



## Sexual Assault Response and Resource Teams A Guide for Rural and Remote Communities

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July 2017

### Course Description

For those who live in a community/region that is rural or remote, it is clear that such communities face unique challenges in responding to sexual assault. The purpose of this training module is to guide rural and remote communities in overcoming these challenges by improving coordination of services for victims across professional disciplines and agencies. The best way to do this is by establishing some version of a Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team (SARRT). Many people think of the SARRT concept as applying only to urban settings, yet this module outlines the many benefits of SARRTs for rural and remote communities as well. The module is filled with concrete suggestions for how to start, nurture, and expand a SARRT in any community, no matter how rural or remote.

**Estimated time for completion:** 9 hours

**Please Note:** This module provides an in-depth overview on Sexual Assault Response and Resource Teams (SARRTs) specifically for rural and remote communities. This course will provide you with much of the same information for developing and implementing a SARRT that you will find in *EVAWI 8: Sustaining a Coordinated Community Response: Sexual Assault Response and Resource Teams (SARRT)*. As a result, we would recommend that you complete one or the other but not both.

### OVW Grant Funding

The OLTi was created and continues to be supported with funding from the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. However, the opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

### Expert Contributions

OLTi training content is created and updated with input from professionals in a variety of disciplines, including law enforcement, prosecution, health care, victim advocacy, and related fields. Please see the acknowledgements page of each module, for a list of the individuals who served as contributing authors or expert reviewers.

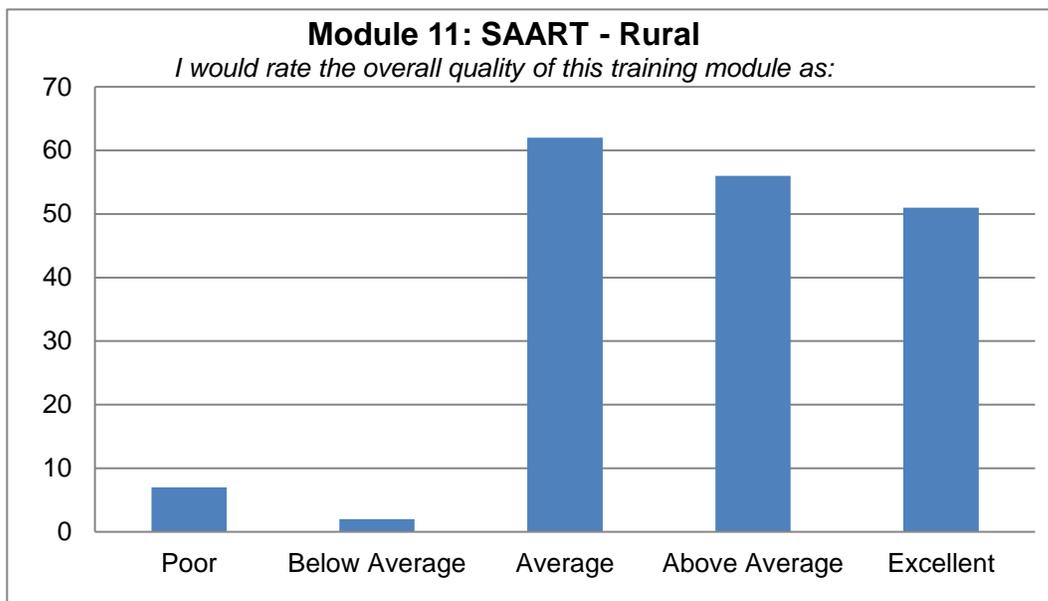
### Course Evaluations

At the end of each module participants are asked a number of questions, including the overall quality of the module, as well as its difficulty. They are also asked to indicate how likely they are to apply the information they learned on the job. Their responses are summarized in the following charts, and illustrated with the quotes.

#### ***What did you find most helpful in this module?***

It was valuable that the module was specifically referring to SARRTs in RURAL communities.

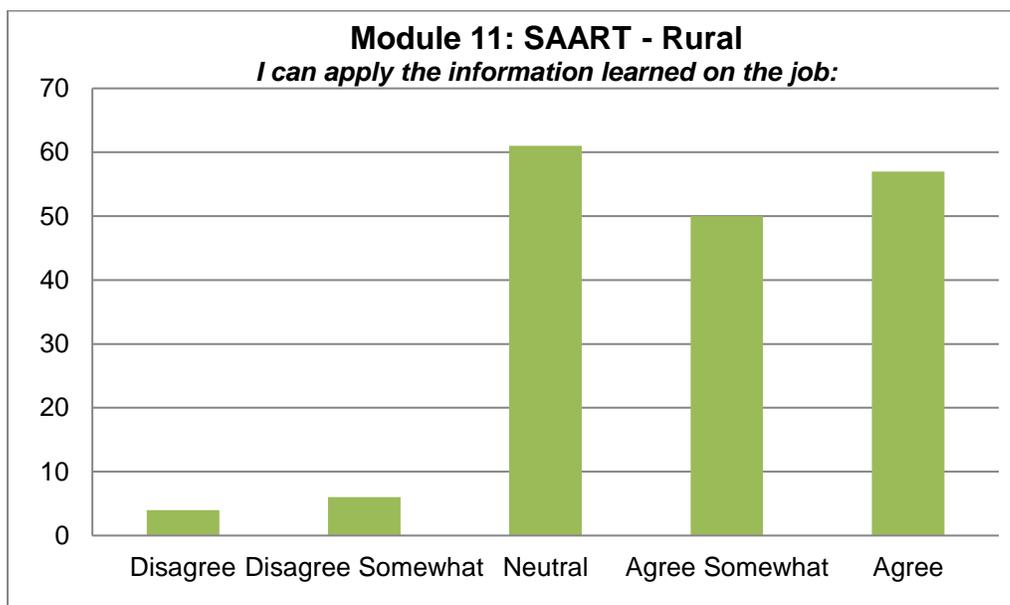
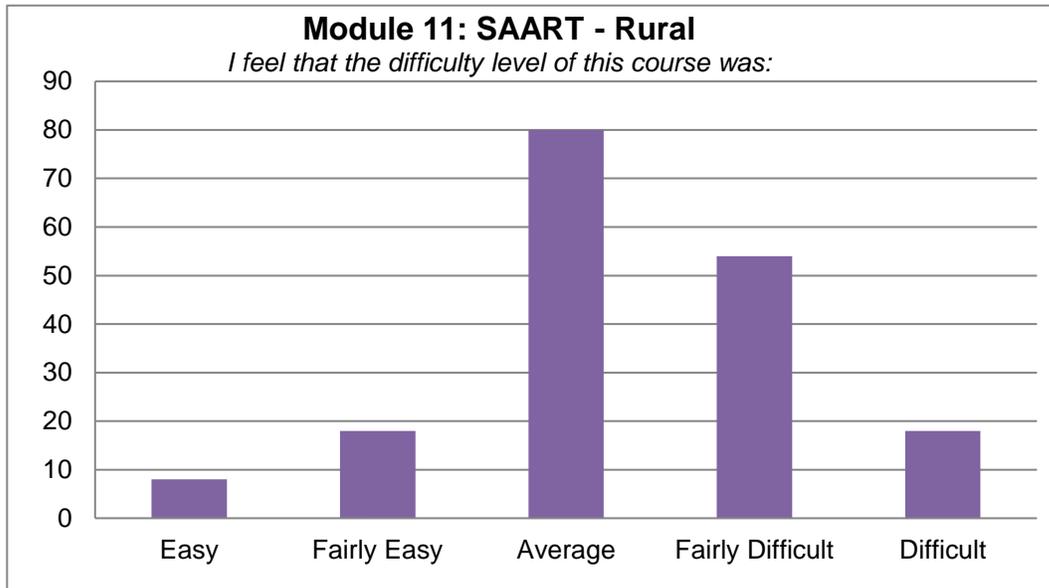
I enjoyed how this module discussed the challenges that Rural SARRTs could face and how do address these challenges.



**60% rated the module “excellent” or “above average.”**

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**60% “agree” and “somewhat agree” that they can apply what they learned on the job.**

### Course Objectives

At the end of this training module, the learner will be able to:

1. Understand what a SARRT is, what it does, who is involved, and the roles of each team member.
2. Recognize how rural and remote communities, victims, and first responders benefit can from a SARRT.
3. Understand how collaboration begins in a SARRT and how to begin developing an action plan.

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4. Recognize the potential costs associated with a SARRT.
5. Understand how to build capacity to implement and sustain a SARRT.
6. Understand the necessary steps to develop a SARRT in their own community.

### Course Outline

- I. Introduction
  - a. What is a SARRT?
  - b. Will all community SARRTs look the same?
  - c. What are the two sets of needs that are served by a SARRT?
  - d. What does a SARRT do?
  - e. Who is involved on a SARRT and what are their roles?
  - f. What are the requirements for SARRT participants?
- II. Benefits of a SARRT
  - a. How can rural and remote communities, victims, and first responders benefit from a SARRT?
  - b. How can SARRTs benefit victims in rural and remote communities?
  - c. How can SARRTs benefit first responders in rural and remote communities?
  - d. Any words of caution about SARRTs?
- III. Beginning Collaboration
  - a. How do rural and remote communities create a forum to discuss whether or not a SARRT will work for them? Who should be involved?
  - b. What are potential arguments against implementing a SARRT in rural and remote communities and ways to rebut these arguments?
  - c. How can rural and remote communities assess their needs related to an effective response in sexual assault cases?
  - d. What should be included in an action plan for developing a SARRT?
- IV. SARRT Costs
  - a. What expenses are involved in starting a SARRT?
  - b. How does a community go about securing support for a SARRT?
  - c. What are examples of possible funding resources?
- V. Building Capacity to Implement and Sustain a SARRT
  - a. What if the community doesn't have an advocacy/victim service program?
  - b. What if a site has not been identified where examinations can be performed?
  - c. What if the community doesn't have trained forensic examiners?
  - d. What resources are available to assist in developing or expanding a forensic examiner program?
  - e. What if the examination site does not have the equipment needed for medical forensic examinations?
  - f. What can rural and remote communities do to help local law enforcement agencies and prosecution offices build their capacity to respond to sex crimes?

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- VI. Development of a SARRT
  - a. How do rural and remote communities determine the focus of the SARRT?
  - b. Do SARRTs target specific populations of victims?
  - c. Are there options if SARRT developers feel it is too great a task to create a team that responds to the entire community or geographic region?
  - d. Are there differences in how SARRTs are developed when multiple jurisdictions are involved?
  - e. How are activities of the SARRT coordinated?
  - f. Is there a need to identify one agency that will lead SARRT efforts?
  - g. How should communities develop their protocol for coordinated response?
  - h. What resources are available to help establish a SARRT or write a protocol?
  - i. What other tools can a SARRT develop to help implement their protocol?
  - j. What professional training is necessary to implement a SARRT?
  - k. What publicity does the SARRT need?
  - l. What methods are best used for increasing public awareness?
  - m. To what degree, if any, should SARRTs be involved in prevention efforts?
  - n. Should a SARRT hold meetings? What is the purpose of these meetings?
  - o. Should a SARRT conduct case review?
  - p. What are some objectives that a rural or remote SARRT might pursue?