

Fact Sheet: Victimization of LGBTQ+ Populations

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Victimization of LGBTQ+ Populations: The Facts

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What is victimization of LGBTQ+ populations?

Victimization of LGBTQ+ populations is any violence committed against an individual who identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or other identities (e.g., non-gender conforming, asexual, and intersex) within these communities.

Have you Heard?

- ◇ Approximately 14 million people identify as being apart of LGBTQ+ populations in the U.S.¹
- ◇ Research suggests that lesbian, gay, or bisexual victimization has increased over time²
- ◇ Gay or bisexual men have higher rates of certain victimization (e.g., weapon assault and robbery) than lesbian, gay, or bisexual females²
- ◇ LGBTQ+ populations experience disproportionate rates of dating and sexual violence compared to non-LGBTQ+ populations³
- ◇ Lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) among LGBTQ+ populations is higher than the general population³
- ◇ Bisexual men and women experience the highest rates of IPV compared to other sexual orientations with 61% of bisexual women and 37% of bisexual men having experienced IPV in their lifetime³
- ◇ Approximately 20% of hate crime victims report sexual orientation as a motive from 2011 to 2015⁴
- ◇ In 2015, roughly 50% of transgender individuals reported being verbally and physically harassed/assaulted and denied equal treatment because of their identity⁵

What are the Consequences?

Scholars note that LGBTQ+ populations experience psychological distress, such as depression, traumatic stress, and anxiety.⁶ Individuals within these populations that experience IPV have reported negative outcomes, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, safety concerns, and injury.³ LGBTQ+ populations experiences with formal support services are primarily negative with limited access to shelters and denial of services because of heteronormative practices.⁷⁻⁸

Barriers to Help-Seeking

Research suggests factors that impact help-seeking among LGBTQ+ populations include stigmatization and outing. Stigmatization is one of the main factors that impact LGBTQ+ individuals as rejection from close friends and family because of one's gender identity or being unwelcomed at faith-based institutions contribute to the lack of help-seeking.⁹ The stigma surrounding one's gender identity also influences reporting to police.¹⁰ Additionally, not being 'out' is another barrier to help-seeking as perpetrators may threaten to expose LGBTQ+ populations to keep them silent.¹¹

How Can You Help LGBTQ+ Populations

- ◇ Believe and empower survivors
- ◇ Raise awareness

Resources

9-1-1

Texas

- ◇ The Montrose Center—
www.montrosecenter.org—713-529-0037
- ◇ Equality Texas—www.equalitytexas.org—
512-474-5475
- ◇ Gay and Lesbian Alliance of North Texas—
www.galanorthtexas.org
- ◇ Resource Center—www.myresourcecenter.org—
214-521-5124

National

- ◇ The Trevor Project—www.thetrevorproject.org—
212-695-8650
- ◇ It Gets Better Project—www.itgetsbetter.org
- ◇ National Suicide Hotline— 800-273-8255

References

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Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65 years or older) <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/>
800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846

