



# Sexual Violence in the LGBTQ+ Community:

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Every demographic and every community, including the LGBTQ+ community, is affected by sexual violence. Estimates say that lesbian, gay and bisexual people experience sexual violence at similar or higher rates than heterosexuals. Studies suggest that around half of transgender people and bisexual women will experience sexual violence at some point in their lifetimes.

As a community, LGBTQ+ people face higher rates of poverty, stigma, and marginalization, which puts them at a greater risk for sexual assault. LGBTQ+ people also face high rates of hate-motivated violence, which may take form in sexual assault. Additionally, LGBTQ+ people are often hyper-sexualized which stigmatizes their relationships and can lead to intimate partner violence that stems from internalized homophobia and shame. Within the LGBTQ+ community, transgender people and bisexual women face the most alarming rates of sexual violence. Among both of these populations, sexual violence begins early, often during childhood.

For LGBTQ+ survivors of sexual assault, their identities – and the discrimination they face surrounding those identities – often make them hesitant to seek help from police, hospitals, shelters or rape crisis centers, the very resources that are supposed to help them. This epidemic of sexual violence in the LGBTQ+ community is something we must all work together to address.

## Handling Disclosures

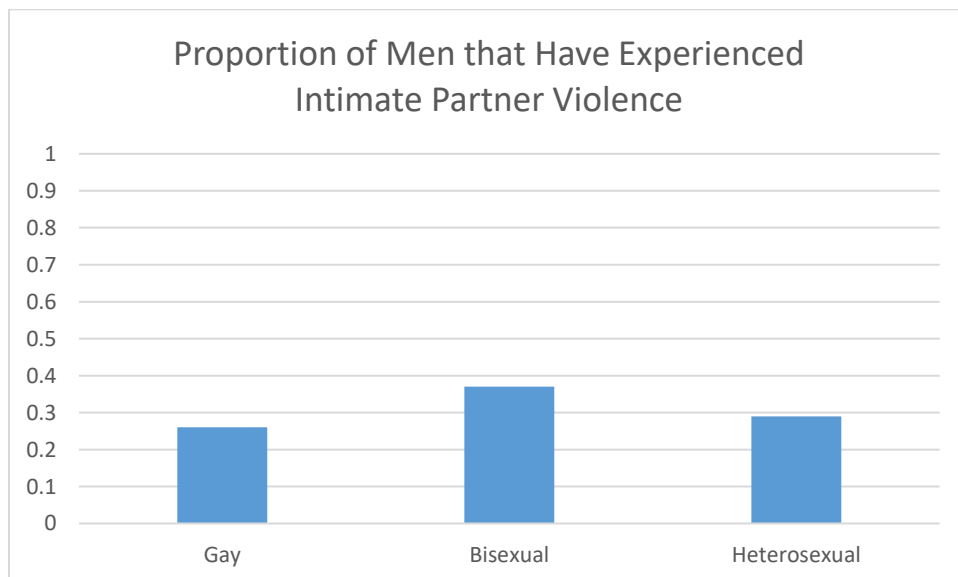
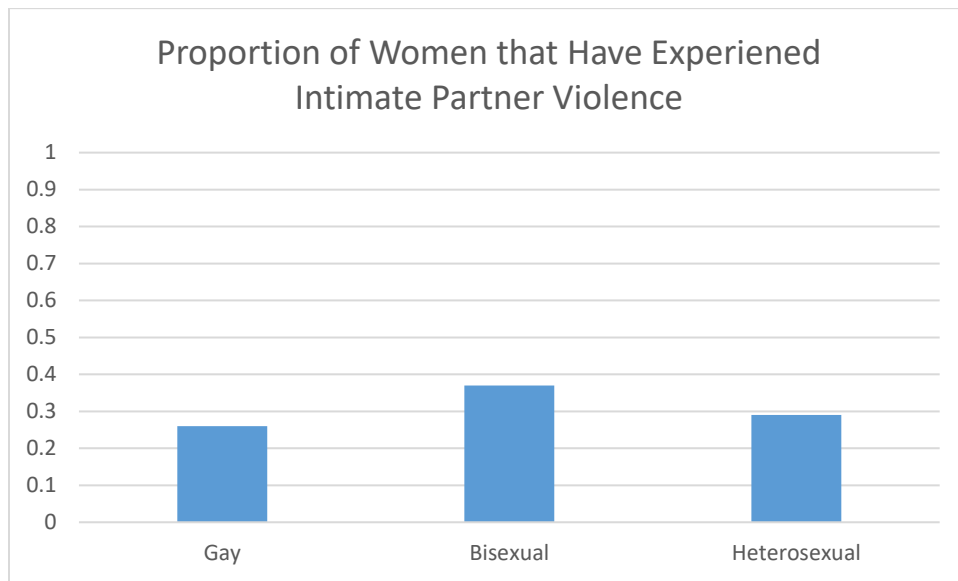
If someone discloses to you that they have been sexually assaulted, remember to believe them, reassure them that it is not their fault, keep their disclosure confidential (unless the situation requires mandatory reporting), and never pressure them for more information than they want to share.

If you have experienced sexual violence, you have the right to receive resources and support in a nonjudgmental and emotionally supportive manner. The CARE Campus Advocate will provide the same supportive services to all members of the UC Merced community. Know that you will not be required to disclose your sexual orientation if you do not feel comfortable doing so.

## Statistics

- 44% of lesbians and 61% of bisexual women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 35% of heterosexual women.
- 46% of bisexual women have been raped, compared to 17% of heterosexual women and 13% of lesbians.
- 22% of bisexual women have been raped by an intimate partner, compared to 9% of heterosexual women.
- Nearly half (48%) of bisexual women who are rape survivors experienced their first rape between ages 11 and 17.

- 26% of gay men and 37% of bisexual men experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 29% of heterosexual men.
- 40% of gay men and 47% of bisexual men have experienced sexual violence other than rape, compared to 21% of heterosexual men.
- Among transgender racial minorities, 24% of transgender Native Americans, 18% of transgender people who identified as multiracial, 17% of transgender Asians, and 15% of Black transgender respondents experienced sexual assault in K-12 education settings – much higher rates than students of other races. Transgender women respondents experienced sexual assault more often than their transgender male peers.



## References

<http://www.hrc.org/resources/sexual-assault-and-the-lgbt-community>