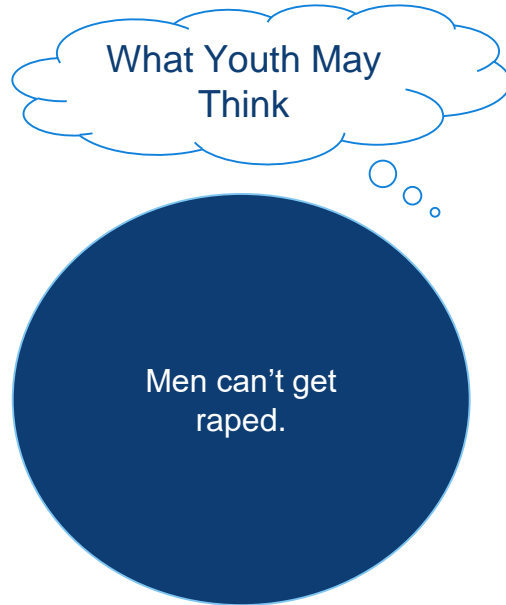
“What guy wouldn’t want sex?”

“Women don’t sexually assault other women.”

“Sexual violence happens in dark alleyways between strangers.”

“Consent is something you need for sexual situations only.”

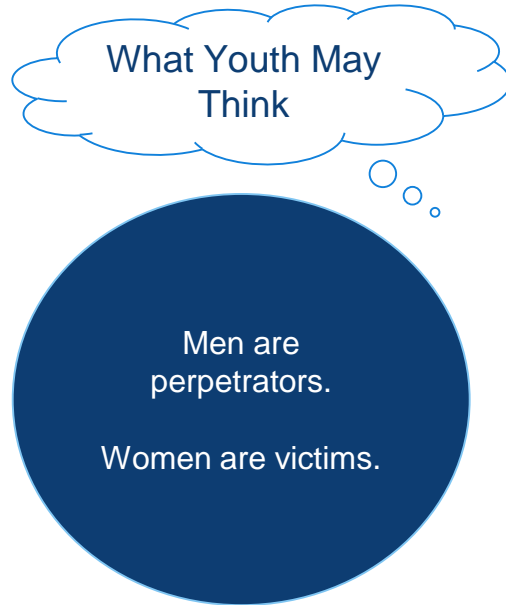
Assumptions - Men & Survivorship



Approximately 4 out of 10 gay men (40.2%), half of bisexual men (47.4%), and 1 in 5 heterosexual men (20.8%) in the United States have experienced sexual violence other than rape at some point in their lives.²

²Walters, M.L., Chen J., & Breiding, M.J. (2013). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Assumptions - Heteronormativity



Of heterosexual men who reported sexual violence other than rape, 28.6% reported only male perpetrators, more than one-half (54.8%) reported only female perpetrators, and 16.6% reported having both male and female perpetrators.³

³Walters, M.L., Chen J., & Breiding, M.J. (2013). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Assumptions - The Alleyway

What Youth May
Think

Most sexual
assaults happen
when women are
out alone at night.

What to
Emphasize

Most sexual
assaults happen
between people
who know each
other.

In over half (52%) of sexual assault incidents, the perpetrator was a friend, acquaintance, or neighbour of the victim.⁴

Assumptions - Consent is Only Sexual

What Youth May
Think

Consent is only
needed for sex.

What to
Emphasize

Consent is
something you can
(and should!)
incorporate into all
areas of your life.

FACES QUIZ SHOW

1



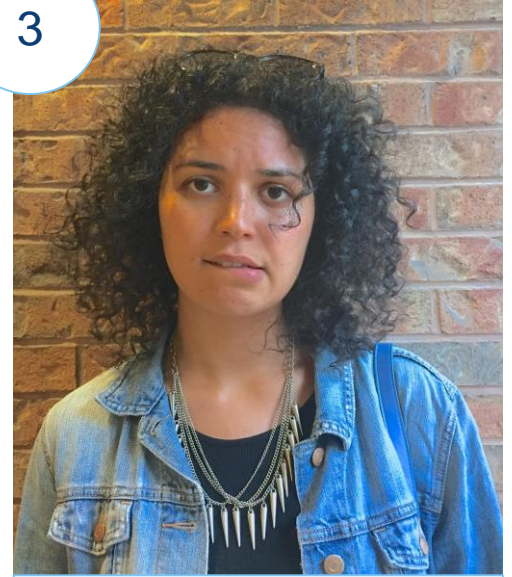
Anxious

2



Regretful

3



Uncomfortable

Do you know what this person is feeling?

10 Ways To Talk About Consent

“Does this feel good?”

“Can we...?”

“Are you okay?”

“Do you want me to stop?”

“Do you want to cuddle instead?”

“What are you into?”

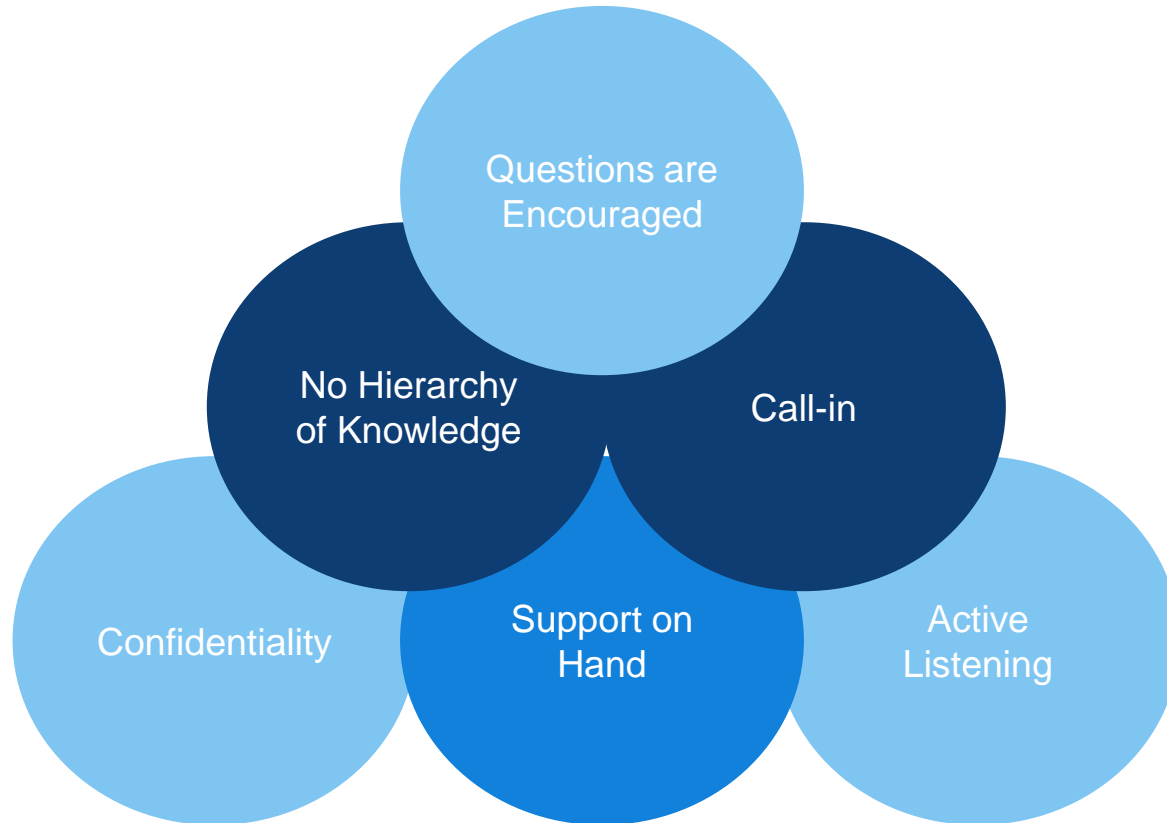
“Are you sure you’re ready for this?”

“Is it okay if I...?”

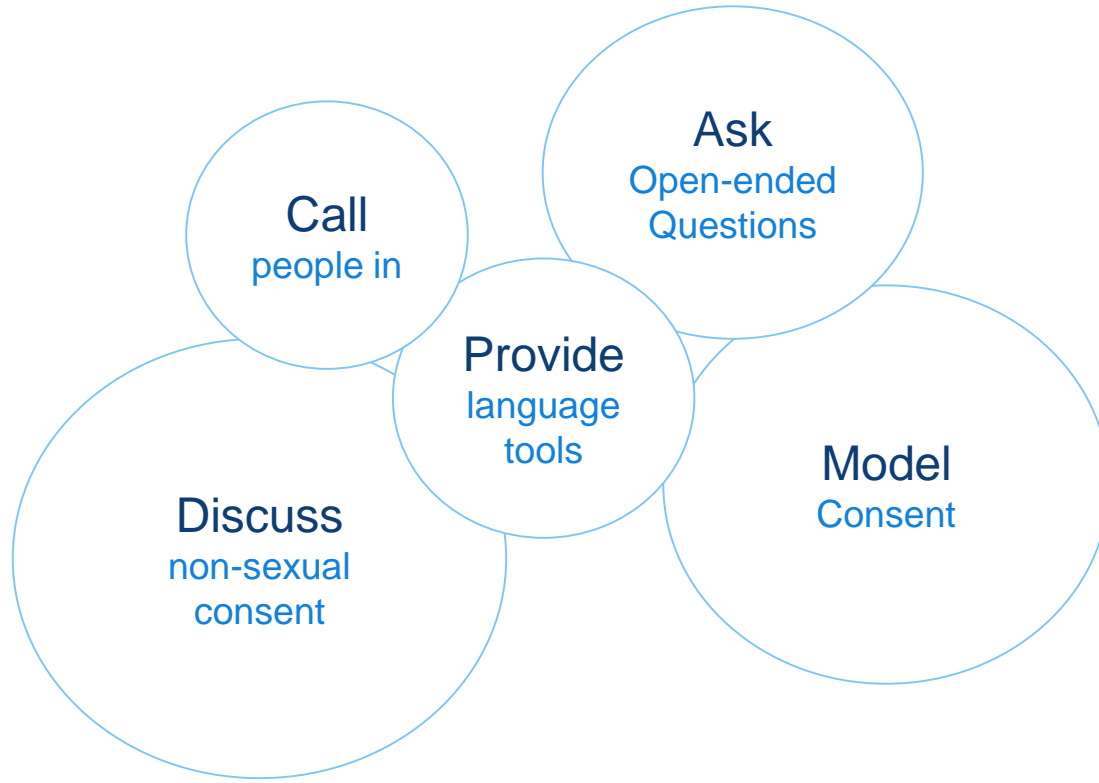
“Can I give you a hug?”

“Do you want to...”

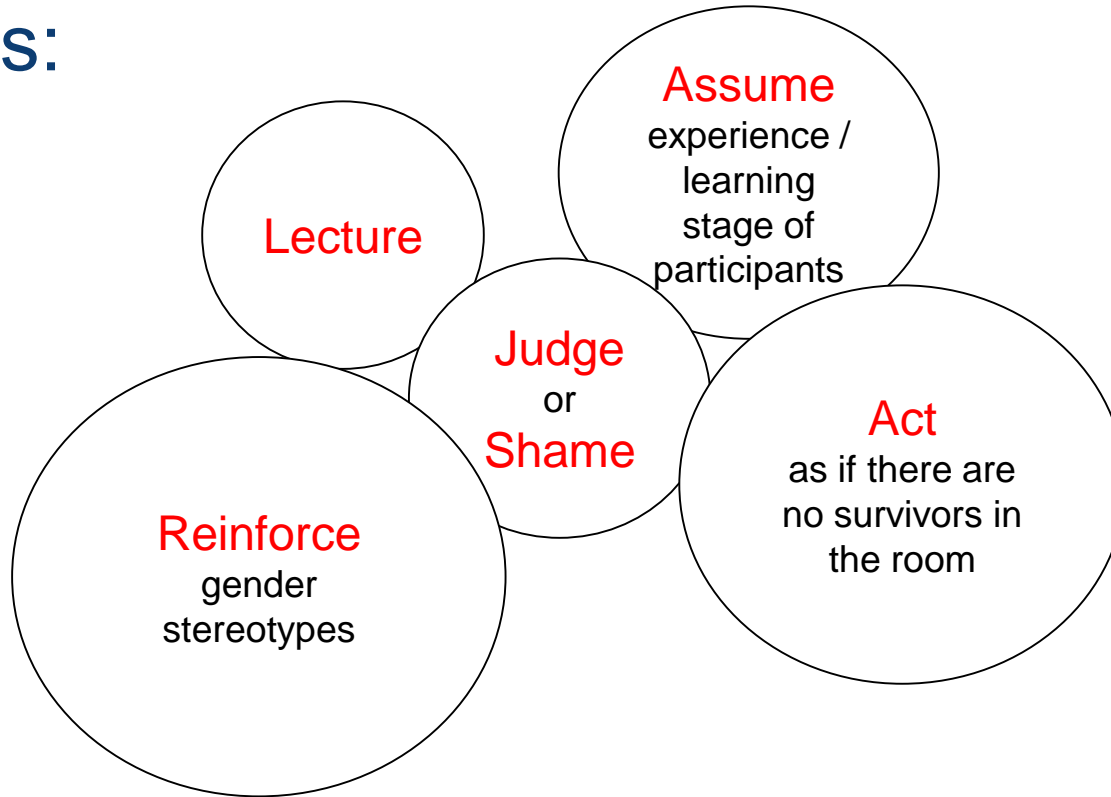
Creating a Safe(r) Space



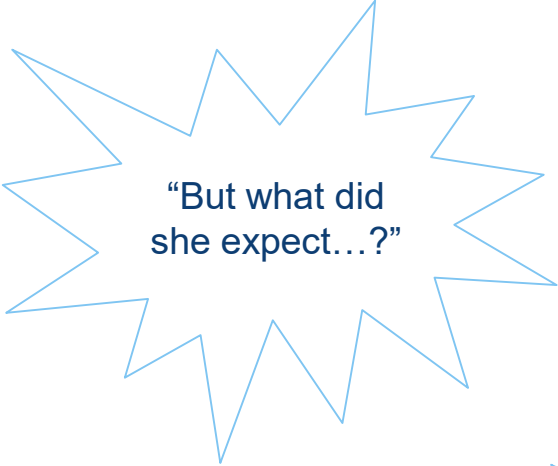
Do's:



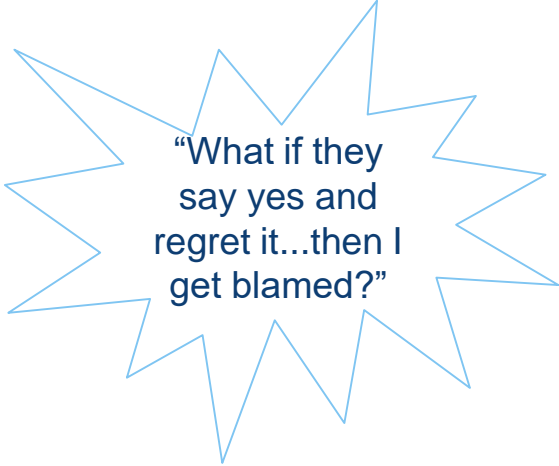
Don'ts:



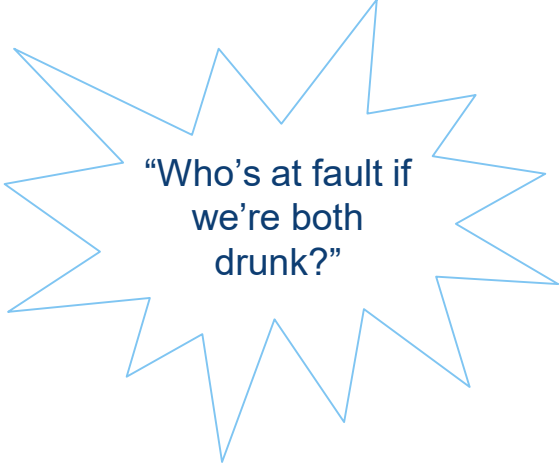
FAQ



“But what did she expect...?”



“What if they say yes and regret it...then I get blamed?”

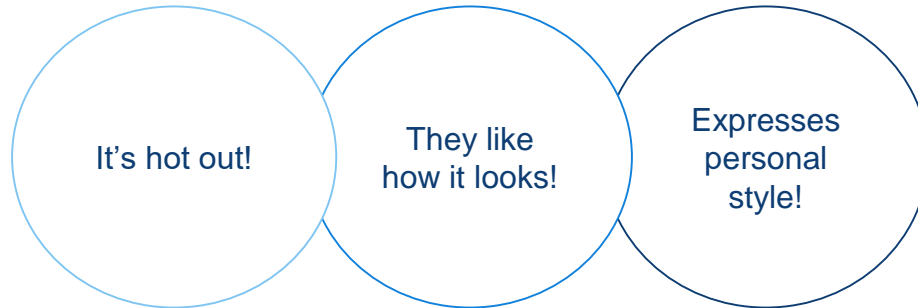


“Who’s at fault if we’re both drunk?”

FAQ - “What did she expect... wearing THAT?”



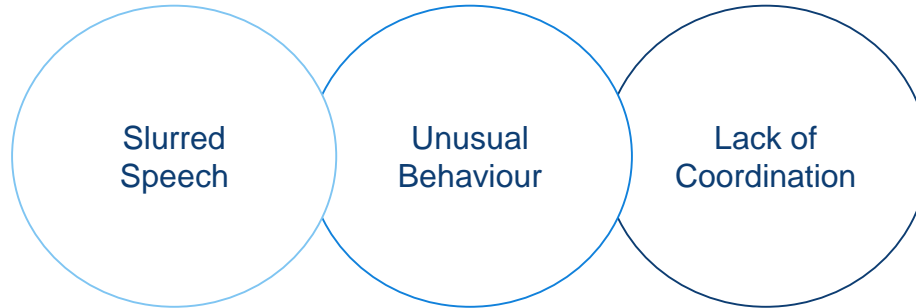
What are *other* reasons someone might dress in a “revealing” way?



FAQ - “What if we’re both drunk?”



What are signs that someone is unable to consent?



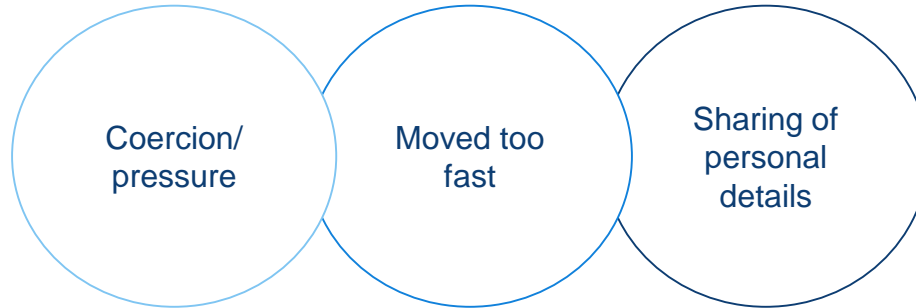
Whose responsibility is it to get consent?

The person initiating

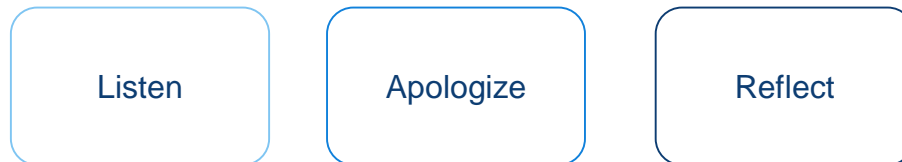
FAQ - “What if they say yes then regret it?”



What might lead someone to regret an encounter?



What if someone approaches you about regret of a shared encounter?



Takeaways

Consent is...

Freely Given
Reversible
Informed
Enthusiastic
Specific

Common Obstacles Youth may Face...

Alcohol/Drugs
Awkwardness
Power Dynamics

Strategies for Teaching Consent...

Modelling Behaviour
Language Examples
Calling in



Comments?



Questions?

Links & Citations

https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_sofindings.pdf

http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/full_en.pdf?ua=1

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jf-pf/2017/docs/may02.pdf>

¹Krug EG et al., eds. World report on violence and health. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002.

^{2,3}Walters, M.L., Chen J., & Breiding, M.J. (2013). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

⁴Department of Justice Canada. (2017). JustFacts: Sexual Assault. Government of Canada.