Barriers to Services


This article reiterates that the rates of DV in LGBT relationships are approximately the same, statistically speaking, as in heterosexual couples. It goes on to discuss the lack of services available to LGBT victims of DV as well as issues specific to same-sex DV; issues such as outing, safety in shelters, and isolation. The article divides legal protections for LGBT DV victims into three categories: clearly unavailable, neutrally available, and affirmatively available.


This article examines the inherent exclusion of same-sex couples in research related to and theorizing about DV and IPV. The article goes on to discuss the ideological frameworks, cultural narratives, and stereotypes that have been established by a heteronormative and patriarchal society. In addition, this article examines factors that have been proven to be highly predictive of future violence, such as jealousy.


This article discusses the unique stressors that gay men and lesbians feel as sexual minorities. In addition, the article examines the relationship among internalized homophobia, stigma consciences, and a victim’s willingness to self-report instances of DV or IPV.


This article presents a review of common societal myths and barriers to help-seeking behaviors among same-sex victims of IPV that are unique to LGBT persons. In addition, the article offers program guidelines for LGBT affirmative outreach services and advocate training.

This article examines the unique barriers that same-sex victims of DV experience due to their sexual orientation. These include: difficulties finding and accessing services, problems with stereotypical assumptions of same-sex relationships, specific differences because an LGBT partner is involved, and the fear associated with the legal ramifications of reporting an abusive partner.

**Gay Specific**


This article details a study that measures the prevalence of battering victimization among gay men and identifies the characteristics of these men. The article finds that the rates of victimization are substantially higher in urban gay men than among heterosexual men and possibly heterosexual women. The article discusses the need for public health efforts.


This article presents empirical evidence regarding the dynamics, help-seeking behaviors, and correlates of gay men’s partner abuse by implementing a nationwide survey using convenience sampling. Partner abuse between gay men occurs in many forms and complies with the cycle of abuse. Help-seeking behaviors are limited and mostly remain with informal sources. The correlates of dependency, jealousy, power imbalance, and substance were found to be modest predictors of severity of abuse. Groundwork is laid for future research.


This article explores IPV in male same-sex relationships. Masculinity and male role socialization have long been recognized as related to many forms of violent behavior, but masculine behavior in gay men and its role in IPV have not been similarly studied. The article finds that there is a high correlation between perpetrating acts of IPV and being the victim of such acts. Greater conformity to traditional masculine norms, specifically, aggressiveness and suppression of emotional vulnerability, was a significant predictor of perpetrator physical violence over and above being the recipient of physical IPV acts.

**General Information**

This article examines sociocultural factors that influence how same-sex IPV is viewed, studied, reported, and treated, with a specific focus on the effects of gender-role socialization and heterosexism. It summarizes the similarities and differences experienced by heterosexual and same-sex couples. It explores how gender-role socializations and heterosexism create and enforce stigmas and obstacles for validation and reporting of this abuse. Suggestions for supportive legislation and implications for helping professionals are provided.


This article presents results from a systematic review of the literature on IPV among gay men. The population characteristics of each study, definitions of IPV, prevalences of different forms of IPV, and statistically tested correlates of IPV are summarized for each study. The article reports that all forms of IPV occur among MSM at rates similar to or higher than those documented among women. This review also finds significant limitations in the reviewed literature.


This article explores the perceptions of 109 LGBT youths aged 18-24 regarding dating violence. Participants identified four main themes contributing to dating violence among same-sex couples: homophobia (societal and internalized); negotiating socially prescribed gender roles; assumed female connection; and other relationship issues.


This article examines and assesses the prevalence and predictors of IPV using a probability sample of people aged 18 to 70. The article finds that rates of IPV are highest among gay men and bisexual women.

This article, using multivariate analysis, found that the majority of life-course predictor variables (e.g., victimization, internalized homophobia) were significantly associated with both the syndemic condition and the component psychosocial health outcomes (depressive symptoms, stress, stimulant use, sexual compulsivity, intimate partner violence). In addition, the article identified life-course events and conditions related to syndemic production that may help to inform innovative interventions that will promote health among MSM.


This article examines existing studies that reveal similarities between opposite- and same-gender domestic violence in prevalence, types of abuse, and various dynamics, as well as dispels myths and establishes a theoretical basis on which to conduct future research.


This article presents a systematic review of empirical research examining intimate partner violence among same-sex couples. The results from seventeen studies indicated that the existing body of research examining same-sex IPV demonstrates some common methodological strengths and limitations. The article conclude with a list of recommendations for future research based on research results.


This article systematically reviews 75 studies that examine the prevalence of DV and IPV among LGBT persons in the US. The article reviews the reported prevalence of lifetime DV and IPV. The studies are grouped into those that used a probability sampling technique and those that used a non-probability sampling technique. 139,635 LGBT respondents participated in the studies reviewed. In addition, the challenges of assessing DV and IPV with LGBT populations are discussed, as well as the implications for practice, policy, and future research.

This article replicates and extends previous research demonstrating that perceptions of heterosexual and same-sex domestic violence are generally consistent with gender-role stereotypes. In addition, the article measures perceptions of severity of DV and IPV via case scenario implementation and finds that victim sex, rather than sexual orientation, is the most potent predictor, according to responses.


This article recognizes IPV as an important issue in same-sex relationships and finds that there is a lack of attention to characteristics of these relationships that may be associated with IPV. In addition, the article examines the associations between dyadic characteristics, perpetrating, and experiencing IPV among a sample of gay US men.


This article examines the individual social conditions that create important considerations for LGBT victims of DV and IPV. In addition, this article employs an exploratory, mixed-methods study that examines community attitudes of LGBT persons and their associated responses to LGBT victims of violence. The article finds that there is low community support and awareness of LGBT DV and IPV and recommends strategies to combat the disparity.

Lesbian Specific


This article discusses an online vignette study of 283 DV shelters in regards to women experiencing IPV. The article finds that while lesbian women were not overtly discriminated against, her role as a victim was taken less seriously than her heterosexual counterpart. In addition, the article discusses the level of acceptance of lesbian women as clients and provides implications for service providers.


This article explores the helping systems and help-seeking behaviors of mothers in same-sex relationships who have experienced IPV. The article finds that help-seeking behaviors are affected by the support one receives from informal networks and also the perceived stigma of identifying as a lesbian.
This article examines the unique risks, as well as protective factors, in female same-sex relationships. Findings indicate that gender role stereotyping shapes women's experiences of IPV by influencing individual, familial, community, and societal perceptions and responses to this phenomenon.

This article identifies that same-sex IPV is underreported. In addition, the article discusses the lack of services available specifically to LGBT victims of IPV. The article acknowledges a lack of awareness regarding same-sex IPV and discusses sexual violence within the context of other forms of violence. Implications for professionals are discussed.

This article examines violence between lesbian couples being dismissed as “mutually combative,” expectations that support this perception are examined. Women perceived their situation as more dangerous than did men. However, among women, the plausibility of the victim's claim, and blame assigned to the perpetrator and victim, varied as a function of the physical appearance of the couple. Implications of this research as well as future directions are discussed.

This article examines service barriers of lesbian domestic violence survivors using qualitative interviews. Constant comparative methods identified service barriers including: Systemic barriers, institutional barriers, and individual barriers.

This article examines several tiers of unmet needs within the LGBT community by the LGBT community regarding DV and IPV. The article provides detailed accounts of services available to LGBT community members, both at the micro and macro levels, with a particular emphasis on lesbian victims.

This article examines the occurrences of same-sex DV in both the United States and Venezuela. The article discusses prevalence rates equal to heterosexual DV and gauges respondents’ attitudes toward their respective legal systems. In addition, conclusions and practical implications are offered.


This article uses demographic profiles from 288 perpetrators who have been referred to treatment for DV or IPV. The article seeks to discover any predominance among perpetrators. In addition, the article reveals a high incidence of personal histories of abuse among gay and lesbian adults, as well as an equally high incidence of secondary abusive behaviors.


This article examines the HIV risk among LGBT persons who are victims of IPV and DV and is based off of a survey of 58 LGBT persons. In addition, this article identifies specific percentages of prevalence rates among LGBT persons and discusses the power dynamics in LGBT relationships. The article also discusses clinical implications.


This article examines the author’s personal journey as a heterosexual woman conducting research on domestic violence within the LGBT community. Eight innovative strategies to overcome methodological barriers are discussed with particular interest.


This article acknowledges that gay men and lesbians experience DV at rates as high as, or higher than heterosexuals, yet there is a noticeable absence of empirical research investigating this phenomenon. This article investigates same-sex IPV from a disempowerment perspective to determine the influence of individual characteristics,
family of origin factors, and intimate relationship factors. Implications for practitioners working with gay men and lesbians experiencing partner violence are discussed.


This article reveals the low level of community preparedness among LGBT persons when dealing with LGBT DV and IPV. The article suggests specific steps aimed at increasing awareness of DV and IPV among the LGBT community.


This article examines the within group differences among members of the LGBT community who seek services related to DV and IPV and examines the services which are sought in relation to their usefulness. The article examines the differences based on age, income, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity and identifies all differences in chart form.

**Police Involvement**


This article examines whether or not similar cases involving DV and IPV of same-sex and heterosexual couples result in the same police responses, as it has been argued that police do not respond to DV calls involving same-sex couples in the same manner that they respond to incidents involving heterosexual couples. The article utilizes the 2000 National Incident Based Reporting System database, which contains 176,488 intimate partner assaults and intimidation incidents reported to 2,819 police departments in 19 states.


This article examines police officers' general knowledge, experience, and training in the area of same-sex DV via a survey. The article reveals that many officers have encountered same-sex DV calls. Previous research studies suggest that same-sex DV and opposite-sex DV have an equivalent frequency rate, this study finds that police officers are encountering same-sex DV regularly. However, a lack of training renders cases of
same-sex DV more difficult for officers, as training in same-sex DV is not as readily available as is training for opposite-sex violence.

**Screening**


This article discusses the disparities found in LGBT screening for IPV. The article addresses the burden of IPV in LGBT relationships, discusses the differences between heterosexual and LGBT IPV, highlights the prevalence and characteristics of IPV in LGBT relationships, and outlines the steps clinicians should take when addressing IPV in their LGBT patients.


This article conducts a study of 120 crisis center staff embers regarding their views on LGBT DV and IPV. Participants rated cases in which two same-sex partners were involved as less severe than if the couple had been heterosexual. In addition, participants felt that same-sex DV did not get worse over time. The article also covered bias and homophobia in the mental health field and the importance of crisis intervention.