



Violence Within and Against LGBTQH Communities



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The New York City Anti-Violence Project

The New York City Anti-Violence Project is dedicated to eliminating hate violence, sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected communities through counseling, advocacy, organizing, and public education.



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The New York City Anti-Violence Project

Client Services

- 24-hour hotline
- Short-term individual supportive counseling
- DV Shelter Advocacy
- DV Legal Clinic
- Support Groups
 - HV, SV, DV
 - Art Therapy
- Advocacy, Referrals
- Hospital, precinct, and court accompaniments
- CVB/OVS assistance

Community Organizing & Public Advocacy

- Education and Training Institute
- Rapid Incidence Response
- Coalition work/movement building
- NCAVP
 - National Report publication
 - HV, DV
- Public Policy Advocacy
- Volunteer opportunities
 - Speaker's Bureau
 - Hotline Crisis Counselor Training
 - Outreach/Vigils/Rallies
 - Safe Bar/Safe Nights

Today's Presentation

- Introduction
- Language and Terminology
- Oppression, Intersectionality, & LGBTQH communities
- LGBTQH people's experiences of Intimate Partner Violence with Sexual Violence and Hate Violence

Presentation Goals

- To deepen our understanding of the ways in which gender identity, sexual orientation, and HIV status intersect with other cultural identities including race, ethnicity, age, ability, immigration status, and the impact this has on experiencing violence
- To understand how these experiences affect what LGBTQH people face as challenges in and experience as benefits of supportive housing.



Language & Terminology

What is “LGBTQH”?

A standard acronym:

- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Transgender
- Queer
- HIV-affected

*These terms are fluid and **DO NOT** represent all sexual orientations/gender identities. It is always best to respect individuals' self-determination and honor the terms they use to identify themselves.

Sex vs. Gender

What's the difference?

Traditional Ideas about Gender

***Sex**

- Genitalia
- Chromosomes
- Hormones

Gender/
Gender Role

- Masculine
- Feminine

Gender
Identity

- Man
- Woman

Why is this Important ?

- People often live with very limited, traditional ideas about sex and gender
- Assumptions about sex and gender have a tremendous negative impact LGBTQH people everyday
- These assumptions are the where most homophobia and transphobia stem from
- Anti-LGBTQH bias can create obstacles for LGBTQH people to accessing services, support, and self-determination, including supportive housing.

Gender Identity vs. Sexual Orientation

- **Gender Identity** “is about how you understand your own gender: whether you understand yourself to be male, female, or something else, and how you express that.”
- **Sexual Orientation** “is about who you are sexually or romantically attracted to, whether you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight, etc.”

-Sylvia Rivera Law Project, 2007.
Report: “It’s War In Here.”

A note on the term transgender

- Transgender is a term used:
 - To describe people whose way of understanding their gender is different than the sex they were assigned at birth.
- What may fall under this umbrella are terms such as:
 - Gender non-conforming (gnc)
 - Two-Spirit
 - Genderqueer

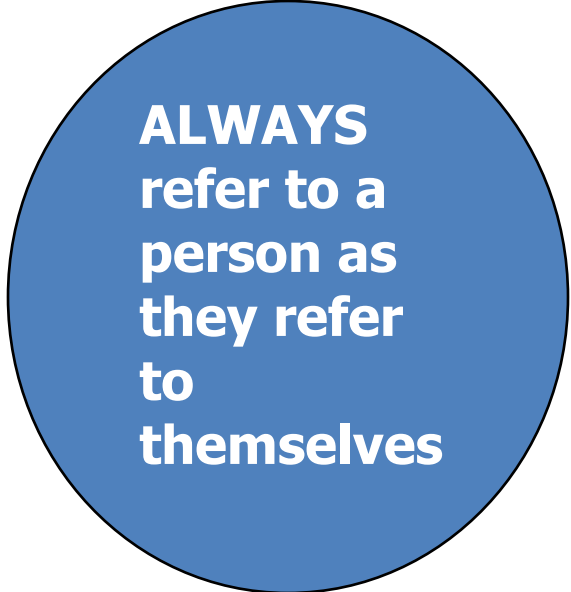
Transgender or Trans	Transexual	Boi	Genderqueer
Drag King/Queen	Cross Dresser	Multigendered	T-Girl
Two Spirit	Gender non- conforming	Intersex	Trans Man or Transman
Trans Woman or Transwoman	Transition	Man	Woman

Gender Identity Terms You May Hear

Additional terms to avoid

Re: Sexual Orientation

- Homosexual(s)
- Gay or Lesbian “Lifestyle”
- Sexual Preference



ALWAYS
refer to a
person as
they refer
to
themselves

Re: Gender Identity

- Transvestite
- “Real” or “Genetic” or “Biological” Man or Woman
- “It”

Language: Helpful Tips

- **DO** refer to people in the way that they prefer
 - This includes the names they prefer to use and their partner's name
- **DO** call people by the pronoun they currently use
- **DON'T** assume people's sexual orientation based on their gender identity
- **DON'T** go “sightseeing” into people's lives – ask yourself your questions are relevant to your work



Oppression: How does it affect LGBTQ Communities?

Oppression & Intersectionality: Context & Principles to Guide Our Work

- Race, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, ability, age, and culture impact the way people experience violence
- Our own race, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, ability, age, and cultural experiences influence how we do the work
- We are constantly learning and growing in this work

How Oppression Looks for LGBTQ People

INSTITUTIONAL BIAS and DISCRIMINATION

- Police Misconduct & Violence – profiling, harassment, failure to respond, violence
- Employment discrimination
- Lack of/unequal access to legal protections
 - NYS Fair Access to Family Court Bill
- Lack of access to DV Shelters
- Re-victimization by Service Providers
 - Having to educate the provider on LGBTQ sensitivity
 - Not knowing if services are open to LGBTQ people
 - Invisibility in agency settings
 - Facing biased or unwelcoming intake forms
 - Fear of coming out/being outed
 - Around sexual orientation/gender identity, HIV status, substance use, immigration status, or other factors
 - Experiencing ridicule and mistreatment
 - Fear of losing services/receiving substandard care
 - Unequal access to safe restroom facilities

How Oppression Looks for LGBTQ People

INTERPERSONAL

- Bias Attacks/Hate Violence
- Anti-LGBTQ Harassment/Discrimination
- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)
- Pick-Up Crimes
- Sexual Violence
- Profiling
- Family rejection

INTERNALIZED RESPONSE

- Having negative beliefs about oneself or one's identity based on personal, group, cultural, or institutional messages received

Why It Matters: Rethinking Victim Assistance for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Victims of Hate Violence & Intimate Partner Violence

Issued in March 2009 by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs and the National Center on Victims of Crime, the Report Found:

- **Lack of LGBTQ Specific Outreach:** 69-92% of respondents lacked LGBTQ specific outreach materials or strategies
- **Lack of LGBTQ Training:** 68-93% of respondents stated a lack of training as their biggest challenge in serving LGBTQ survivors, with the highest need being training to work with trans identified survivors
- **Lack of LGBTQ Linkages:** 43% of sexual assault and IPV service providers, and 78% of prosecutors' offices reported they had no partnerships with an LGBTQ organization.

Intersectionality and LGBTQ People

“Within the lesbian community I am Black, and within the Black community I am a lesbian. Any attack against Black people is a lesbian and gay issue, because I and thousands of other Black women are part of the lesbian community. Any attack against lesbians and gays is a Black issue, because thousands of lesbians and gay men are Black. There is no hierarchy of oppression.”

~Audre Lorde

(Homophobia and Education New York: Council on Interracial Books for Children, 1983).

Consequences of Oppression

- LGBTQH people do not get the care they want/need
- LGBTQH people may not feel comfortable sharing their full history
- Providers may misinterpret vagueness and gaps; (e.g. labeling people as substance abusers, “uncooperative,” “non-compliant”)
- Stereotypes about LGBTQH people may lead a provider to miss family related issues
- Providers may not offer appropriate safety planning
- LGBTQH people may not feel that the communication with their provider is adequate and may thus not follow provider suggestions



The Intersections of Violence: Impact on LGBTQ Survivors

The Intersections of Violence

- LGBTQ survivors, like so many survivors, of intimate partner violence experience high rates of **sexual violence** as part of the controlling and coercive behavior on the part of the abuser.
- LGBTQ survivors of intimate partner violence may also experience **hate violence** by their partner, and/or by society at large. Hate violence often includes components of sexual violence, including “corrective rape.”
- LGBTQ survivors also experience **sexual violence** on the street, from new dates, from strangers, during sex work.



Hate Violence

Hate Violence

Generally, anti-LGBTQ hate violence is defined as any act that an offender commits against a person or a person's property because of the offender's bias towards or hatred for that person's actual or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity and expression. ~NCAVP

What We Know About Hate Violence

- They are attacks on the individual **and** the community that the individual is thought to represent.
- They are usually **more brutal** than other kinds of attacks: involving weapons that require excessive use of force like hammers, boots, bats...
- Most bias attacks involve so-called “**overkill**”- multiple injuries, such as repeated kicks, 20 stab wounds, or multiple fractures
- Offenders outnumber victims in most cases
- **Sends** the message that there can be no safety

Effects of Hate Violence

- Victims may believe that their sexual orientation puts them at a higher risk for all kinds of negative experiences.
- Victims of hate crimes based on sexual orientation have been found to suffer greater psychological distress than victims of non-bias-related crimes (Herek et al., 1998).



Sexual Violence

What we know...

- We know that survivors of sexual violence are often forced, coerced and/or manipulated to participate in unwanted sexual activity.
- This is also a reality for many survivors of domestic violence.

Sexual Violence and LGBTQ Communities

- According to research, LGBT people are at approximately the same risk as heterosexuals of being sexually assaulted by someone they know.
 - 52% of participants in a study of sexual coercion in gay/lesbian relationships reported at least one incident of sexual assault/coercion.
 - In this study, gay men reported 1.6 incidents per person on average; in comparison the 1.2 incidents per person reported by lesbians.

Sexual Violence and LGBTQ Communities

- LGBTQ people are often identified as outsiders, and sexual deviates, and are scapegoated as perpetrators of sexual violence.
- Homophobia and heterosexism in our culture puts LGBTQ people at greater risk for sexual violence.
- It is common for perpetrators to use sexual violence as a way to punish and humiliate someone for being LGBTQ.
 - A common example of this is when individuals who think they can “change” a woman’s sexual orientation specifically target lesbians and bisexual women for sexual violence.

Myths about LGBTQ Communities and Sexual Violence

- LGBTQ people are sexually deviant
- LGBTQ people are pedophiles
- Gay men stereotyped as promiscuous
- Lesbians stereotyped as asexual
- LGBTQ relationships are inherently abusive and involve strange sexual practices
- Men can't be raped
- A woman can't be raped by another woman
- Lesbians can be 'converted'
- People are gay because of bad experiences with the 'opposite' sex

Intimate Partner Violence & LGBTQ Communities

The intersections

What we Know

NCAVP DV Report

- Research on Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence Research and literature on heterosexual domestic violence began in earnest in the 1970's and 1980's with the emergence of the battered women's movement.
- Until the late 1980's, there was virtually no research on domestic/intimate partner violence within the context of LGBTQ communities, and even now the majority of research on domestic/intimate partner violence has been conducted in a heteronormative context.
- Members of LGBTQ communities who are survivors of violence within intimate relationships are often either missing from this research entirely or they may be there, but invisible—bisexual and lesbian women assumed to be straight, only those identified as non-transgender female being studied, or subjects of the research being offered only binary options for gender identity (i.e. male or female) which do not accurately demonstrate the gender identity and expression of some survivors.

Unique Challenges for LGBTQ Survivors of Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence: Intersecting Identities

- NCAVP has found that intersecting identities expose survivors to intersecting and mutually reinforcing forms of abuse.
- Abuse within their intimate relationships is exacerbated and reinforced by larger societal bias, discrimination and even hate violence in a survivor's family, workplace, neighborhood and the world at large.
- This oppression is based on bias and stigma against or hatred for actual or perceived identity, including about gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, ability, age, socio-economic status, immigration status, HIV status, language and other factors.

Unique Challenges for LGBTQ Survivors of Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence: Intersecting Identities

- Gender identity and expression are used as major indicators in screening for primary aggressors in heterosexual relationships with non-LGBTQ individuals. Studies of violence within heterosexual relationships have shown men to be more likely to be perpetrators than women.
- These gendered assumptions may be present, although not useful, in law enforcement's assessment of violence in LGBTQ people's relationships as well as service providers (*NCAVP 2009 DV Report*)

What does this mean for supportive housing?

- LGBTQH survivors of violence may not have obtained the culturally competent services they needed in response to having experienced violence, and may therefore not be considered eligible for supportive housing
- Once in supportive housing, LGBTQH individuals continue to face discrimination, bias, and violence from neighbors, landlords, even service providers



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(English/Spanish) Hotline
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Thank You!