

Improving care for trans and gender diverse survivors of intimate partner violence: Preliminary findings from an evaluation of an interactive e-learning curriculum

Dr. Janice Du Mont^{1,2}, S. Daisy Kosa³, Sydney Brouillard-Coyle⁴, Mechaela Alfonso¹, Sheila Macdonald³, Robin Mason^{1,2}

¹Women's College Research and Innovation Institute, Women's College Hospital, Toronto, ON, Canada

²Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

³Ontario Network of Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres, Toronto, ON, Canada

⁴Rainbow Allyship, London, ON, Canada

Abstract

Trans and gender diverse (TGD) persons experience disproportionately high rates of intimate partner violence (IPV). Despite serious psychological, physical, and social sequelae, TGD survivors navigating services often encounter providers lacking the skills to meet their needs. As there are few educational resources on supporting TGD survivors of IPV, we developed and evaluated an e-learning curriculum on responding to IPV against TGD persons. The 2-hour evidence-informed, interactive curriculum was completed by medical, nursing, and social work professionals working in Ontario, Canada's 37 Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Treatment Centres. Paired *t*-tests were used to compare pre- to post-training mean ratings of expertise in responding to TGD survivors of IPV (1=none to 6=very high) and level of agreement (1=strongly disagree to 6=strongly agree) with 9 learning objectives organized across 5 domains. In a preliminary analysis, 43 professionals completed the curriculum from December 2024-February 2025, 40% of whom were aged 25-34 years and 83% women. Four in 10 (42%) had provided care to a TGD client who had experienced IPV. Participants rated their expertise more highly after training ($p<.001$) and indicate that they felt more knowledgeable and skilled across all five domains: Definitions and Prevalence of IPV ($p<.001$), Impacts of IPV and Barriers to Seeking Help ($p<.001$), Repeat Victimization ($p<.001$), Providing Support ($p<.001$), and Vicarious Trauma ($p<.001$). Our curriculum shows promise in improving the expertise, knowledge, and skills necessary to meet TGD survivors' specific needs. This curriculum, shortly to be made available across Canada, has the potential to enhance care for TGD IPV survivors globally.

Keywords: Canada; Curriculum; Evaluation; Intimate Partner Violence; Trans and Gender Diverse