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# Violence and Gender: Marked Victims

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PRSC200616(2)Sarti-Barbosa-Suarez

**Sarti C, Barbosa R, Suarez M. Violência e gênero: vítimas demarcadas. [Violence and Gender: Marked Victims.] PHYSIS: Rev. Saúde Coletiva (Rio de Janeiro, Brasil) 2006 julio-diciembre; 16(2): 167-183.**

**Objectives:** This paper aims to raise questions about the institutional assistance to violence within the health field, particularly on the topic "sexual violence".

**Methodology:** Qualitative, ethnographic research in the municipal hospital of emergencies in Rio de Janeiro.

**Results:** The authors, based on data from ethnographic research, characterize the support services as a theoretical construct based merely on social formulas or conventions around the meaning of violence and sexuality. They point to the way as caretakers identify victims and perpetrators and how this identification influences the actions provided.

The authors present a case where a sexually abused man was denied emergency care because the service was designed exclusively for female victims. The authors note that in sexually violent acts, certain attributes of the victim are often assumed, and that there is a greater social recognition of women as victims, whereas in the case of an adult man as victim, doubts were raised about his sexuality.

**Conclusions:** The authors conclude that institutions and the general public do not recognize the male body as a real and potential victim of sexual violence. They suggest that any human body, regardless of the gender or sexual orientation of the individual, may be subject to violence, which questions the universal right of health care, the basic principle of the Single System of Health (SUS).