



FVAP’s LGBTQIA2S+ DV Primer Executive Summary*

Prevalence & Effect of LGBTQIA2S+ DV

- About 7% of U.S. adults identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual
- Almost 2% of U.S. adults identify as trans or gender nonbinary
- DV occurs within LGBTQIA2S+ at disproportionately higher rates, particularly for communities of color, youth, immigrants, and those with disabilities, including HIV/AIDS

According to a 2010 survey, lifetime prevalence rates of domestic violence are:

	Rape, physical violence, or stalking	Stalking	Physical violence	Severe physical violence	Rape	Other sexual violence	Psychological aggression
Bi Women	61%	33%	n/a	49%	22%	40%	76%
Lesbians	44%	n/a		29%	n/a		63%
Hetero Women	35%	17%	n/a	24%	9%	15%	48%
Gay Men	26%	n/a		16%	n/a		60%
Bi Men	37%	n/a	27%	n/a	n/a		53%
Hetero Men	29%	n/a	26%	14%	n/a		49%
Trans Any IPV type: 50%	n/a	n/a	43-46%	n/a	Any form of Sexual Violence: 47%		n/a
Intersex	n/a (no data available)						

Unique and Distinctive Forms of Abuse for LGBTQIA2S+ Survivors

- Identity abuse: using sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex against someone
- Applying LGBTQIA2S+-specific stereotypes against someone—e.g., believing bisexual people always want to have sex with everyone, thinking trans people have to do or not do certain procedures
- Coercive control, based in part on someone’s LGBTQIA2S+ identity, of someone’s body, dress, medication, or personal life
- Using the below help-seeking barriers against someone

Unique and Distinctive Help-Seeking Barriers for LGBTQIA2S+ Survivors

- Homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia
- Belief that DV cannot happen within LGBTQIA2S+ relationships
- Concern about airing community’s “dirty laundry” or making community “look bad”
- Laws not expressly covering these communities—e.g., DV restraining orders, child custody, adoption, criminal domestic violence
- Laws not being enforced equally for these communities—by, e.g., law enforcement, courts
- Police, judges, and other systems actors mislabeling domestic violence as “mutual battering” or “roommate fights”
- Service providers not serving these communities, or not doing so adequately
- Survivors are less likely to have a personal support system
- Survivor not fitting the stereotypical or “good” victim model
- Fear of survivor and/or abuser being “outed”

**See the [full primer](#) for more forms of abuse, help-seeking barriers, and strategies for change, as well as citations for the above points.*