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Intimate Partner Violence among LGBTQ+ People & Unique Care Needs for Survivors

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
Committee for Sustaining Essential Health Care Services Related to
Intimate Partner Violence During Public Health Emergencies

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House Keeping

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Identify difference between sex, gender, and sexuality.
2. Describe the prevalence of intimate partner violence among LGBTQ+ people.
3. Discuss unique considerations for promoting health and safety among LGBTQ+ survivors of intimate partner violence.

No conflicts of interest to disclose



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Presentation Outline

- My Role
- Pertinent Definitions
- Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence among LGBTQ+ People
- Unique Care Needs of LGBTQ+ Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence
- Additional Resources



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My Role

Important Terms to Know

Intimate Partner

- *An intimate partner* is “a steady or monogamous partner, spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, date, or onetime sexual partner, fluid bonded partner, or others” (Peitzmeier, et al. 2019)

IPV

- *Intimate partner violence (IPV)* is physical and/or sexual violence, stalking, psychological aggression, or coercive control from an intimate partner or ex-partner

Partnership Structure

- *Monogamy* is the practice of, or desire for, romantic or sexual relationships with only one partner at a time
- *Polyamory* is the practice of, or desire for, romantic or sexual relationships with more than one partner at the same time, with the informed consent of all partners



Identity

- **Gender Identity** “The way in which a person conceptualizes ‘their gender’ or the language a person uses to describe their internal understanding of their gender. A person’s gender identity may or may not align with that traditionally expected of their gender expression”

Expression

- **Gender Expression** “The way in which someone expresses their gender” to the outside world. This can encompass communication of one’s gender to others, such as appearance, dress, verbal and/or body language, social interactions, etc. “A person’s gender expression may or may not align with” that traditionally expected of their gender identity.

Natal Sex

- **Natal Sex (biology)** A classification system based on a person’s anatomy, sex hormone production, and/or a chromosome pattern. Society traditionally recognizes two dominant sex categories, “male” and “female”, each with specific biological requirements. The reality though, is that people’s biology is often more diverse than traditional categories and requirements, such as that of intersex people



Cisgender
Woman

Cisgender Man

Transgender
Woman

Common
Gender
Identities

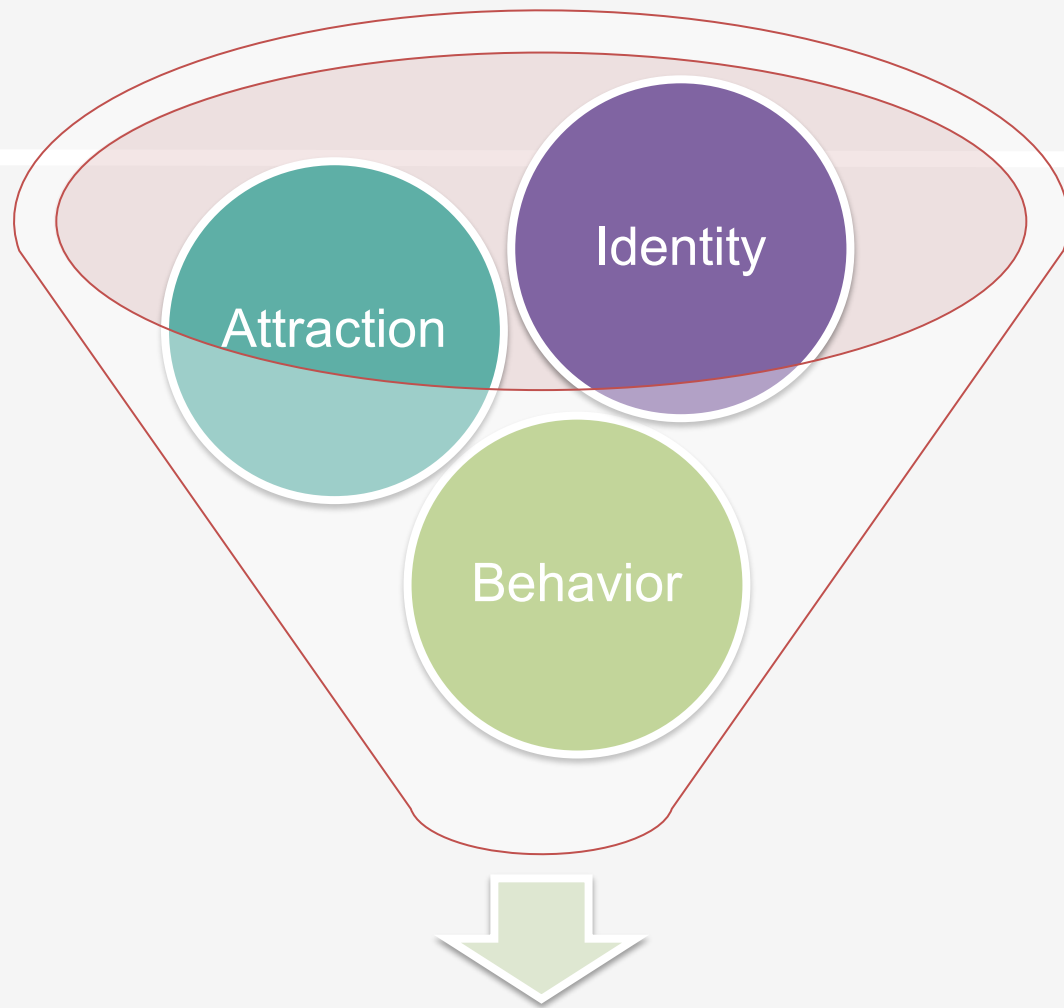
Non-binary

Transgender
Man





**Gender Identity, expression, or natal sex
does not imply sexual behavior or
attraction.**



Sexual Orientation



Identity

- Describes a person's internal sense of how they relate to others sexually or romantically. There are many *sexual identities*, such as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pansexual, Heterosexual, Queer, Questioning, Asexual, Two-Spirited, etc.



Behavior

- Describes a person's *sexual activity*, such as 'has sex with cisgender men,' 'has sex with cisgender women,' 'has sex with all genders,' 'is celibate,' etc. (Usually has a time frame attached e.g., in the last 6 months; and be explicit about what kind of sex, e.g., oral, anal, vaginal)



Attraction

- Describes a person's *sexual attraction or romantic attraction* to others such as attracted to men, women, non-binary persons, feminine persons, masculine persons, other genders, etc.



Sexual Identity does not imply sexual behavior or attraction.

Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence among LGBTQ+ People

Table 2 Perpetration and victimization of intimate partner violence recall period (%)

Study	IPV Perpetration					IPV Victimization				
	Any IPV	Physical	Sexual	Psychological	LGB specific	Any IPV	Physical	Sexual	Psychological	LGB specific
Women in same-sex relationships										
Last year										
Balsam and Szymanski 2005		21.5 ^a		11.1 (16) ^b	16.7		26.4 ^a		11.1 (16.8) ^b	14.6
McKenry et al. 2006		35								
Milletich et al. 2014		25.4								
Pepper and Sand 2015		22.5	18	72.5			20	12.8	67.5	
Lifetime										
Balsam and Szymanski 2005		40.1 ^a		2.8 (2.3)	33.5		43.6 ^a		2.8 (2.3)	34.8
Carvalho et al. 2011	8.2									
Men in same-sex relationships										
Last year										
Bartholomew et al. 2008 ^b		38		97			44		95	
Kelley et al. 2014		18.69								
McKenry et al. 2006		39								
Lifetime										
Carvalho et al. 2011	6.7					17.9				
LGBTQ in same-sex relationships										
Current relationship										
Edwards and Sylaska 2013		19.9	10.5	12.5			20.2	14.1	16.1	

Note Blank table cells were not measured or not reported

^a Physical/Sexual IPV

^b mean and standard deviation

Most recent systematic review of the literature shows

inconsistent prevalence across studies from 2005 - 2015

(Longobardi & Badenes-Ribera 2017)

National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey

Lifetime prevalence rates of IPV

(inclusive of physical, sexual, stalking victimization, but not psychological victimization)

(Walters, Chen, & Breiding, 2013)



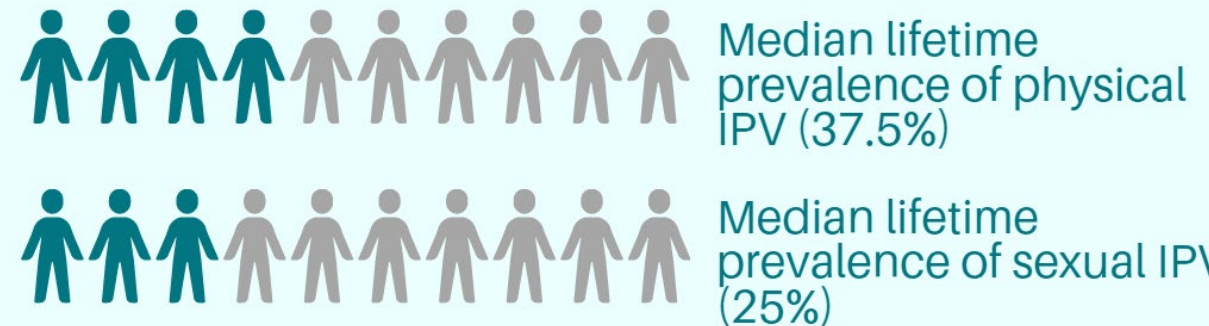
Compared to cisgender people, transgender and gender diverse people are:

1.7 times more likely to experience any IPV

2.2 times more likely to experience physical IPV

2.5 times more likely to experience sexual IPV

Peitzmeier et al 2020



Meta-analysis of 85 articles dated before July 2019.



LGBTQ+ IPV & Covid-19

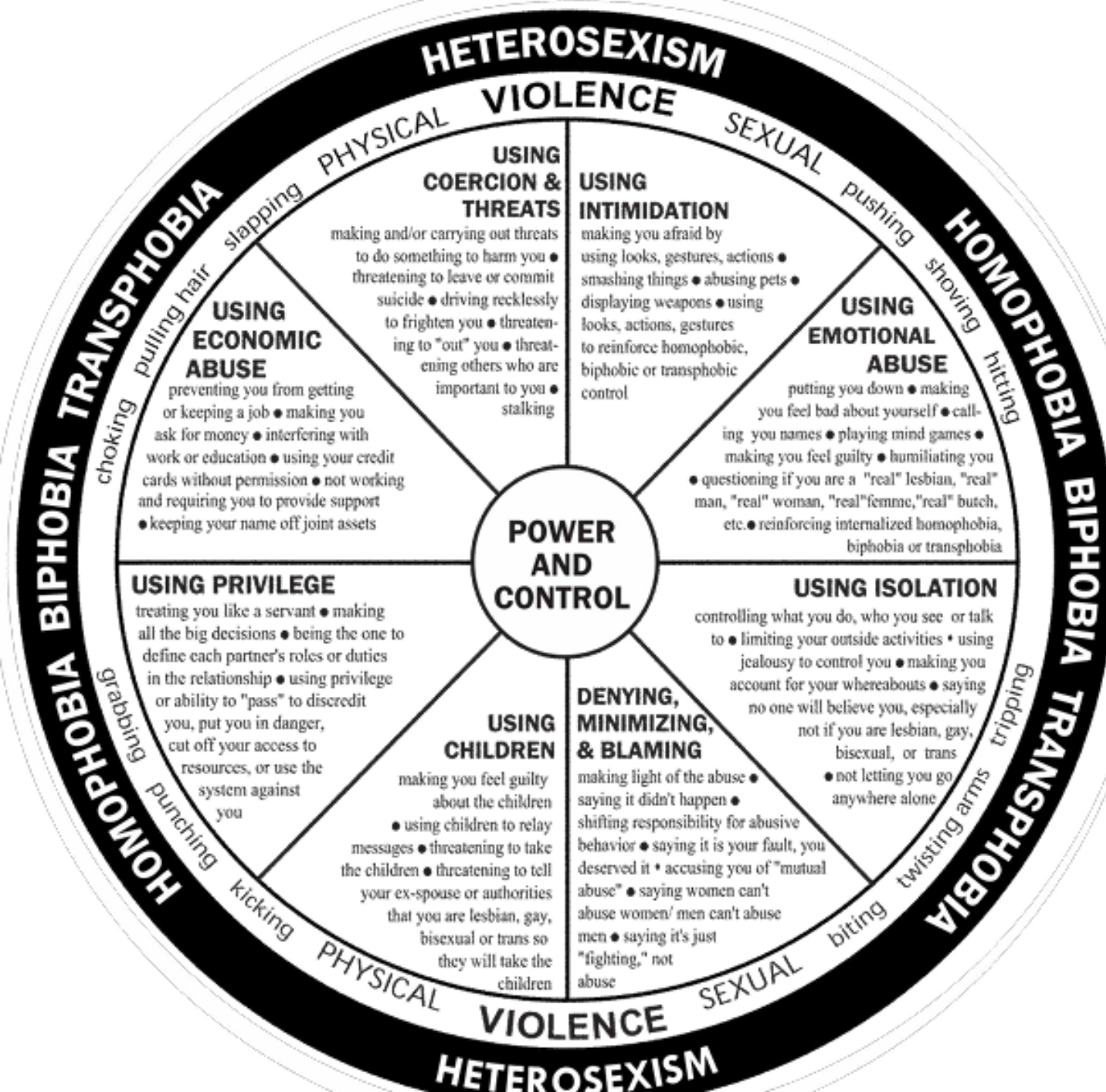
- US sample of (N=1,090) LGBTQ people, using an anonymous online survey
- Among those (n=98) endorsing IPV victimization in their current relationship, more than 18% reported increased frequency since the onset of the pandemic.
- Respondents in the Southern US and those with more severe depressive symptoms, were more likely to report an increased frequency of IPV victimization

(Stults et al. 2022)



Unique IPV Presentations

- “Outing” disclosure of information against someone’s will (e.g., sexual orientation, gender identity, transition status, HIV status, etc.)
- Controlling gender expression (e.g., inhibit access to gender-affirming care or treatment, destroying clothing, etc.)
- Sexuality or gender based psychological attacks or slurs
- Among older LGBTQ+: threatening to force a partner into a nursing home in which they are afraid to disclose their LGBTQ+ status



Power and Control Wheel for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Relationships

from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project

Unique Care Needs of LGBTQ+ Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Cisgenderism & Heterosexism

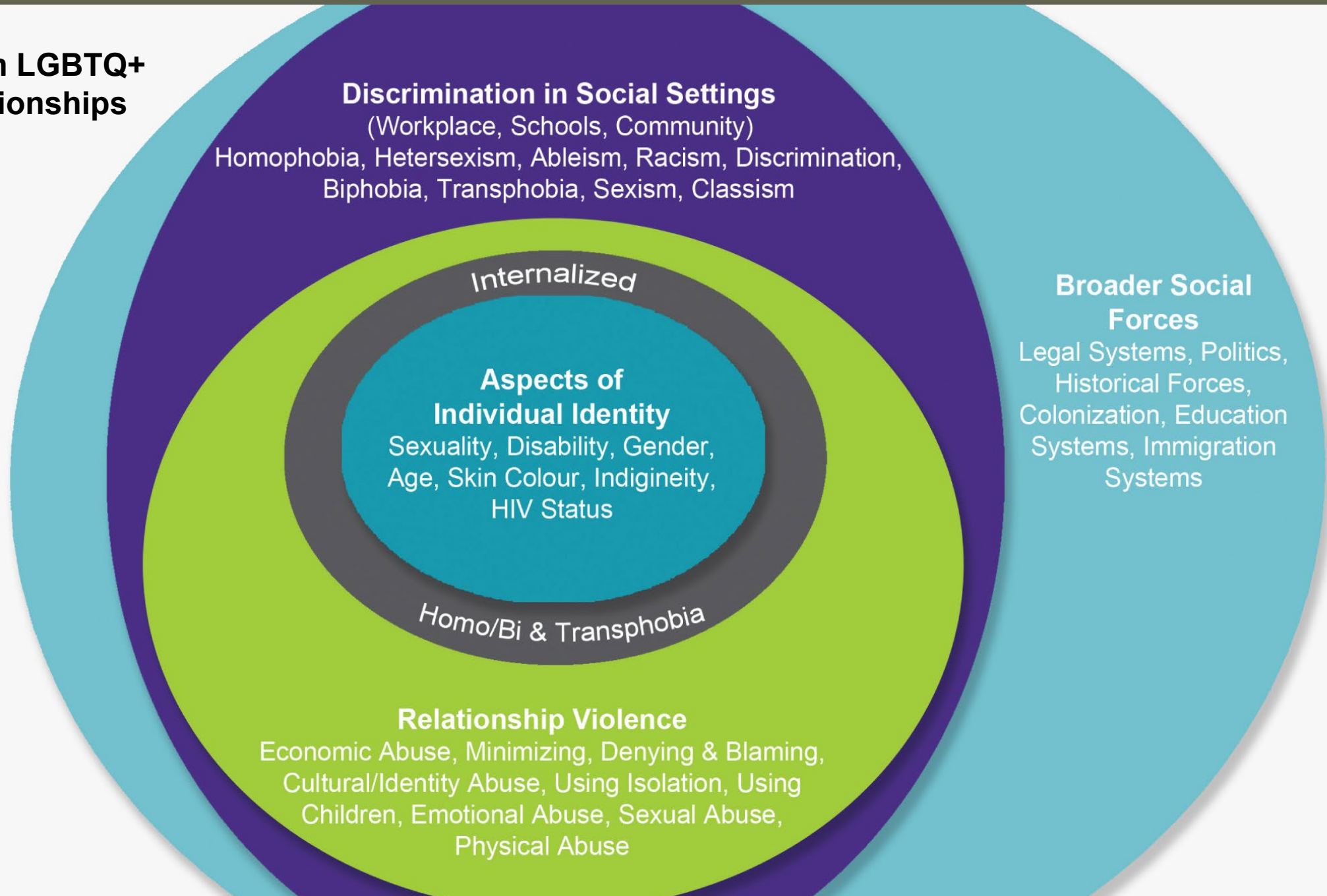


High rates of social & structural vulnerabilities

(e.g., homelessness,
unemployment, low healthcare
access, among others)

High rates of discrimination & victimization

IPV in LGBTQ+ Relationships





Unique Challenges to Care Access and Engagement

- Lack of national survey data to better understand trends, predictors, related outcomes
- Minority stress (overlapping cisgenderism, heterosexism, and racism, ageism)
- Social and structural vulnerabilities
- Limited legal protection in US
- Inadequate responses from law enforcement
- A lack of LGBTQ-friendly shelters

Ideal Approach to Screening & Intervention

- Universal violence screening
- Screening for multiple types of violence in addition to IPV
- Access to on-site violence intervention and/or referral to external violence intervention for all positive screens regardless of gender, type of violence exposure, perception of severity, etc.
- Improve healthcare systems to adopt policies and procedures that promote sexuality- and gender-affirming care* and may act to reduce known barriers to care (lack of insurance, denial of care, violence and discrimination from providers, etc.)

* (i.e., the provision of care in a manner that supports one's self-determination of their sexuality and gender)

General IPV Resources	
The HRSA Strategy to Address Intimate Partner Violence	www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/HRSA-strategy-intimate-partner-violence.pdf
Futures without Violence Online Intimate Partner Violence Toolkit	IPVHealthPartners.org
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence	www.ncadv.org
National Domestic Violence Hotline	Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE www.ndvh.org
LGBTQ-specific IPV Resources	
Fenway Health Violence Recovery Program and Training	fenwayhealth.org/care/behavioral-health/violence-recovery
FORGE	forge-forward.org
The Network/La Red	Hotline: 617.742.4911 TNLR.org
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs	www.avp.org
The Northwest Network	nwnetwork.org
National LGBTQ Institute on IPV	LGBTQIPV.org

Supporting LGBTQ+ Stalking Victims: A Guide for Victim Advocates (SPARC)

<https://forge-forward.org/resource/supporting-lgbtq-stalking-victims-a-guide-for-victim-advocates-sparc/>

LGBTQ Health Care Training and Education

National LGBT Health Education Center

www.lgbthealtheducation.org

See especially:

Webinar: Implementing Routine Intimate Partner Violence Screening in a Primary Care Setting

www.lgbthealtheducation.org/webinar/lgbt-ipv-screening/

Webinar: Intimate Partner Violence in LGBTQ communities

www.lgbthealtheducation.org/webinar/intimate-partner-violence-in-lgbtq-communities/

Webinars and publications: Collecting sexual orientation and gender identity data

www.lgbthealtheducation.org/topic/sogi/

Learning Module: Providing Quality Care to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Patients: An Introduction for Staff Training

www.lgbthealtheducation.org/lgbt-education/learning-modules/

Publication: Providing Inclusive Services and Care for LGBT People: A Guide for Health Care Staff

www.lgbthealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/Providing-Inclusive-Services-and-Care-for-LGBT-People.pdf

Publication: Glossary of LGBT Terms for Health Care Teams

www.lgbthealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Glossary-2018-English-update-1.pdf

Publication: Focus on Forms and Policy: Creating and Inclusive Environment for LGBT Patients

www.lgbthealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Forms-and-Policy-Brief.pdf

Publication: Ten Things: Creating Inclusive Health Care Environments for LGBT People

www.lgbthealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/Ten-Things-Brief-Final-WEB.pdf

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Factors associated with the perpetration of IPV among sexual minority people (Trombetta & Rollè, 2019)

Factor	Definition
Socio-demographic factors	Social and cultural factors that characterize a specific person/population
Psychological factors	Personality traits, mental representations and functioning, and mental health symptoms
Relational factors	Characteristics of the relationship (i.e., duration, monogamy, cohabitation), dyadic satisfaction or adjustment and conflict resolution skills, communication and power dynamics
Social- and community-level factors	Characteristics of the social network and perceived social support
Feminine and masculine gender expression, and sexism	Behavioral or personal characteristics consistent with masculine or feminine gender stereotypes, and negative attitudes based on sex
Intimate partner violence	Forms of violence experienced and episodes of IPV victimization
Family of origin-related factors	Previous experiences of violence (witnessed or suffered) or harsh parenting within the family of origin
Substance use	Alcohol and drug use and abuse
Medical conditions	Sexually transmitted infections and PrEP use
Sexual behaviors	Years at anal sexual debut, number of partners, characteristics of sexual intercourses, and unprotected sex
Sexual minority-specific factors	Minority stressors (i.e., experiences of discriminations, perceived stigma, internalized homonegativity, and outness) and gay identity development