

Trauma-Informed Services for Survivors of Sexual Violence in Connecticut

Presenter

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Acknowledgment

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At the time of this presentation, Dr. Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon served as SAMHSA Assistant Secretary. The opinions expressed herein are the views of the moderator and panelists and do not reflect the official position of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), or SAMHSA. No official support or endorsement of DHHS, SAMHSA, for the opinions described in this presentation is intended or should be inferred.

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The MHTTC Network uses affirming, respectful and recovery-oriented language in all activities. That language is:

STRENGTHS-BASED
AND HOPEFUL

INCLUSIVE AND
ACCEPTING OF
DIVERSE CULTURES,
GENDERS,
PERSPECTIVES,
AND EXPERIENCES

HEALING-CENTERED AND
TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE

INVITING TO INDIVIDUALS
PARTICIPATING IN THEIR
OWN JOURNEYS

PERSON-FIRST AND
FREE OF LABELS

NON-JUDGMENTAL AND
AVOIDING ASSUMPTIONS

RESPECTFUL, CLEAR
AND UNDERSTANDABLE

CONSISTENT WITH
OUR ACTIONS,
POLICIES, AND PRODUCTS



What is Sexual Violence?

Sexual violence is **any unwanted contact or non-contact sexual acts or behaviors**. Sexual violence describes a range of behaviors carried out with the use of coercion, manipulation, threats, intimidation, force, or abuse of power. Sexual contact without affirmative consent is sexual violence; it is never the victim's fault.

"On the societal level, it is the **preponderance of attitudes, actions, social norms that perpetuate and sustain environments and behaviors that promote cultural tolerance, acceptance, and denial of sexual assault and abuse**. Sexual violence violates a person's trust, autonomy, and feeling of safety."

- Jane Doe Inc.

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE



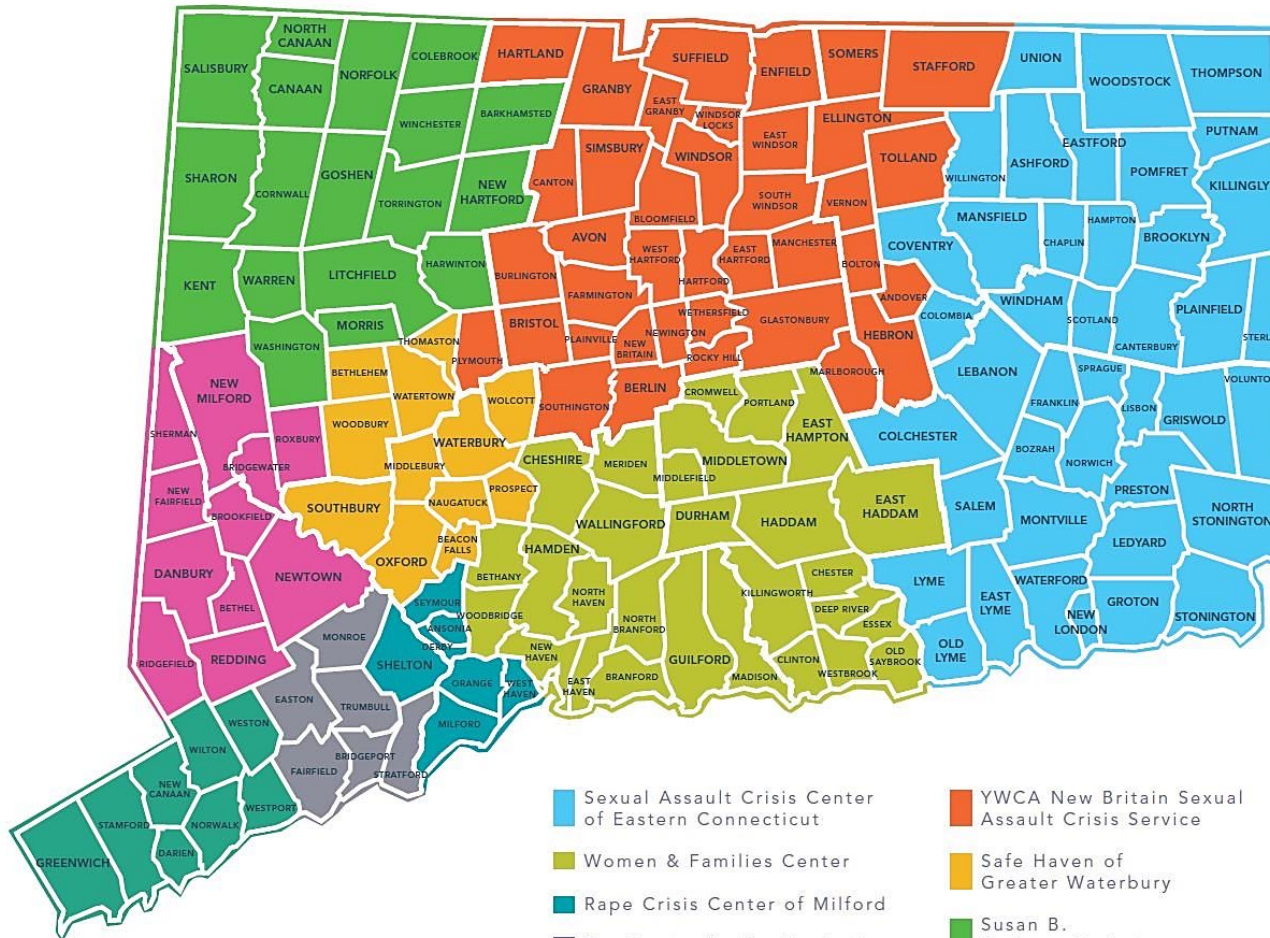
Support. Advocate. Prevent.

formerly CONNSACS

24-Hour, Toll-Free Hotlines:

1-888-999-5545 (English) | 1-888-568-8332 (Español)

Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence is a statewide coalition of individual sexual assault crisis programs whose mission is to end sexual violence and to ensure high-quality, comprehensive, culturally competent sexual assault victim services.



- Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut
- Women & Families Center
- Rape Crisis Center of Milford
- The Center for Family Justice

- YWCA New Britain Sexual Assault Crisis Service
- Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury
- Susan B. Anthony Project

- Women's Center of Greater Danbury
- The Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education

All services are free and confidential.

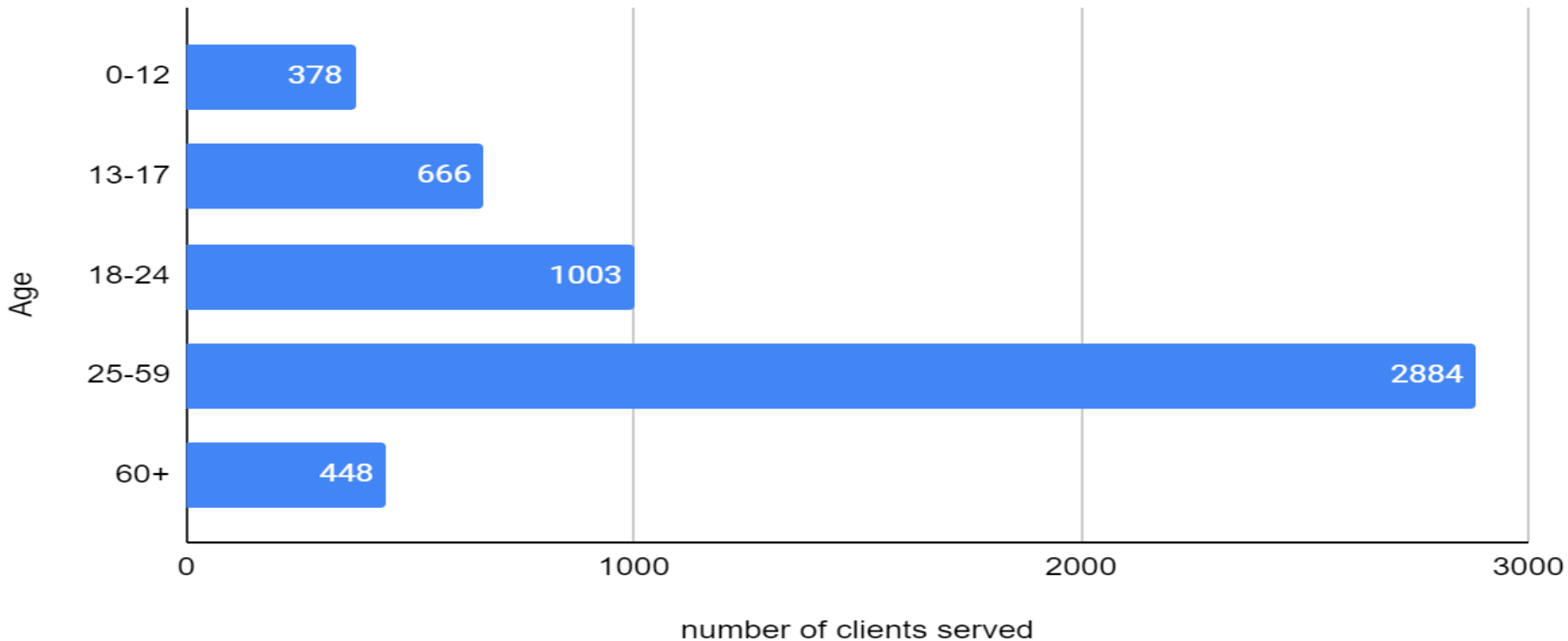
The sexual assault crisis programs provide:

- certified sexual assault victim advocates
- 24/7 hotline services in English and Spanish
- short-term counseling for individuals and groups
- information and referrals to other social and legal services
- accompaniment and support in hospitals, police departments and courts

Map of anti-sexual violence agencies in Connecticut

In Connecticut

Age FY 20-21



- The Alliance served 6856 clients in FY20/21.
- Advocates saw 3425 clients for individual counseling sessions.
- Advocates did 709 hospital accompaniments with victims.

Sexual Violence is a Pervasive Public Health Problem

About **1 in 3** women and nearly **1 in 6** men were victims of contact sexual violence at some point in their lives.

1 IN 4 GIRLS
experience
sexual abuse in childhood



1 IN 13 BOYS
experience
sexual abuse in childhood



People of Color

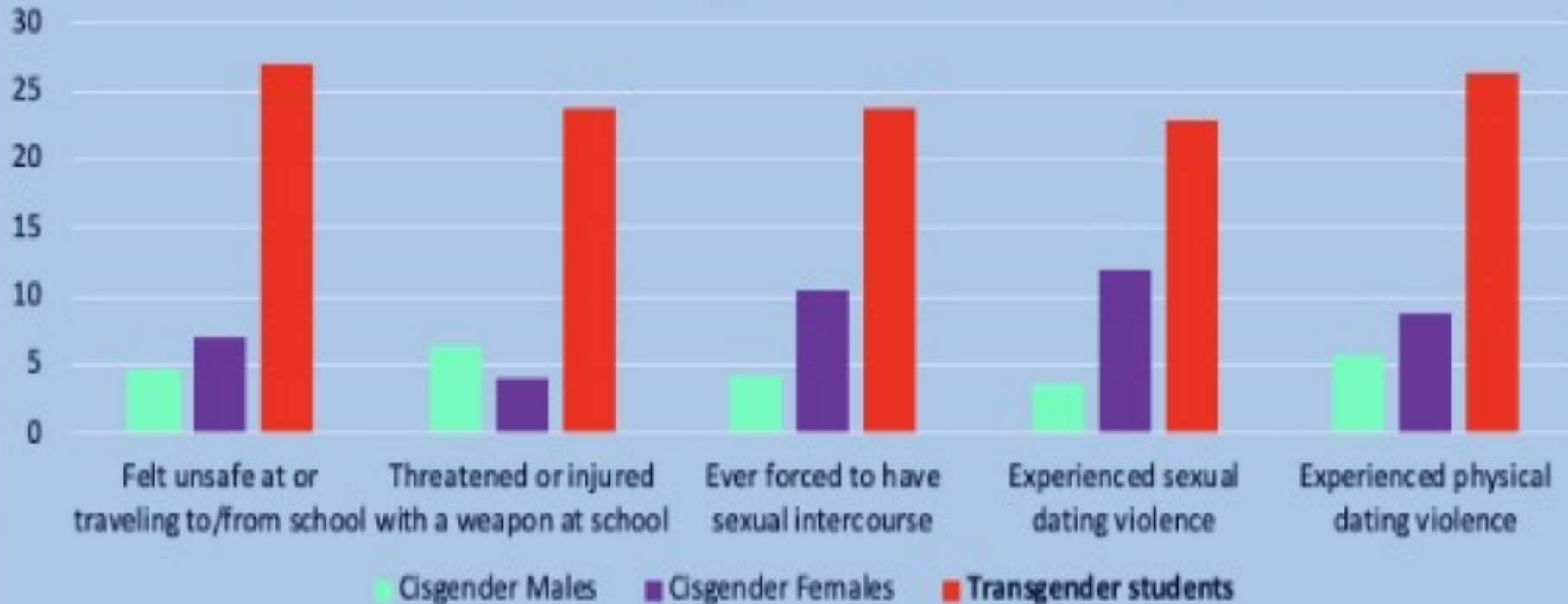
- Existing data show a slightly higher prevalence of SV among American Indian/Alaskan Native and multi-racial non-Hispanic women.
- Understudied/excluded from studies, e.g., ACEs (75% White; 5% Black)

LGB People

- 46% of bisexual women have been raped
- 40% of gay men and 47% of bisexual men have experienced sexual violence other than rape

Transgender People

Prevalence of violence victimization among high school students
– 10 U.S. states and nine large urban school districts, YRBS 2017



Johns MM, Lowry R, Andrzejewski J, et al. Transgender Identity and Experiences of Violence Victimization, Substance Use, Suicide Risk, and Sexual Risk Behaviors Among High School Students — 19 States and Large Urban School Districts, 2017. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:67–71.

47% of transgender individuals reported lifetime SV involving physical contact

People With Disabilities

Sexual Assault Rates Among People With Intellectual Disabilities, 2011-2015

The rate of rape and sexual assault against people with intellectual disabilities is more than seven times the rate against people without disabilities. Among women with intellectual disabilities, it is about 12 times the rate.

RATE PER 1,000 PEOPLE



RATE PER 1,000 PEOPLE WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY, BY GENDER



Notes


Based on the noninstitutionalized U.S. residential population age 12 or older

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Special Tabulation

Credit: Katie Park/NPR




Anti-Sexual Violence Agency Services

- 
- 24-hour toll free confidential hotlines
 - Certified sexual assault crisis counselors
 - Medical, police, & court accompaniment and advocacy
 - Short term supportive counseling
 - Support groups
 - Bilingual & male advocates
 - Prevention & awareness programming
 - Campus advocacy and programming



Victim Rights Center of Connecticut



Founded in 2013, VRCCT is the ONLY program in Connecticut exclusively servicing the legal needs of victims of violent crime.

VRCCT provides trauma-informed, holistic legal services to victims of sexual assault (90% of cases), stalking, child abuse, LGBTQIA+ hate crimes, elder abuse, student sexual harassment, and homicide.

Recognized a gap in legal services for victims of non-intimate partner sexual assault.

We do not charge for our services, regardless of income.

Victim Rights Center of Connecticut



- Pre and Post Arrest Advocacy



- Education – Title IX



- Family & Civil Protective Orders

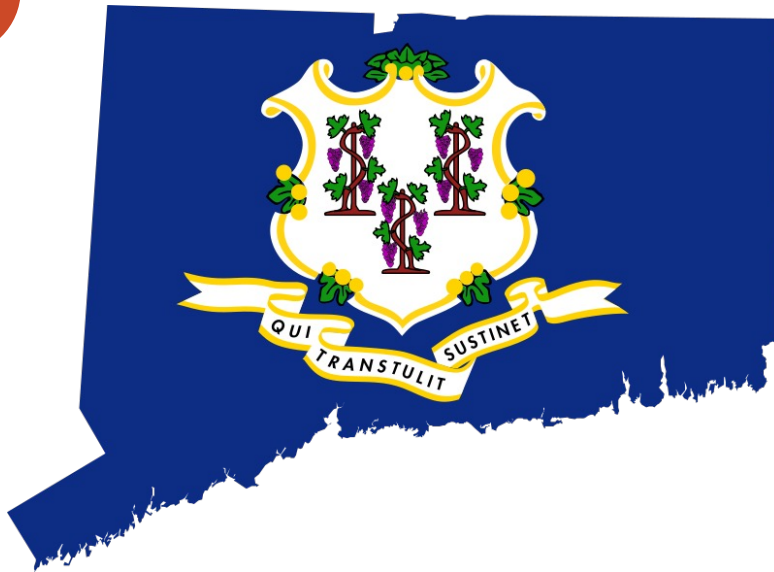


- Housing



- Employment

Victim Rights Center of Connecticut



We currently offer services:

- New Haven County
- Middlesex County
- Hartford County
- Tolland County
- Windham County
- Parts of Fairfield County (Greater Bridgeport)



Post-Conviction Victim Services Team



Direct Referrals to Support Services

Certified Crisis Intervention & Safety Planning

Addressing Victim Questions & Concerns with the unit


Notification and Update Letters ,Calls, etc.

Assist with Impact Statements for Pre-Sentence Investigations, Early Term, Court Modifications, & Violation of Probation / Remand as requested by the supervising officer

Assistance with Reunification & Closure Meetings



Role of the Advocate

- 
- Answer survivors' questions about systems and processes
 - Provide resources, referrals, and information
 - Help survivors make informed decisions
 - Provide crisis counseling
 - Help survivors come back into balance and feel “normal”



Survivor-Centered Advocacy



Putting the needs and priorities of the survivor front and center at all times.

Values include:

Dignity and respect

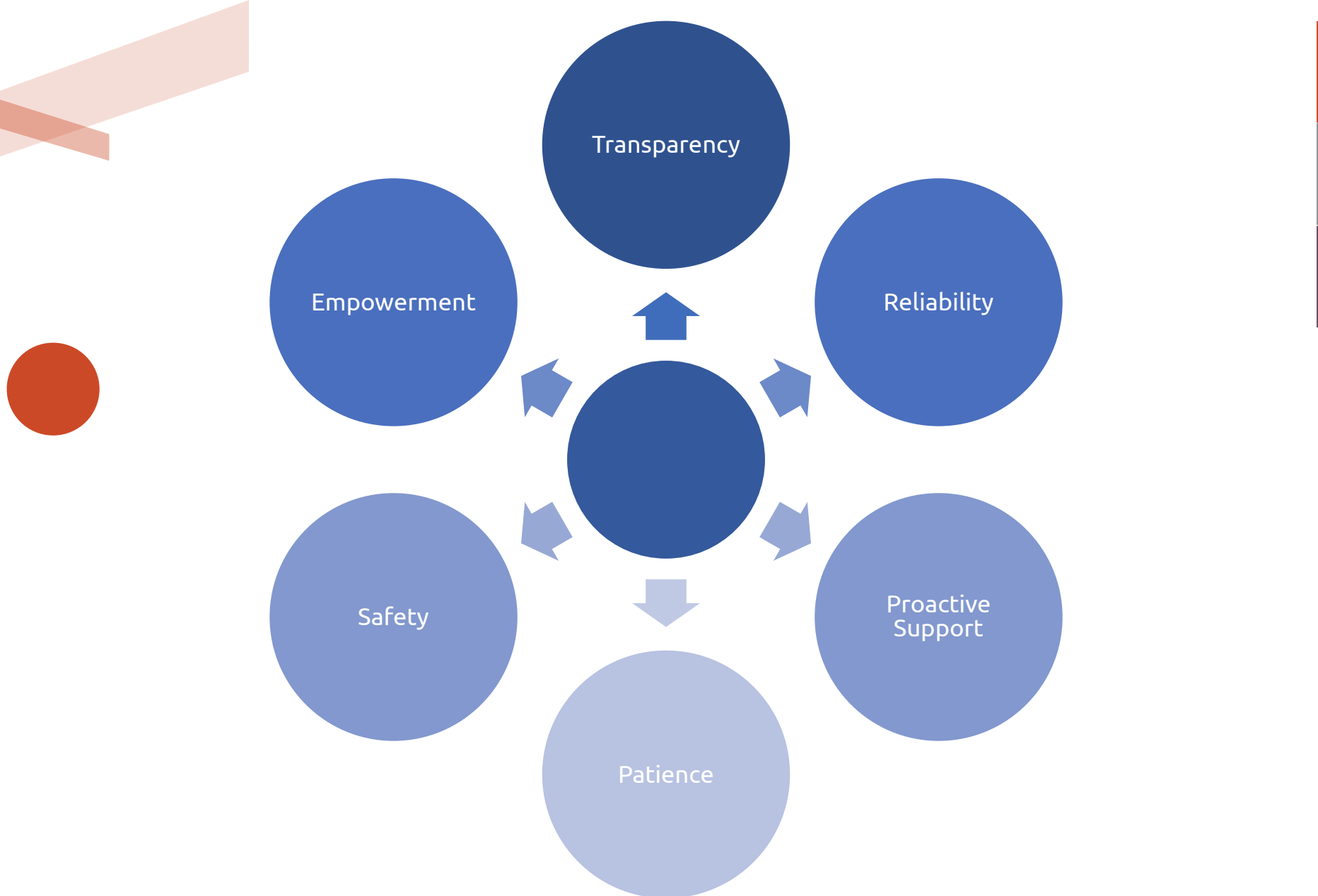
Access to options

Transparency and reliability

Belief and non-judgment

Survivor knowledge and decisions


Safety



Tenets of trauma-informed care: by integrating trauma-informed practices, service providers can reduce re-traumatization and improve their advocacy.



Benefits of Advocacy



Victims & survivors who work with an advocate are more willing to seek further services (33%) than victims & survivors who do not (9%)

Organizations who partner closely with advocates:

- Provide better-informed referrals
- Have better relationships with victims & survivors; survivors are more likely to follow up with an actual person rather than the general hotline number
- Know more about the options available to victims & survivors



Questions and Comments





MHTTC

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

The purpose of the MHTTC Network is technology transfer - disseminating and implementing evidence-based practices for mental disorders into the field.

Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the MHTTC Network includes 10 Regional Centers, a National American Indian and Alaska Native Center, a National Hispanic and Latino Center, and a Network Coordinating Office.

Our collaborative network supports resource development and dissemination, training and technical assistance, and workforce development for the mental health field. We work with systems, organizations, and treatment practitioners involved in the delivery of mental health services to strengthen their capacity to deliver effective evidence-based practices to individuals. Our services cover the full continuum spanning mental illness prevention, treatment, and recovery support.

Post-Event Survey

<https://ttc-gpra.org/P?s=698685>

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