

CAPSAP Methodology | Dr. KelleyAnne Malinen (PI)¹

Introduction

Culture and Perspectives on Sexual Assault Policy (CAPSAP) is a four-phase study conducted at four universities in Nova Scotia. The study has gathered diverse student perspectives on university sexual assault or sexual violence policies (SV/SA policies). The objective of the study is to provide information that can support university-based service providers and administrators in offering sexual assault services that fit the needs and perspectives of culturally diverse student populations.

Focus Groups (Phases 1 & 2, 2018-2020)

42 focus groups were held at Cape Breton University, Dalhousie University, Mount Saint Vincent University, and Saint Mary's University. Participants and peer facilitators in each focus group shared the same gender-identity and cultural identity. Fourteen cultural communities have been represented. Participants learned from their peer-facilitator about their university sexual assault policy, then discussed their policy together using a semi-structured conversation guide. A grounded theory analysis of the data and review of current literature resulted in recommendation-based reports specific to each participating institution.

Arts-Based Workshop (Phase 3, 2020-2021)

We collaborated with a committee of university staff, students, and members of the broader community, to deliver a virtual 3-day workshop for students from participating institutions. The CAPSAP workshop involved breakout sessions during which participants learned about their university sexual assault policies and reflected on transcript passages generated by members of their own cultural communities. Participants then created artwork responding to what they learned or discussed during the workshop.

Website Production (Phase 4, ongoing)

We are currently working with a web designer and UX consultant to produce a media-rich online information resource for university-based sexual violence service providers and other staff who work with university SV/SA policies. The website, which will go live in spring of 2022, is intended to support cultural responsiveness and anti-racism in university-based sexual violence prevention and response. The website will include:

- Over 500 transcript passages, each of which will be linked to one or more of over 60 recommendations. Users will be able to filter these passages by cultural community, gender, and theme. It will also be possible to navigate from each recommendation to the transcript passages that support it.
- Artwork by participants in the CAPSAP workshop
- Professional artwork produced for the website
- Short reports about data from specific cultural communities written by research assistants
- Resources to support our recommendations, including:
 - Filmed interviews conducted by a research assistant & produced at MSVU's DMZ studio
 - A roundtable discussion with folks who work with their university sexual assault policies at Dal, MSVU, and CBU
 - An interview with a service provider about supporting male survivors
 - An interview with a SANE nurse
 - A short and easy to follow step-by-step guide for students supporting survivors
 - Links to dozens of external texts, videos, podcasts, services, and resources
- The already reserved domain names will be **CAPSAP.ca** and **supportsurvivors.ca**.

Funders and Partners

CAPSAP funders include the Province of Nova Scotia, Delmore Buddy Daye Learning Institute, and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

CAPSAP partners include Avalon Sexual Assault Centre, Community Justice Society – Halifax Region, and YMCA of Greater Halifax/Dartmouth.

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