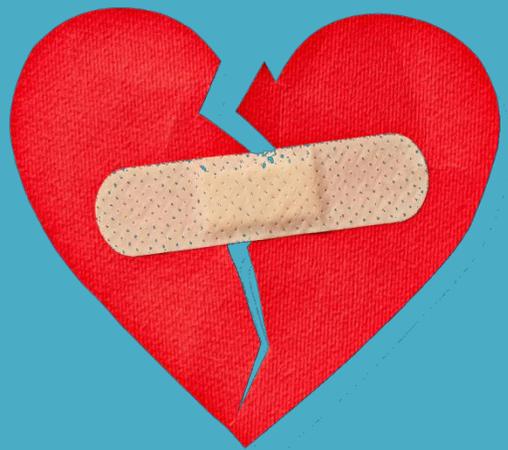


Intimate Partner Violence & Sexual Assault



A Resource for LGBTQ+ Students

Version I March 2017

What is Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)?

IPV includes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression, including coercion, by a person from a current or past relationship. It can range from isolated incidents to long-term patterns of abuse.

What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is generally defined as any sexual contact or behavior that occurs without consent, including when a person is unable to provide consent. It includes rape, attempted rape, and unwanted touching.

Victims and Perpetrators

Common stereotypes in American society show victims typically as frail, white, cisgender, heterosexual women, whereas perpetrators are portrayed as large, cisgender, heterosexual men. However, people of all races/ethnicities, genders and sexual identities can experience and perpetrate IPV/sexual assault. In some cases, IPV/sexual assault results from clear power imbalances in a relationship. In other cases, there may not be clear distinctions between “victims” and “perpetrators” and abusive actions may come from multiple individuals.

How likely is it?

LGBTQ+ individuals are at a higher risk than their heterosexual and/or cisgender counterparts to experience IPV/sexual assault. Despite these higher rates, LGBTQ+ people continue to be underrepresented in media depictions of IPV/sexual assault and underserved by a lack of available and competent resources.¹

This lack of representation may lead LGBTQ+ people to underestimate the rates of IPV/sexual assault among their communities and discourage them from seeking help or support when needed.

Why are the rates so high?

Circumstances that may contribute to high rates of IPV/sexual assault in our community include inadequate sex education, relationship inexperience, internalized homophobia/transphobia/racism, lack of communication, substance abuse, abusive relationship dynamics, external stressors including minority stress and/or malicious intent, among other reasons. Regardless of the specific reason(s) behind a given individual’s experience of IPV/sexual assault, there is never an excuse for these behaviors, and all individuals involved deserve resources and support.

¹ (Brown and Herman, 2015; CDC, 2010; FORGE, 2005)

What does it look like?

IPV/sexual assault can take many different forms. The following is a non-exhaustive list of some examples:

- **Physical violence:** Intentional use of physical force to cause nonconsensual pain or harm, including grabbing, punching and slapping.
- **Sexual violence:** Nonconsensual attempted or completed acts of a sexual nature, including unwanted exposure or contact, sexual harassment, coerced sexual activity and disclosure of private information/images.
- **Stalking:** A pattern of repeated and unwanted attention and contact, which may include texting, showing up uninvited, following or leaving unwanted gifts.
- **Emotional violence:** Behaviors that overtly and/or subtly cause emotional harm to another. Can include coercion and control, manipulation, threats, isolation from loved ones, and gaslighting.
 - “I can’t take care of myself unless you’re always with me.”
 - “My identities make my needs more important than yours.”

“I’ve experienced intimate partner violence or sexual assault. What do I do?”

Confidential counseling:

CST (Confidential Support Team):
<https://vaden.stanford.edu/get-help-now/sexual-assault>
650-736-6933 (8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F) or
650-725-9955 (24/7 urgent)

YWCA Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Support Line: 1-800-572-2782

CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services): <https://vaden.stanford.edu/caps-and-wellness/counseling-and-psychological-services-caps>
650-723-3785 (24/7)

Non-confidential resources/reporting:

Title IX Office: 650-497-4955

SARA (Sexual Assault & Relationship Abuse Education & Response Office):
Provides education, advocacy, support, and response coordination • 650-725-1056 •
<https://sara.stanford.edu>

Reporting Options (pdf):
<https://stanford.app.box.com/v/sexual-assault-resources>

Student Title IX Process Quick Reference (pdf):
<https://stanford.app.box.com/v/student-title-ix-quick-ref>

Additional resources:

Department of Public Safety:
911 or 650-723-9633

Weiland Health Initiative:
(training & educational resources on LGBTQ+ IPV)
<https://weiland.stanford.edu/>

LGBT Community Resource Center:
<https://lgbt.stanford.edu/>



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