

# LGBTQ Victims



## DID YOU KNOW?

- 43.8% of lesbian women and 61.1% of bisexual women have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime, as opposed to only 35% of heterosexual women.<sup>1</sup>
- 26% of gay men and 37.3% of bisexual men have experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime, in comparison to 29% of heterosexual men.<sup>1</sup>
- In a study of male same sex relationships, only 26% of men called the police for assistance after experiencing near-lethal violence.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2012, fewer than 5% of LGBTQ survivors of intimate partner violence sought orders of protection.<sup>2</sup>
- There were 21 LGBTQ intimate partner homicides in 2012. 47.6% of these victims were men.<sup>2</sup>

IF YOU NEED HELP,  
DIAL THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE HOTLINE AT:  
**1-800-799-SAFE**

## WHY IT MATTERS

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional abuse. Domestic violence is not limited to heterosexual relationships and can affect individuals of all sexual orientations and genders. Within the LGBTQ community, intimate partner violence occurs at a rate equal to or even higher than that of the heterosexual community.<sup>1,2</sup> LGBTQ individuals may experience unique forms of intimate partner violence as well as distinctive barriers to help-seeking due to fear of discrimination or bias.<sup>2,3</sup>

## LGBTQ-SPECIFIC ASPECTS

There are several aspects of intimate partner violence which can be unique to the LGBTQ community. “Outing” or threatening to reveal one partner’s sexual orientation/gender identity may be used as a tool of abuse in violent relationships, and may also be a barrier which reduces the likelihood of help-seeking for the abuse.<sup>3</sup> Prior experiences of physical or psychological trauma, such as bullying and hate crime, which are common among LGBTQ individuals, may make LGBTQ victims of domestic violence less likely to seek help.<sup>3</sup>

## TRANSGENDER INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Transgender individuals may suffer from an even greater burden of intimate partner violence than gay or lesbian individuals and transgender victims of intimate partner violence are more likely to experience threats/intimidation, harassment, and police violence within intimate partner violence.<sup>2,3</sup> Specific forms of abuse occur within relationships where one partner is transgender, including:<sup>2</sup>

- Using offensive pronouns such as “it” to refer to the transgender partner
- Ridiculing the transgender partner’s body and/or appearance
- Telling the transgender partner that he or she is not a real man or woman
- Ridiculing the transgender partner’s identity as “bisexual”, “trans”, “femme”, “butch”, “gender queer”, etc.

## BARRIERS TO SEEKING SERVICES

Several barriers exist to addressing LGBTQ intimate partner violence:<sup>2</sup>

- Societal beliefs that domestic violence does not occur in LGBTQ relationships
- Anti-LGBTQ bias (homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, etc.)
- Lack of appropriate training regarding LGBTQ domestic violence for service providers
- A fear that airing the problems among the LGBT population will take away from progress toward equality or fuel anti-LGBTQ bias
- Domestic violence shelters are typically female only, therefore transgender individuals may not be allowed entrance due to their gender/genital/legal status

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**1-800-799-SAFE**

OR THE GLBTQ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT AT:

**1-800-832-1901**

OR VISIT:

**<http://www.thehotline.org>**

## REFERENCES

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2. National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. (2013). *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Intimate Partner Violence in 2012*. Retrieved from: [http://www.avp.org/storage/documents/ncavp\\_2012\\_ipvreport.final.pdf](http://www.avp.org/storage/documents/ncavp_2012_ipvreport.final.pdf)
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4. Loveland, J. & Raghavan, C. (2014). Near-Lethal Violence in a Sample of High-Risk Men in Same-Sex Relationships. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 1(1). DOI: 10.1037/sgd0000012