

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITIES: FACTSHEET

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a devastating and deadly problem facing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) and HIV-affected communities. Violence within intimate relationships, known as domestic violence, intimate partner violence, dating violence, and/or partner abuse, is a pattern of behavior where one intimate partner coerces, dominates, or isolates another intimate partner to maintain power and control over the partner and the relationship.

Although IPV has an adverse impact on all LGBTQ communities, transgender people and communities are severely impacted by such violence. Transgender people also face disproportionate levels of poverty, homelessness, and unemployment while facing discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, health care, and abuse from police—all of which may increase their vulnerability to IPV and their dependence on an abusive partner.

FACT: 14 PERCENT OF THE VICTIMS OF IPV HOMICIDES IN 2012 WERE TRANSGENDER WOMEN OF COLOR, WHILE TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS ACCOUNT FOR ONLY 6.4 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION THAT REPORTS TO NCAVP.



This shows that the most brutal form of violence impacts transgender communities disproportionately. NCAVP documented 21 IPV related homicides in 2012, the highest number ever recorded and up from 19 in 2011, showing a disturbing national trend for IPV.



Transgender survivors were almost 2 times as likely to face threats and intimidation and experience harassment based on transgender identity within abusive relationships. Transgender people experience pervasive harassment and bullying throughout their lives, and abusive partners can use these same tactics against transgender survivors of IPV.

FACT: TRANSGENDER WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO SUFFER INJURIES AND REQUIRE MEDICAL ATTENTION DUE TO IPV.



Intimate partner violence against transgender women is often more brutal and likelier to result in injury. Transgender women may also be less likely to seek treatment for their injuries due to transphobic discrimination from healthcare providers – 28 percent of transgender people reported postponing medical care due to discrimination and 48 percent reported an inability to afford it.



Transgender people experience high levels of police profiling and harassment and are 4.4 times as likely to experience police violence than cisgender/non-transgender LGBQ individuals. Transgender survivors of IPV reaching out to the police for support can face this same harassment in response to their requests for help.

ACTION STEPS

PREVENT: NCAVP encourages policymakers and funders to work in collaboration with LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities to create programs, campaigns, and curricula to raise awareness about IPV in transgender communities. Communities should also demand appropriate responses from service providers, healthcare, and law enforcement agencies when interacting with transgender

survivors of IPV. Policymakers and funders should also create and support programs that seek to prevent IPV in transgender communities and provide support for survivors.

RESPOND: NCAVP recommends increasing support for transgender and gender non-conforming survivors of intimate partner violence by increasing funding for services and eliminating discrimination and barriers to service based on

gender identity and expression.

RESPECT: NCAVP encourages institutions, organizations, and individuals to respect survivors' gender identities, and adopt policies to ensure individuals are treated according to their gender identity in all aspects.

REPORT VIOLENCE: NCAVP encourages anyone who has experienced violence to contact a local anti-violence program.

For help locating an anti-violence program in your area, please contact us.

GET INVOLVED: Join NCAVP in our efforts to prevent and respond to LGBTQ and HIV-affected violence. NCAVP's efforts include policy advocacy, education, data analysis, and technical assistance. Contact us to learn more.

NCAVP is a resource for anyone who experiences violence. For more information, or to locate an anti-violence program in your area, please contact us at info@ncavp.org or visit us online. Join NCAVP in our efforts to prevent and respond to LGBTQ and HIV-affected violence. To learn more about our national advocacy and receive technical assistance or support, contact us at info@ncavp.org. Additional information in this fact sheet is supported by research conducted by the National Black Justice Coalition, National Center for Transgender Equality, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

