

What You Should Know

About Violence and Harassment Against LGBT Individuals

LGBT youth violence and harassment...

- 9 out of 10 LGBT students were harassed in the past year – 3 times more often than students in general – *GLSEN*
- 61% of those who were gender non-conforming in school reported receiving significant abuse there, including high levels of harassment and bullying (59%), physical assault (23%), sexual assault (8%), and expulsion (5%). – *National Center for Transgender Equality*
- LGB youth are almost 4 times as likely to be threatened or injured with a weapon at school (19% versus 5%). – *Center for American Progress*
- Of college-level LGBT staff and students...
 - 23% report experiencing harassment on campus
 - 33% have considered leaving school due to intolerance
 - 43% remain closeted to avoid intimidation, and
 - 43% fear for their safety – *Campus Pride*

Being transgender increases the likelihood of violence and harassment...

- 97% of transgender people report having experienced harassment or mistreatment on the job. – *National Center for Transgender Equality*
- In 2009, the *National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs* documented 22 people who were murdered specifically for being LGBT. Of these,
 - Of these, fully *half* were transwomen
 - Many of the other half were natal males dressed in feminine or androgynous clothing, but whose gender identities were unknown
- 1 in 2 transgender people have experienced sexual assault. – *FORGE*
- Nearly 1 in 5 transgender adults have been refused medical care because of their gender identity, and 28% have postponed needed medical care due to fear of being mistreated in a medical setting. – *National Center for Transgender Equality*

Many LGBT couples experience intimate partner violence...

- Between 20 and 35% of LGBTQ couples experience domestic violence. – *Show Me Love Campaign*
- LGBTQ youth report a 30% incidence of dating violence, compared to 9% for heterosexual students. – *Massachusetts Department of Education*
- Only 1 in 5 LGBTQ victims of intimate partner violence or sexual assault get help from service providers. – *National Center for Victims of Crime and National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs*



What You Should Know (cont.)

There are many health consequences to being bullied, harassed, or discriminated against...

- LGB young adults who reported higher levels of family rejection during adolescence were...
 - 8.4 times more likely to report having attempted suicide,
 - 5.9 times more likely to report high levels of depression,
 - 3.4 times more likely to use non-prescription drugs, and
 - 3.4 times more likely to report having engaged in unprotected sexual intercourse...compared with peers from families that reported no or low levels of family rejection. -- *Family Acceptance Project* results reported at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/123/1/346>
- 41% of transgender and gender non-conforming people have attempted suicide, compared to an estimated national rate of 1.6%. – *National Center for Transgender Equality*
- LGB adults are more than twice as likely as heterosexual adults to experience psychological distress (20% versus 9%) and to need medication for emotional health issues (22% versus 10%). – *Center for American Progress*
- LGB adults are more likely to have problems with alcoholism (44% to 33%) and to smoke (27% versus 16%). – *Center for American Progress*
- Over a quarter of transgender adults have misused drugs or alcohol specifically to cope with discrimination.” – *National Center for Transgender Equality*

Being LGBT *and* a person of color heightens one’s risk even more...

- In 2009, the *National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs* documented 22 people who were murdered specifically for being LGBT. Of these, 79% were people of color.
- LGB people who are also African-American, Asian or Pacific Islander, or Latin@ are more than twice as likely to have experienced psychological distress in the past year as are their heterosexual peers. – *Center for American Progress*

Violence often begets violence...

- Multiple studies have shown that those who experienced childhood abuse and/or witnessed domestic violence as children are far more likely to abuse intimate partners or be abused in adulthood.
- In a study of death row inmates, all had experienced at least four of the following childhood risk factors, and almost a third had all eight: sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, witnessing violence, substance abuse, family history of abuse, family history of substance abuse, and family history of mental illness. – “The Cycle of Violence: the Life Histories of 43 Death Row Inmates” by *D. Lisak and S. Beszterczey*
- 20% of death row inmates have been sexually abused by their mother. – *David Lisak*