



# Domestic Violence and LGBTQ+

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While domestic violence affects people of every race, class and age, it disproportionately affects members of the LGBTQ+ community, who often have less access to safety nets, like shelters, or who may be afraid of turning to law enforcement for help. Abusive partners in LGBTQ+ relationships use all the same tactics to gain power and control as abusive partners in heterosexual relationships — physical, sexual or emotional abuse; financial control; isolation and more. Abusive partners in LGBTQ+ relationships also reinforce their tactics that maintain **power and control** with societal factors that compound the complexity a survivor faces in leaving or getting safe in an LGBTQ+ relationship.

## Examples of tactics to deny a survivor from seeking support and services:

- Threats to “out” a partner’s sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Saying no one will believe the survivor because they are LGBTQ+ or that the survivor “deserves” the abuse.
- Justifying abuse by saying the survivor is not “really” lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.
- Denying support resources through manipulation of friends and family. (Particularly an issue to members of LGBTQ+ community, where resources are fewer in neighborhoods or social outlets.)
- Portraying the abuse as mutual and/or consensual, or as an expression of masculinity or a desired trait.

Bisexual and transgender people are two groups within the LGBTQ+ community that face high rates of domestic violence, along with other forms of abuse including intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

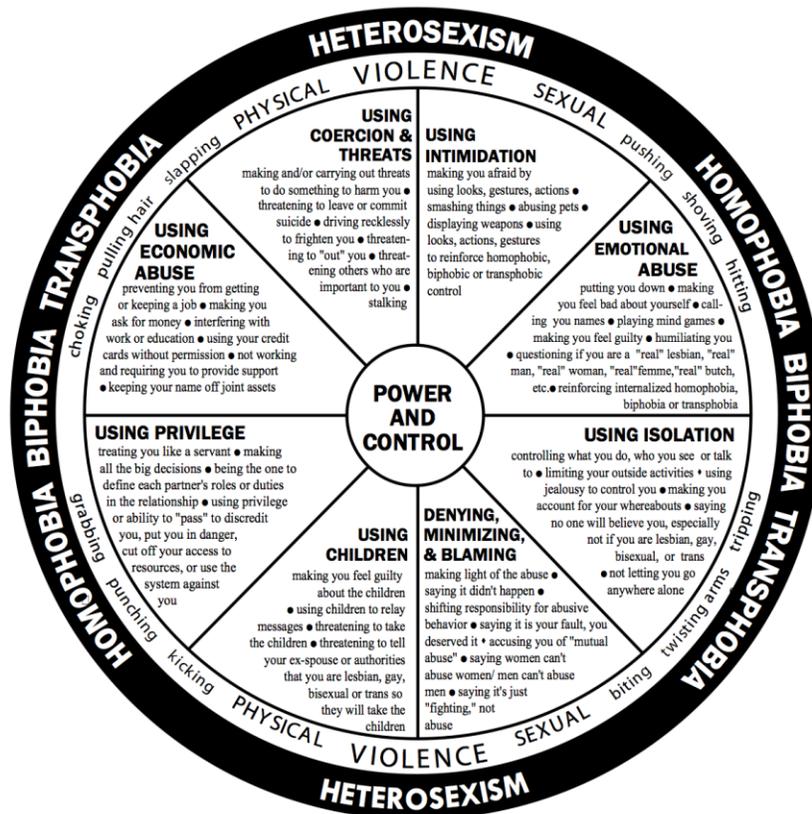
- Bisexual women are at particularly heightened risk: 61% of bisexual women experience rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 44% of lesbians and 35% of heterosexual women.
- In the 2011 National Transgender Discrimination Survey, 19% of respondents reported having experienced domestic violence from a family member, with higher rates among those who identify as American Indian (45%), Asian (36%), Black (35%) and Latinx (35%).
- 39.2% of women who had cohabitated with a female partner at some point in their lifetime had experienced rape, physical assault or stalking by an intimate partner.
- 23.1% of men who had cohabited with male partners had experienced rape, physical assault or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 7.4% of heterosexual males.

The CARE Office is dedicated to providing culturally competent services to individuals regardless of how they identify. CARE recognizes the barriers the LGBTQ+ community may face while seeking services and we are dedicated to providing free, accessible, competent and confidential advocacy services to all members of the UC Merced community.

**Resources:**

<https://forge-forward.org/wp-content/docs/Lets-Talk-Therapist-Guide.pdf> - Let's Talk About It: A Transgender Survivors Guide to Accessing Therapy

<http://forge-forward.org/anti-violence/for-survivors/referrals-and-information/> - Serves transgender and gender nonconforming survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Compiled list of referrals for therapist who specialize in working with transgender individuals.



**References:**

<http://www.thehotline.org/is-this-abuse/lgbt-abuse/>

<http://www.hrc.org/blog/domestic-violence-awareness-and-the-lgbt-community>