

Facts on Intimate Partner Violence



What is Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)?

Intimate Partner Violence refers to “any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in that relationship”. Intimate Partner Violence can occur in any partner relationship, whether heterosexual, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning (LGBTQ).

Types of Violence

Physical

Slapping, hitting, kicking or beating.

Psychological/Emotional

Intimidation, constant belittling or humiliation.

Sexual

Forced sexual intercourse.

Threatening or Controlling Behaviour

Isolating a person from family and friends, monitoring their movements or restricting access to information or assistance. (World Health Organization, 2006)

The Effects

Physical Harm

Cuts, scratches, bruises, welts, broken bones, internal bleeding, head trauma, disabilities, and death.

Emotional Harm

Trauma symptoms such as flashbacks, panic attacks, trouble sleeping, low self-esteem, difficulty trusting others, anger, stress, eating disorders, depression, and suicidal thoughts.

Harmful Coping Behaviours

Smoking, drinking, taking drugs, or having risky sex.

MYTH: “Violence doesn’t happen in LGBTQ relationships.”

FACT: When looking specifically at those who identified themselves as being gay, lesbian or bisexual, it was found that 15% of gay or lesbian and 28% of bisexual individuals reported being victims of spousal violence in comparison to 7% of heterosexuals. (Statistics Canada, 2004)

Understanding the Issues

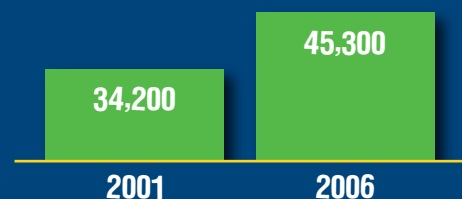
- Intimate Partner Violence is cyclic in nature
- Often includes use of power, control and social isolation
- Often includes blaming of the victim
- Victim believes that the perpetrator will change
- Impact of gender role socialization

Additional Risk and Stress Factors for LGBTQ Identified Couples

- Stress due to heterosexism, homophobia & discrimination
- Service agencies may lack familiarity of issues specific to LGBTQ
- Risk of partner shaming the victim and limiting their participation in the LGBTQ community

(Brown, 2008; Balsam & Szymanski, 2005; Merrill & Wolfe, 2000; Peterman & Dixon, 2003)

Same-Sex Couples in Canada



Between 2001 – 2006, the number of married and common-law same-sex couples in Canada grew 32.6%. This is more than five times the growth observed for opposite-sex couples (+5.9%).

(Statistics Canada, 2007)

Contributing Risk Factors for the Abuser

There is no single, defining risk factor predisposing a person to be abusive or violent, but the following may be contributing risk factors:

- Violent or aggressive past
- Witness to, or a victim of, violence as a child
- Drug or alcohol use, especially heavy drinking
- Unemployment
- Other stressful life events

(Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2012)

Trends

Intimate Partner Violence Happens in Canada.

In a survey of 24,000 men and women in Canada, 7% of women and 6% of men reported having been victims of intimate partner violence in the last five years. (World Health Organization, 2006)

Intimate Partner Violence Often Goes Unreported.

Many victims do not report IPV to the police, friends, or family. Victims may think others will not believe them.

(Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2012)

Intimate Partner Violence Often Starts with Emotional Abuse.

Emotional abuse can progress into physical or sexual assault. Several types of intimate partner violence may occur over time. The longer it goes on, the more serious the effects.

(Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2012)

Intimate Partner Violence is Strongly Linked to Alcohol Use.

Alcohol use increases the occurrence and severity of domestic violence.

(World Health Organization, 2006)

Intimate Partner Violence Carries High Economic Costs.

In Canada, \$1.1 billion (US) a year went toward providing direct medical costs to women. Beyond the provision of direct medical services, the economic costs are also evident in the judicial and refugee systems, and loss of earnings.

(World Health Organization, 2006).



To Report:

An incident in progress
call 9-1-1

If there is NOT an immediate
concern for your safety:

519-653-7700

Waterloo Regional Police Service
www.wrps.on.ca

Local Support:

519-744-1813

1-866-366-4566 (toll-free)

Canadian Mental Health Association
Crisis Services



When you don't know
where to turn.™

www.211ontario.ca



www.preventingcrime.ca