

**LGBTQ 101: Terminology, Concepts,
and Intimate Partner Violence**

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The WI Department of Children and Families, Domestic Abuse Program supports this training to comply with the federal requirement that Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) funded programs develop a practice of promoting access and inclusion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer(LGBTQ) individuals, as well as developing non-discrimination and anti-harassment policies.

This FVPSA requirement is a response to the changes to the Violence Against Women Act that add LGBTQ individuals to the list of underserved populations.

The VAWA inclusion was a hard-fought and historic victory that was the result of a broad coalition of organizations.

FVPSA-funded DV programs must:
Assure that the needs of LGBTQ people are taken into consideration in the agency's programming.

Establish and publicize policies prohibiting harassment based on race, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity (or expression), religion, and national origin.

Train all staff members to prevent and respond to bullying and harassment in all forms.

To meet the training requirement, all staff must view the following three webinars:
Webinar 1:- LGBTQ 101: Terminology, Concepts, and Intimate Partner Violence.
Webinar 2: - Creating a Welcoming and Inclusive Environment and Services for LGBTQ People.
Webinar 3:- Development and Maintenance of Policies Prohibiting Harassment of LGBTQ People

FVPSA-funded DV Programs must:

document and keep on file participation of all staff in the three webinars on LGBTQ access and inclusion.

For more information on the FVPSA requirements, contact:

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Objectives

- Understand a brief LGBTQ history
- Describe terms and concepts related to LGBTQ identities
- Explain similarities and differences between IPV in LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ relationships

LGBTQ history

- DSM - 1953
- Stonewall - 1969
- Pride - 1970
- DSM - 1973
- March on Washington - 1979
- HIV - 1981
- Vermont - 2000
- Sodomy laws - 2003
- Massachusetts - 2004
- Don't Ask, Don't Tell repealed - 2011
- US Supreme Court DOMA - 2013

Terminology

The best term to use is the one they provide (and approve).

Sex, Gender, Orientation, and more

- **Sex** – biology, chromosomes, genitalia, reproductive potential
- **Gender** – sense of self as masculine or feminine, somewhere in between, or not on a binary scale
- **Orientation** – with whom a person partners intimately

Sex, Gender, Orientation, and more

- **Attraction** – to whom a person is drawn physically, emotionally, and sexually
- **Behavior** – what a person does, usually sexually

Sex (assigned at birth)

- Usually first identified by external genitalia.
- Sometimes first identified by chromosomes.
- Usually assumed that these match.
- Puberty may or may not reveal the expected secondary sex characteristics.
- Male and female are probably most familiar. Intersex describes someone with characteristics of male and female. People may use other terms.

Gender Identity

- Self
- Perceived
- Confirmed
- Transgender as an umbrella term
- Other terms: cisgender, agender, gender non-conforming
- Ask about pronouns for individual and partner.

Orientation, behavior, and attraction

- Self, perceived, confirmed
- None of these indicates the other two.
- What do you need to know?

-Isms and -phobias

- **Heterosexism** – the belief that everyone is heterosexual and that this is the normal or right way to be
- **Biphobia** – negative actions, attitudes and beliefs toward bisexual people or anyone thought to be bisexual
- **Homophobia** – negative actions, attitudes, beliefs toward gay or lesbian people or anyone thought to be gay or lesbian
- **Transphobia** – negative actions, attitudes, and beliefs toward anyone thought to be gender non-conforming
- Intersections with other oppressions

Lesbians: Terms and concepts

- A term used by female identified people
- May also use gay or gay woman
- Stereotype that couples look and act heterosexual based on gender identity
- “Lesbian utopia” and denial

Gay men: Terms and concepts

- A term used by male identified people
- May use same gender loving
- Use of MSM as a descriptor
- Effects of HIV stigma
- Effects of masculinity

Bisexual people: Terms and concepts

- A term used to describe people attracted to males and females
- Stereotypes and myths:
 - Promiscuity
 - Infidelity
 - Temporary
 - Reaction to homophobia
- Lack of community
- Rates of IPV

**Transgender people:
Terms and concepts**

- Definition: Sex at birth does not match current gender identity
- Umbrella term for many identities
- Not indicative of presence or lack of medical action or intent
- Male to female (MTF) and female to male (FTM)
- Transition

**Transgender people:
Terms and concepts**

- Used as an adjective before a noun - transgender person, not transgender or transgendered
- Cisgender
- Does not indicate orientation
- Pronouns
- IPV not identified as a priority

The Q

- Sometimes used to mean “questioning”
- Historically negative
- May refer to orientation or gender identity
- Tendency to be used by younger people
- Still negative for some
- Seen as inclusive

Terms used “in community”

The Coming Out Process

- May have a specific date or year in mind which may be first time or to a significant person or persons
- Ongoing
- In some settings or relationships but not others
- Forced in some situations
- Your perception of outness does not reflect the person’s acceptance by family and friends.

Words to avoid (and why)

- Transgender (noun), transgendered, tranny, transvestite
- “real” – woman, man, lesbian, gay man, parent
- Friend, special friend, roommate

Why Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)?

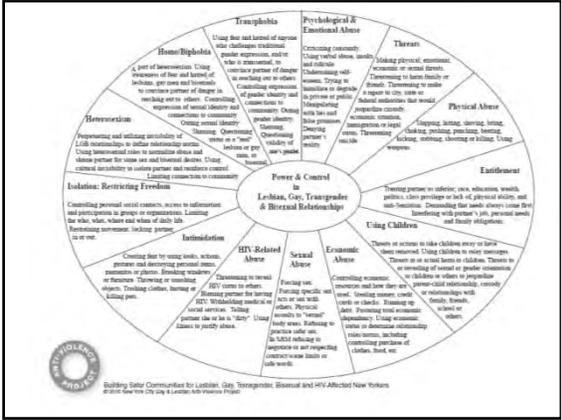
- Association with domestic violence
- Use of “partner”
- Reflection of relationships from dating to long term

LGBTQ IPV myths

- Women are not violent.
- Men are violent.
- Two women or two men would be equal in a relationship.
- The more feminine person is the victim.
- A bisexual woman in a relationship with a man is and should be treated as if she were heterosexual.

LGBTQ IPV myths

- Rape can't happen between women, between men, or when a transgender person is one of the individuals.
- LGBTQ victims are not protected by law.
- Abuse in LGBTQ relationships is not very common (or it is very common).



Similarities

- No one deserves to be abused.
- Abuse can be physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or psychological.
- Abuse often occurs in a cyclic fashion.

Similarities

- Most violence is chronic and escalating.
- Abuse can be lethal.
- The purpose of the abuse is to maintain control and power over one's partner.

Similarities

- The abused person feels isolated, afraid and usually convinced that they are at fault.
- The abused person risks the loss of community if they tell.
- The abused person risks the loss of children if they tell.
- There is no clear language for abuse.

Similarities

- The rate of abuse is the same.
- The end of the relationship involves grief and loss.
- Same-sex relationships are just as meaningful as heterosexual ones, even if they don't have "legal" or "societal" sanctions.

Differences

- The myth prevails that LGBT relationship violence is “mutual”.
- Living in a homophobic, biphobic, transphobic, and heterosexist society creates a different context for violence.
- Within the LGBT community, support may not exist.

Differences

- Utilizing existing services is deciding to ‘coming out’ and is a major life decision.
- Butch/femme is NOT equal to male/female.
- LGBT survivors may know few, if any, other LGBT people; leaving the abuser could mean total isolation.

Differences

- LGBT communities are surprisingly small.
- The abusive partner can use blackmail to keep the victim in the relationship.
- There is no clear language to talk about rape in LGBT relationships.
- LGBT people may have difficulty finding support in systems predominately for heterosexual women.

Differences for LGBT People of Color

- Minority Stress: When an individual experiences discrimination due to their identity, this can lower self esteem and their ability to take on health behaviors that will prevent disease.
- LGBT POC experience multiple (minority) stressors based on race, sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity.
- LGBT POC identity can be invisible to both LGBT and heterosexual communities.

Differences for LGBT People of Color

- Stereotype Threat: Experience of anxiety or concern when the person has the potential of confirming a negative stereotype about one's group.
- LGBT POC are vulnerable to stereotype threat, on different levels depending on the situation.
- Example: if there is a stereotype that a group is violent, a victim/survivor may not want to "confirm" this stereotype.

Contact

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