

# **LGBT Communities and Domestic Violence**

Information & Resources

## **STATISTICS**



prepared by

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

A project of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

6400 Flank Drive, Suite 1300

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17112

Tel: 800-537-2238 ■ TTY: 800-553-2508 ■ Fax: 717-545-9456

[www.nrcdv.org](http://www.nrcdv.org) ■ [www.vawnet.org](http://www.vawnet.org)

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# STATISTICS

Currently, very few studies exist which measure the extent and nature of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) within specific LGBT groups. As research reports become available, their findings will be added to the contents of this packet.

## INCIDENCE & PREVALENCE

- Results from the National Violence Against Women Survey indicate that men living with male intimate partners experience more intimate partner violence than do men who live with female intimate partners. Approximately 23 percent of the men, who had lived with a man as a couple, reported being raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked by a male cohabitant, while 7.4 percent of the men, who had married or lived with a woman as a couple, reported such violence by a wife or female cohabitant. These findings provide evidence indicating that intimate partner violence is perpetrated primarily by men, whether against male or female intimates. Thus, strategies for preventing intimate partner violence should focus on risks posed by men. [Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (July 2000). *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence – Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*. (Publication #NCJ181867). National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Washington, DC: Office of Justice Programs.]
- Results from the National Violence Against Women Survey indicate that women living with female intimate partners experience less intimate partner violence than women living with male intimate partners. Slightly more than 11% of the women who had lived with a woman as part of a couple reported being raped, physically assaulted, and/or stalked by a female cohabitant, but 21.7% of the women who had married or lived with a man as part of a couple reported such violence by a husband or male cohabitant. These findings suggest that lesbian couples experience less intimate partner violence than do heterosexual couples; however, more research is needed to support or refute this conclusion. [Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (July 2000). *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence – Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*. (Publication #NCJ181867). National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Washington, DC: Office of Justice Programs.]
- The twelve regions that compile data for this report documented a total of 3,534 incidents of domestic violence affecting LGBT individuals in 2006. [Fountain, K. & Skolnik, A. (2007). *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Domestic Violence in the United States in 2006: A Report of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs*. New York, NY: National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.]
- Researchers report a high rate of battering within the context of intimate homosexual partnerships among men, with 39% of those studied reporting at least one type of battering by a partner over the last five years. [Greenwood, G.L., Relf, M.V., Huang, B., Pollack, L.M., Canchola, J.A. & Catania, J.A. (2002) Battering victimization among a probability-based sample of men who have sex with men. *American Journal of Public Health*, 92, 1964-1969.]

- In a study with 1,109 individuals who identified as lesbian, slightly more than half of the respondents reported having been abused by a woman partner in their lifetime. [Lie, G. & Gentlewarrior, S. (1991). Intimate violence in lesbian relationships: Discussion of survey findings and practice implications. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 15(1&2), 47.]
- Prevalence estimates of battering victimization of men having sex with men were 34% for psychological/symbolic battering, 22% for physical battering, and 5% for sexual battering. [Greenwood G.L., Relf, M.V., Huang, B., Pollack, L.M., Canchola, J.A. & Catania, J.A. (2002). Battering victimization among a probability-based sample of men who have sex with men. *American Journal of Public Health*, 92, 1964-1969.]
- The Survivor Project's 1998 *Gender, Violence, and Resource Access Survey* of transgender and intersex individuals found that 50% of respondents had been raped or assaulted by a romantic partner, though only 62% of these individuals (31% of the total) identified themselves as survivors of domestic violence when explicitly asked. [Courvant, D. & Cook-Daniels, L. (1998). *Trans and Intersex Survivors of Domestic Violence: Defining Terms, Barriers and Responsibilities*. Portland, OR: Survivors Project.]

## DEMOGRAPHICS

- Among all the victims reported to NCAVP in 2006, 57% (2,050) identified themselves as lesbian or gay. The next highest sexual orientation category was "Unknown" (22%) [...]. Heterosexual-identified victims made 9% of the total reports. [...] Heterosexuals who access domestic violence services at LGBT agencies, do so for a variety of reasons. Some are transgender individuals who identify as heterosexual. Others are HIV-affected individuals who seek services from LGBT agencies because the latter are better equipped to address the occurrence and consequences of domestic violence involving HIV-affected partners. Finally, some are people who choose to access services at a particular LGBT agency because of its reputation, advertising, location, referral by an LGBT acquaintance or relative, or for other reasons, which may include their questioning their sexual orientation, or that they do not see people like themselves reflected in the public advertising or outreach of other domestic violence service providers. [Fountain, K. & Skolnik, A. (2007). *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Domestic Violence in the United States in 2006: A Report of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs*. New York, NY: National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.]
- The majority of [the twelve reporting organizations in 2006] receive about equal reports from male and female victims of domestic violence. [Fountain, K. & Skolnik, A. (2007). *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Domestic Violence in the United States in 2006: A Report of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs*. New York, NY: National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.]

- Almost all [of the twelve reporting organizations in 2006] report a very small sample size of transgender, intersex and self-identified/other categories. Because identity terminology can vary between individuals, many people who may be gender non-conforming in some way may not self-identify as such, especially when seeking services. However, small numbers of trans-identified and intersex clients can also be an indication of real or perceived levels of accessibility of our organizations, or fear of reporting in general. [Fountain, K. & Skolnik, A. (2007). *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Domestic Violence in the United States in 2006: A Report of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs*. New York, NY: National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.]
- Overall, when unknowns were excluded, 81% (1,187) of the 2,463 remaining cases fall into the 19-49 [year old age] range. This probably reflects the circumstance that most of the organizations participating in this report have been designed to serve non-elderly adults. [The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs] believes that in actuality, domestic violence affecting younger and older LGBT individuals occurs with much greater frequency than is documented here. [Fountain, K. & Skolnik, A. (2007). *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Domestic Violence in the United States in 2006: A Report of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs*. New York, NY: National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.]
- [The] race/ethnicity of a large number of reporting survivors was unknown, representing 31% of all reports received in 2006. The next largest race/ethnicity category is white, accounting for 30% of the total. [...] The next highest percentages are for Latina/o (19%) and African (11%) victims. Members of several communities continued to account for very small percentages of domestic violence reports in 2006. These groups include Asian/Pacific Islanders (2%), Native Americans (1%), and Arab/Middle Easterners (1%). [Fountain, K. & Skolnik, A. (2007). *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Domestic Violence in the United States in 2006: A Report of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs*. New York, NY: National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.]

Readers seeking more specific information about the incidence and characteristics of domestic violence within same gender/gender non-conforming intimate relationships are encouraged to review the local reports listed in the *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Domestic Violence in the United States in 2006: A Report of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs*, and contact the individual local programs with specific questions. The *Report* is available online at [http://www.ncavp.org/common/document\\_files/Reports/2006NationalDVReport\(Final\).pdf](http://www.ncavp.org/common/document_files/Reports/2006NationalDVReport(Final).pdf) or by contacting the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs at (212) 714-1184.