



Introduction

- LGBTQ+ people tend to be left out of conversations about intimate partner violence (IPV).
- IPV is largely applied to heterosexual and cisgender people.
 - Stigma surrounds queer (non-straight) and transgender (including nonbinary/genderqueer) people in IPV.
- Little research or discussion pertains to LGBTQ+ people and how they are affected by IPV.
 - Recent research of LGBTQ+ people in relation to IPV is powerful and eye-opening.



Summary and Synthesis of Research

- LGBTQ+ people tend to experience IPV to the same or greater degree as cisgender heterosexual (cis het) people.
- 43.8% of lesbian women and 26% of gay men experience some form of IPV in their lives, specifically rape, physical abuse, and stalking.
- "Gay men and bisexual women are more likely to experience severe physical violence than their straight counterparts, including being beaten, burned[,] or choked."
- Trans women "are three times more likely to be stalked, experience financial abuse, and/or endure sexual harassment than" cis people while trans people "experience disproportionate rates of violence" in general.



Homosexual Identities

- Homosexual (gay and lesbian) IPV has a similar "cycle of violence" as straight IPV and "the severity and types of abuse... are similar to those faced by heterosexual women."
- "36% of same-[gender] domestic victims experienced physical injuries" and 42% of victims require medical care and "the rate of intimate partner murders among same-[gender] couples (1%) is comparable to that among [straight] couples."
- A study conducted by Brown and Groscup (2008) discovered crisis center professionals had a bias toward seeing straight couples' IPV situations as direr, more likely to reoccur, and more likely to escalate, whereas the opposite applied to their views of same-gender couples.
- Negative attitudes and stereotypes about gay men and lesbian women can affect the assistance victims of same-gender IPV, even in crisis care.

Multisexual Identities

- Multisexual (bisexual, pansexual, polysexual, and omnisequal) people typically face stigma and backlash from both the LGBTQ+ community and the dominant group.
- Multisexual people face more severe forms of IPV than other sexualities.
 - 61.1% of bisexual women and upwards of 37.3% of bisexual men experience some form of IPV in their lives, specifically rape, physical abuse, and stalking.
 - "Approximately 1 in 5 bisexual women (22%)... have been raped by an intimate partner in their lifetime."
 - Bisexual people have a higher likelihood of experiencing sexual violence in their lives than other sexualities.
- Multisexual people face more barriers in seeking help than homosexual people.
 - Same or similar stigmas as homosexual people and unique prejudices
 - Further isolates multisexual victims of IPV and keeps them from seeking help



Queer Identities as a Whole

- All queer people are faced with the false and widespread belief "abuse only happens between a man and a woman."
- Only about a quarter of queer men in same-gender relationships with IPV call the police "after experiencing near-lethal violence."
- Someone's sexuality can influence their treatment by the criminal justice system, especially with IPV.
- Can lead to a continuance of queer victims suffering IPV because it might seem more manageable or less painful than being harmed by someone who is meant to help them.



Transgender Identities

- Insufficient research on IPV against transgender people exists, especially nonbinary/genderqueer people.
- 54% of respondents to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey said they "experienced some form of [IPV], including acts involving coercive control and physical harm"; 47% were sexually assaulted at some point, and 10% had been sexually assaulted within the past year.
- Trans people are faced with a higher likelihood of public IPV.
- Trans people who experience IPV have a higher risk of being threatened or intimidated, harassed, or experiencing police brutality.
- Special forms of abuse perpetrators can use to harm their trans partners:
 - Misgendering and gaslighting them about their identity
- Transphobia can cause some trans people to become homeless or to lose family and/or friends, which makes them lack a support system and less likely to leave an abusive relationship.
- Trans people might be afraid of seeking out shelters due to many being women-only and some purposefully excluding trans women and nonbinary people.



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All LGBTQ+ Identities

- LGBTQ+ people have to deal with the internal struggle that "sexual violence is not generally being discussed or addressed in the [LGBTQ+] community" itself.
 - Complicates LGBTQ+ people seeing they are in abusive relationships or sharing resources with each other
- More research on IPV among LGBTQ+ people, both as a whole and about individual identities and how it affects them, is needed to examine IPV pertaining to LGBTQ+ people.
- Having to disclose their identity prevents some LGBTQ+ people from seeking help.
- The criminal justice system and certain services being offered might cause LGBTQ+ people to avoid seeking help.
 - 45% of LGBTQ+ people do not report their abuse because they think it will not help or they will be denied help because of discrimination from service providers or a lack of proper training on handling LGBTQ+ victims.
- LGBTQ+ people may not seek help because they may be afraid they will not be believed due to the misconception IPV only exists among cis het people.



Critical Analysis and Reflection

- Clearly, there exists a lack of conversation within the LGBTQ+ community about IPV among LGBTQ+ people.
- I aspire to pioneer more of these conversations and further educate fellow LGBTQ+ people and others about the facts.
- I plan to use my own advocacy within the LGBTQ+ community to discuss the statistics and ways to tackle the barriers to seeking help.
- I can use my own social media presence to spread this information to LGBTQ+ people and allies alike to best help the community.
- As an author, I have learned to more accurately portray the threat of IPV to LGBTQ+ people and the barriers that exist in preventing LGBTQ+ victims from seeking help.
 - By making the issue more palatable and real to readers, I could teach them about an issue they may never have learned about otherwise.

Summary/Conclusions

- Research about LGBTQ+ IPV solidifies that the conversation about IPV needs to include LGBTQ+ people.
- Seen through the high rates and severity at which LGBTQ+ people experience IPV and the different abuse tactics and extra barriers to seeking help LGBTQ+ face when experiencing IPV
- Rates, severity, abuse tactics, and barriers differ among identities, but these aspects affect all LGBTQ+ people in ways that damage the whole community.
- Ways to reduce the severity and frequency LGBTQ+ people experience IPV include educating people and spreading awareness about the reality of LGBTQ+ IPV.
- LGBTQ+ IPV needs to be addressed as real, serious, and just as important as cis het IPV.
- Include LGBTQ+ victims in the conversation about IPV and focus on how to prevent and reduce LGBTQ+ IPV and properly assist, support, and validate LGBTQ+ victims.

