

## Addressing Intimate Partner Violence in LGBT2SQ+ Communities Across BC

# Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence in LGBT2SQ+ Relationships

The purpose of this resource is to highlight the prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Two-Spirit, and Queer (LGBT2SQ+) relationships and support you to understand the importance of prioritizing the meaningful inclusion of LGBT2SQ+ people in your supports and services.

## Guiding Principles

- A common misconception is that IPV in LGBT2SQ+ relationships is rare. This misbelief may lead to not asking about IPV or taking this issue seriously.
- LGBT2SQ+ people are at a higher risk of experiencing psychological, physical, and sexual IPV compared to heterosexual and cisgender people.
- People who experience intersecting oppressions (e.g., LGBT2SQ+ people who are Indigenous, racialized, immigrants or refugees, disabled, neurodiverse, etc.) are at greater risk of experiencing IPV.
- IPV in LGBT2SQ+ communities is under-researched. There is a glaring deficit of research exploring IPV among Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, Muslim, People of Colour (QTBIPOC) and Two-Spirit individuals.
- Behind every statistic is a person's story whose life has been impacted by IPV. While numbers tell us a story, they do not tell us the whole story.

# Rates of Intimate Partner Violence



- Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are **twice** as likely as heterosexual people to report they have been abused by an intimate partner.<sup>1</sup>
- Transgender people are **twice** as likely as cisgender people to report they have been abused by an intimate partner.<sup>2</sup>
- QTBIPOC and Two-Spirit people are **twice** as likely as people who are not QTBIPOC or Two-Spirit to have been abused by an intimate partner.<sup>3,4</sup>



1/3 of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people report having experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence.<sup>1</sup>



1/4 of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people report having experienced psychological intimate partner violence.<sup>1</sup>



1/2 of transgender people report having experienced physical, psychological, and/or sexual intimate partner violence.<sup>2</sup>

# Considerations and Complexities

There is significant diversity within queer and trans communities and these statistics do not begin to capture that diversity.

There is a lack of funding and research on IPV in LGBT2SQ+ communities, and IPV is generally underreported.

Keep in mind that there are wide variations in the study designs used to determine prevalence rates. These rates have been combined from various sources and there is variation in reported rates across the literature.<sup>1</sup>

Systems of oppression, minority stress, and discrimination against LGBT2SQ+ communities contribute greatly to higher rates of IPV. Those who experience discrimination in society may seek power in their relationships, and may be less likely to seek or feel deserving of support, if appropriate supports are available.

## Deepening Your Practice

- Unfortunately, IPV is not uncommon within LGBT2SQ+ communities. What can you do to increase your awareness of abuse within these communities?
- The limited data can greatly impact the funding available to support survivors. As well, a lack of available and appropriate resources reinforces the likelihood that LGBT2SQ+ people will continue to underreport and/or not seek support. What shifts need to happen in order to break this cycle?
- Think about how you and/or your organization collect information about your clients. How might the data you collect and report support a better understanding of IPV in LGBT2SQ+ relationships?
- Knowing the high rates of IPV in LGBT2SQ+ relationships, what can you do to increase your visibility as a program or organization that serves LGBT2SQ+ survivors? (For more information, please refer to EVA BC's Practicing Inclusion to Support LGBT2SQ+ Survivors resource.)

# Self-Reflection Questions

- What is your response to the prevalence rates of IPV in LGBT2S+ Relationships? Reflect on the reasons for your response.
- What is your relationship to statistics?
- How important are these numbers to increasing awareness and impacting social change?
- What are some other sources of knowledge/information that you could engage with?
- Given the high rates of IPV in LGBT2SQ+ people's relationships, why are we not seeing more LGBT2SQ+ people accessing anti-violence services?

## References

- <sup>1</sup>Walters, M. L., Chen J., & Breiding, M. J. (2013). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 findings on victimization by sexual orientation*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- <sup>2</sup>Messinger, Adam M., & UPSO eCollections (University Press Scholarship Online). (2017). *LGBTQ intimate partner violence: Lessons for policy, practice, and research* (1st ed.). University of California Press.
- <sup>3</sup>American Psychiatric Association. (2019). *Treating LGBTQ patients who have experienced intimate partner violence*. [www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/culturalcompetency/education/intimate-partner-violence/lgbtq](http://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/culturalcompetency/education/intimate-partner-violence/lgbtq)
- <sup>4</sup>National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. (2015). *Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected hate violence in . 2015* [https://avp.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/04/ncavp\\_hvreport\\_2015\\_final.pdf](https://avp.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/04/ncavp_hvreport_2015_final.pdf)



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