

# Serving Sexual Assault Survivors from Underserved Populations

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# Overview

- Underserved Populations
  - Identity
  - Intersectionality
  - Oppression
  - Trauma
- Potential Barriers to Accessing Support Services
  - Barriers to Accessing Services
- Moving Forward
  - Socio-ecological Model
  - Equity

# *Learning Objectives*

After attending this webinar, participants will be able to

- Identify underserved populations and explain why they are underserved
- Identify barriers that survivors from underserved populations may experience
- Examine and critique current practices that allow barriers to exist
- Generate strategies to dismantle current and potential barriers for all survivors moving forward

# *Poll Question*

*How much experience do you have working with survivors of all identities?*



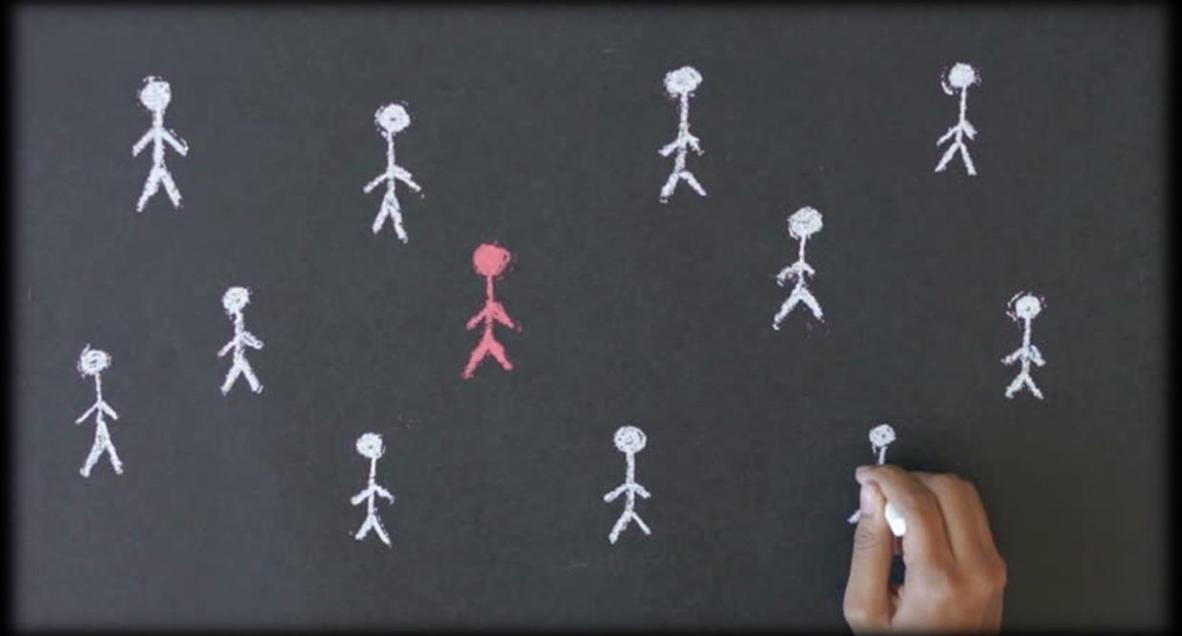
# Poll Question

*In your opinion, how inclusive is your institution for students of all identities?*



# Underserved Populations

Who is underserved and why?



# *Identity*

Race

Ethnicity

Nationality

Skin Color

Age

(Dis)Ability

Deaf or Hard-  
of-Hearing

Faith, Religion,  
Spirituality

Gender  
Identity and  
Expression

Sexual and  
Romantic  
Orientation

Socioeconomic  
Status or Class

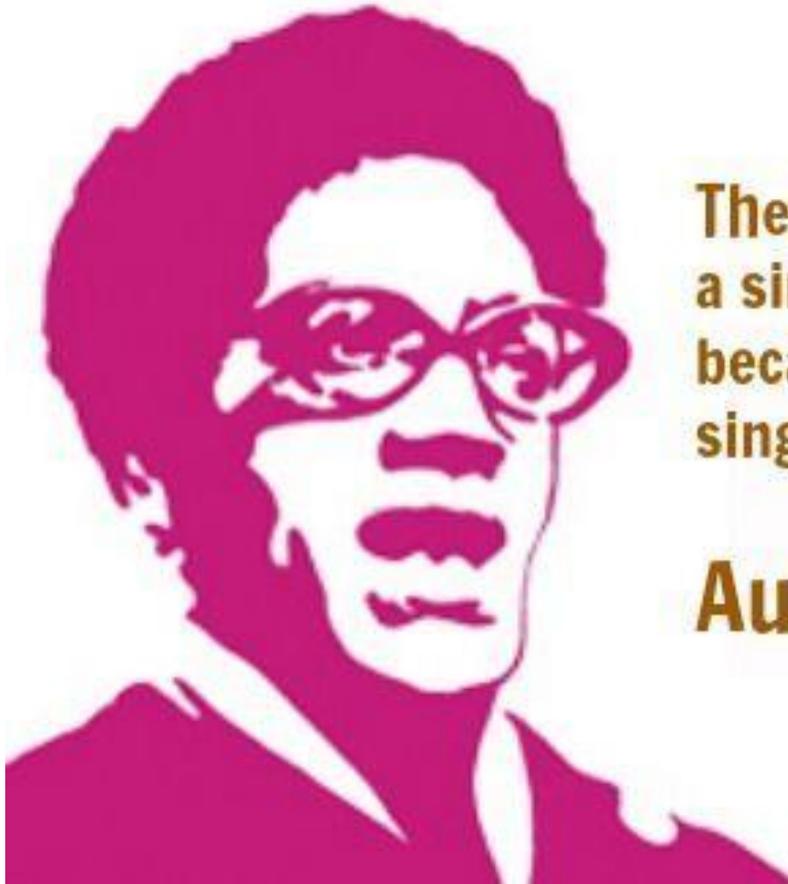
Tribal or  
Indigenous  
Affiliation

First Language

Immigration  
Status

Body Size

# *Intersectionality*

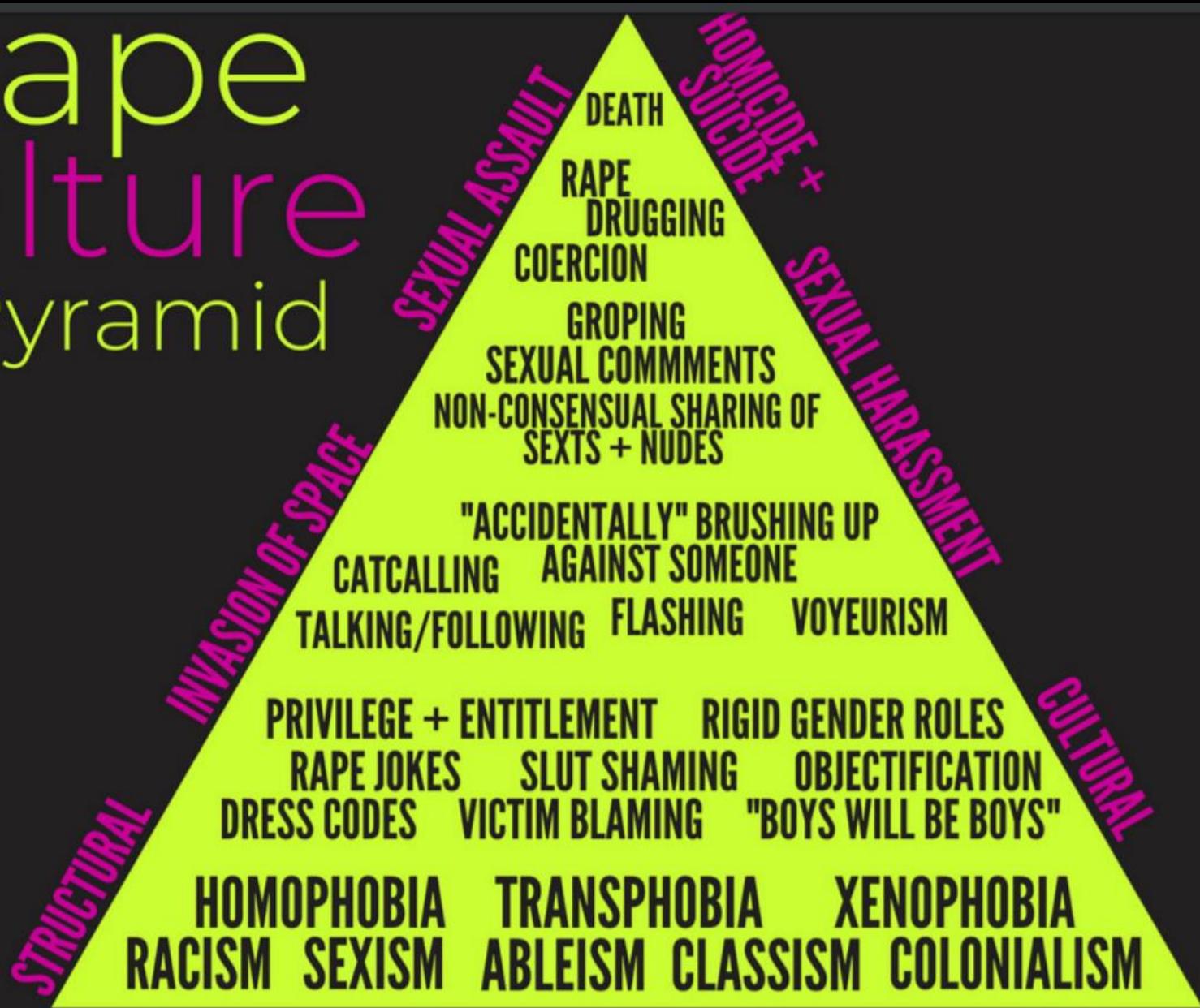


**There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.**

**Audre Lorde**



# Rape Culture Pyramid



Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance | [www.vsdvalliance.org](http://www.vsdvalliance.org) | [info@vsdvalliance.org](mailto:info@vsdvalliance.org) | 804.377.0335

# Trauma

A normal response  
to an abnormal  
experience

## Types of trauma

- Collective trauma
- Historical trauma
- Cultural trauma
- Structurally-induced trauma



# Potential Barriers to Accessing Support Services

For survivors from underserved populations



# *Reflect*

Think of a time you worked with a survivor and encountered a barrier to serving them?

Was this due to an individual bias, a lack of resources, a hole in the system?



# Share

*What was the barrier(s) you and/or the survivor were faced with?*

*Was it due to lack of resources (time, money, positions), attitudes (ignorance, prejudice), laws and policies, etc.?*



# *Barriers to Accessing Services*

## **Response from their community**

- Fear of coming out or being outed
- Fear of not being believed
- Relationship with the offender may be one of dependence
- Fear of what happens after the report

## **Working with service providers**

- Fear of how they and their community will be perceived
- Fear of institutional violence
- Fear that service providers will not understand or affirm their identity(ies)

# Moving Forward

Considerations for Service Providers

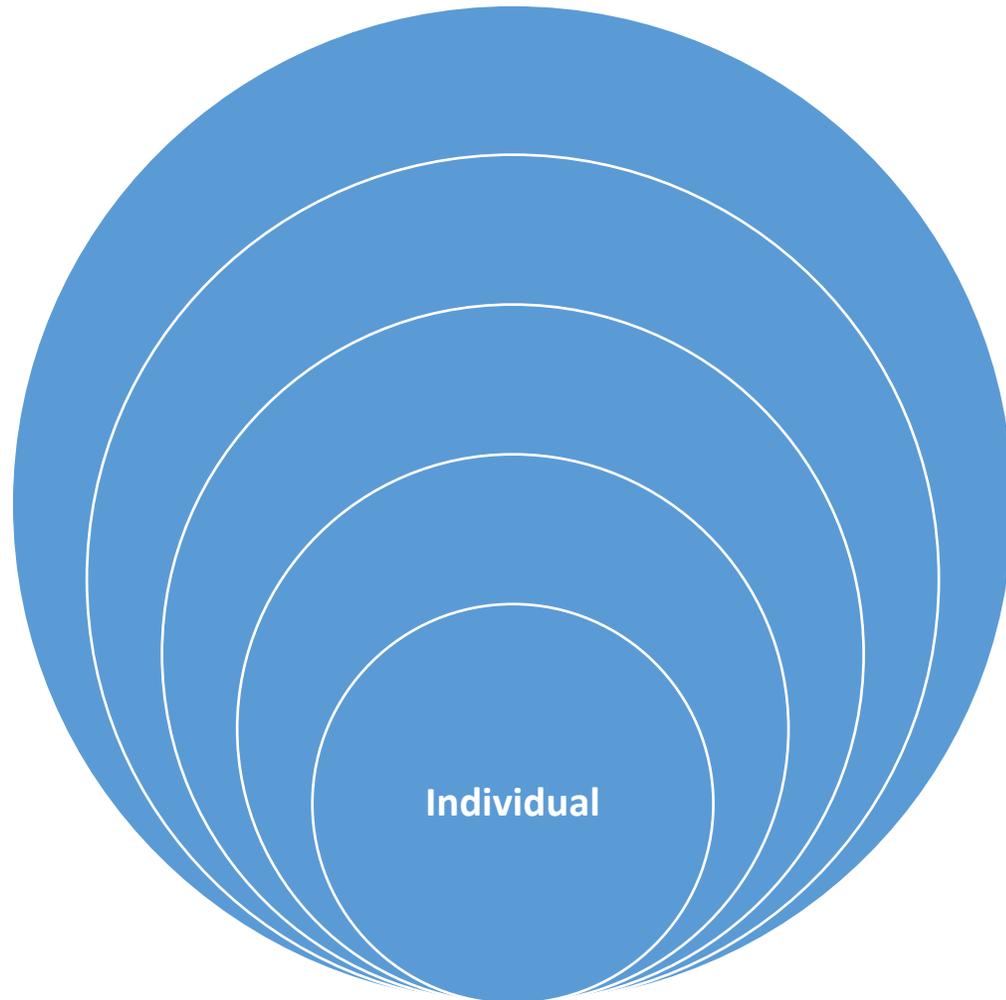


# *Socio-ecological Model*



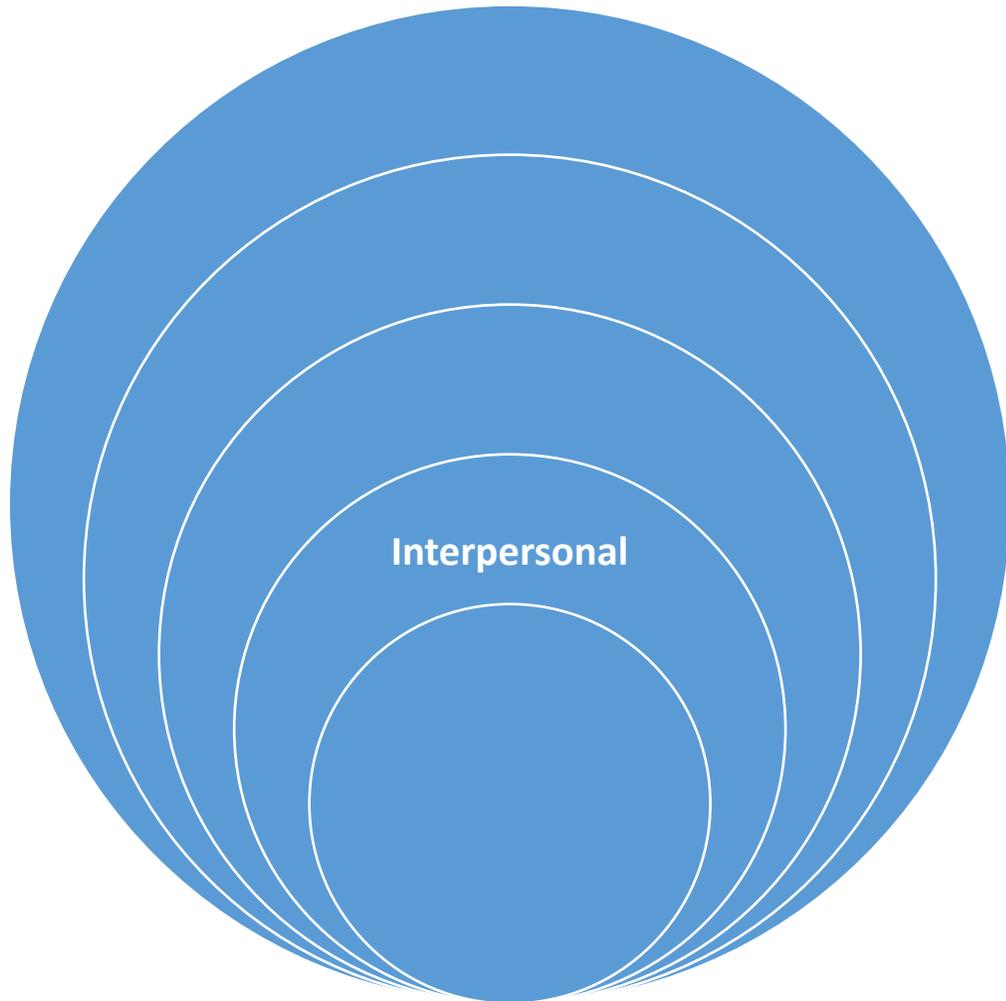
Adapted from Urie Bronfenbrenner's  
Ecology of Human Development (1979)

# *Individual Action*



- Avoid assumptions
- Validate their identity
- Focus on the trauma
- Ask for their input
- Use simple language
- Prepare for various trauma responses

# *Interpersonal Action*



- Who is in your social network?
- Whose voices and perspectives do you hear from the most?
- Which colleague do you go to as a sounding board, or for support? Why?
- What media are you consuming related to sexual and intimate partner violence?

# *Organizational Action*



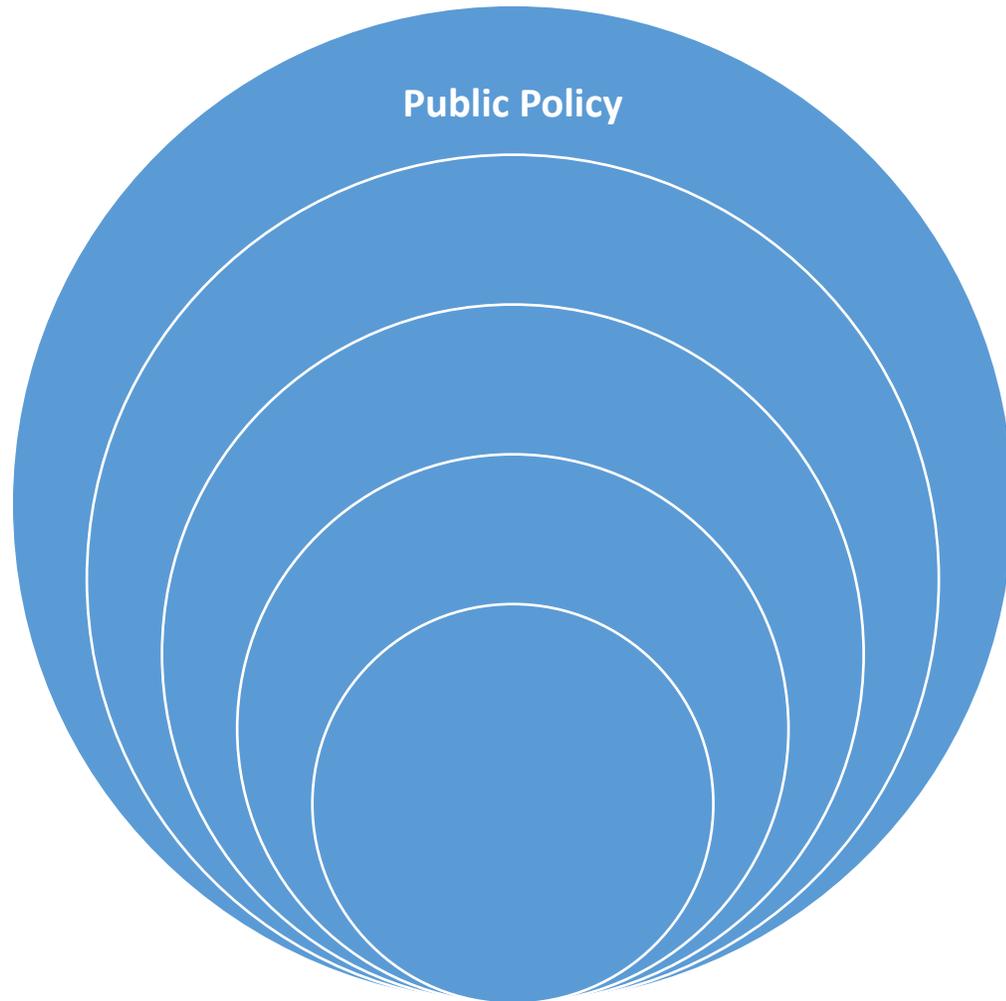
- Communications
- Data
- Hiring practices
- Forms
- Organizational limitations
- Policies
- Training
- Physical space
- Websites and other outward facing materials
- Alternatives

# Community Action



- Outreach on campus
- Local community involvement
- Resources – transportation, hospitals
- SARTs
- Alumni engagement

# *Political Action*



- Vote
- Advocate
- Show up
- Speak out

# Equity



Robert Wood Johnson  
Foundation, 2017

# Share

*What strategies do you plan to implement after this training today?*



*Thank you!*

*What information from today  
would you like to learn more  
about in a follow up training?*



# CONTACT INFO

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