



## Sustaining a Coordinated Community Response *Sexual Assault Response and Resource Teams (SAART)*

---

Kimberly A. Lonsway, PhD,  
Sergeant Joanne Archambault (Ret.),  
and Kristin Littel

June 2007, Last updated July 2017

### Course Description

Because sexual assault is such a complex and sensitive crime, effective response to it requires a teamwork approach. As a result, many communities have sought to meet these coordination needs by establishing a Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team (SARRT). With such a model for coordination, each member of the team has distinct but interdependent responsibilities. The purpose of this training module is to guide communities in overcoming challenges to responding to sexual assault -- by improving the coordination of services for victims across professional disciplines and agencies. Particular attention focuses on the long-term objectives that a SARRT can pursue to sustain these coordination efforts over time.

**Please Note:** This module provides an in-depth overview on Sexual Assault Response and Resource Teams (SARRTs). If you are from a rural or remote community, we suggest you complete *EVAWI 11: Sexual Assault Response and Resource Teams (SARRT): A Guide for Rural and Remote Communities*. The information on how to develop and implement a SARRT is essentially the same in both modules, so we would recommend that you complete one or the other but not both.

**Estimated time for completion:** 12 hours

### 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.

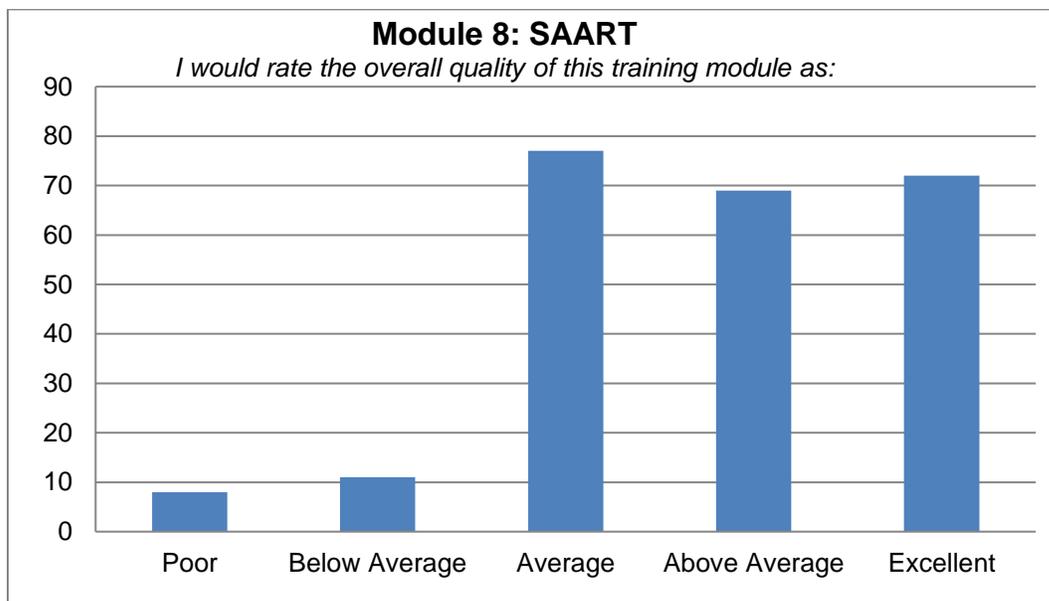
## Course Evaluations

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?***

The way it was broken down for individual agencies was very helpful to me. I also found the inclusion of resources and website addresses for more research that can be used and shared in SART meetings to be helpful.

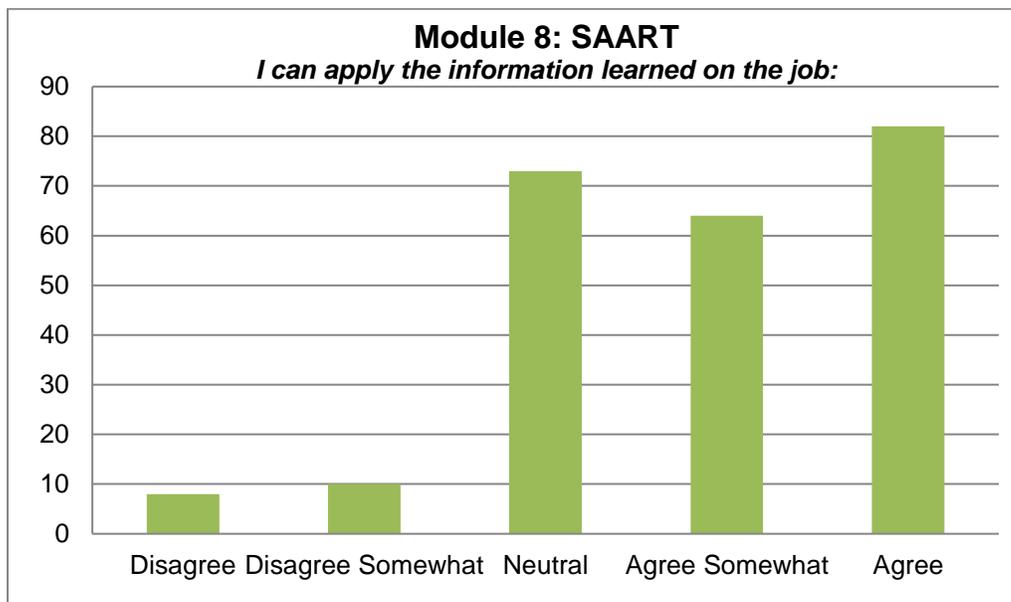
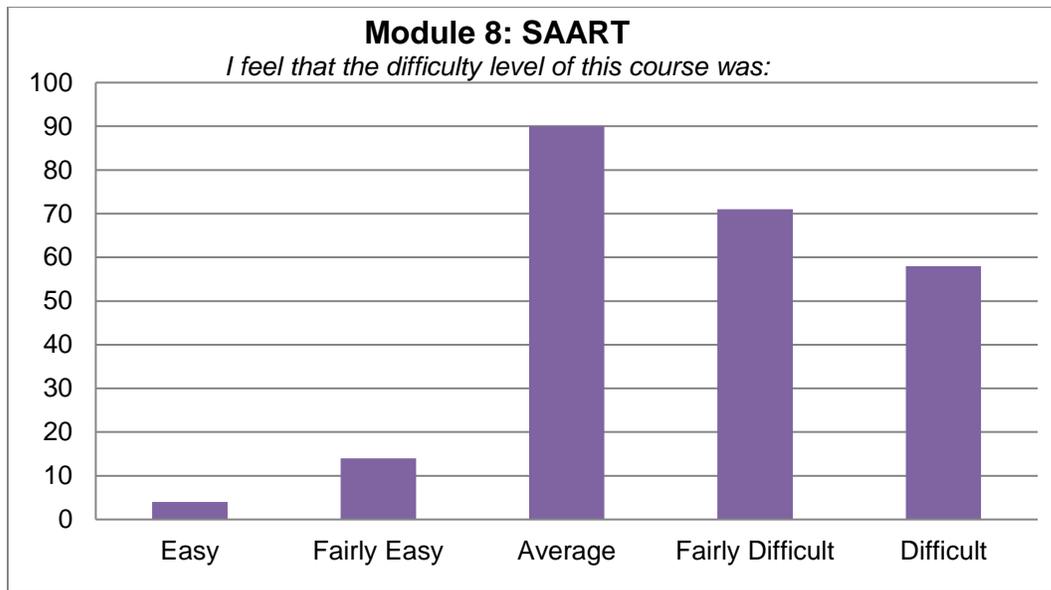
The detailed information on all the aspects of the community response that needs to be coordinated and improved was very helpful.



***59% rated the module “excellent” or “above average.”***

## Sexual Assault Response and Resource Teams (SARRT) Lonsway, Archambault, Littel

---



**62% “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. Determine what activities the SARRT should be involved in.
3. Develop short- and long-term objectives of a SARRT.
4. Develop a protocol for coordinated response.
5. Examine examples of a community-wide protocol available.

# Sexual Assault Response and Resource Teams (SARRT)

*Lonsway, Archambault, Littel*

---

6. Explore how a SARRT could be involved in prevention efforts.
7. Understand effective collaboration and recognize the common barriers to collaboration.
8. Understand how conflicts can be resolved within a SARRT framework.
9. Determine how the effectiveness of a SARRT be measured.
10. Understand how a SARRT be sustained over time.

## Course Outline

- I. Introduction
  - a. What is a SARRT?
  - b. Will all community SARRT's look the same?
  - c. What are the two sets of needs 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. SARRT activities
  - a. Should a SARRT hold meetings? What is the purpose of these meetings?
  - b. Should a SARRT conduct case review?
  - c. How are activities of the SARRT coordinated?
  - d. Is there a need to identify one agency that will lead SARRT efforts?
  - e. How do SARRTs generate and sustain their collective mission?
  - f. What are some of the short-term objectives of a SARRT?
- III. Developing SARRT Protocols
  - a. How do communities develop a protocol for coordinated response?
  - b. What resources are available to help establish a SARRT or write a protocol?
  - c. Are there good examples of a community-wide protocol available?
  - d. What other tools can a SARRT develop to help implement their protocol?
- IV. SARRT and Public Education
  - a. To what degree, if any, should SARRTs be involved in prevention efforts
  - b. What publicity does the SARRT need?
  - c. What methods are best used for increasing public awareness?
- V. SARRT Sustainability
  - a. How can a SARRT be sustained over time?
- VI. Review the Oregon *SART Handbook*
- VII. So, what does real collaboration look like?
  - a. What are some of the common barriers to collaboration?
  - b. How can conflicts be resolved within a SARRT framework?
  - c. Review Texas Manual on Effective Collaboration
- VIII. How is "success" defined for a SARRT?
- IX. Longer-Term Goals for SARRT

## Sexual Assault Response and Resource Teams (SARRT)

*Lonsway, Archambault, Littel*

---

- a. General victim services
- b. Medical response
- c. Law enforcement response
- d. Victim advocacy
- e. Prosecution and courtroom response
- f. Offender accountability
- g. Other long-term goals for a SARRT