TEEN DATING VIOLENCE IN THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

LA GAY & LESBIAN CENTER

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WOMEN'S SHELTER OF LONG BEACH

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TEEN DATING VIOLENCE IN THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

GOALS

• Provide a baseline understanding of the LGBTQ Community (Queer 101)
• Teen Dating Violence for LGBTQ youth.
• Provide tools and resources for making services appropriate, accessible, & sensitive to the needs of members of the LGBTQ community.
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LGBTQ 101
Sex describes the biological/physical concept of Female & Male.

Gender is based on cultural/psychological traits associated with Females & Males.

Gender Identity describes the gender with which a person identifies (i.e., whether one perceives oneself to be a man, a woman, or describes oneself in other ways).

Sexual Orientation refers to a person's emotional, romantic & sexual attraction to individuals of a particular gender.
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SPECTRUM OF SEX, GENDER & IDENTITY

Sex

Female | Intersexual | Male

Gender Identity

Female | Male

Gender Role

Feminine | Androgynous | Masculine

Sexual Orientation

Heterosexual | Bisexual | Lesbian/Gay
**The L: Lesbian** – A woman who is predominately or exclusively attracted to women emotionally, physically, spiritually and/or sexually.

**The G: Gay** – A term identifying a man who is predominately or exclusively attracted to men emotionally, physically, spiritually and/or sexually.

**The B: Bisexual** – A term identifying a person who is attracted to men and women emotionally, physically, spiritually and/or sexually.

Note: The L, G and B relate to a person’s Sexual Orientation.
The T: Transgender – An umbrella term used to describe a continuum of individuals whose gender identity and how it is expressed, to varying degrees, does not correspond to their biological sex.

Note: The T relates to a person’s Gender Identity.
• The Q: Questioning - Refers to people who are exploring or questioning their sexual feelings, orientation, and/or sexual identity, and who may be experiencing lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender feelings or urges.
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WHAT DOES LGBTQ MEAN?

• **Intersex** – A general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that does not seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male.

• **Queer** – (1) an umbrella term used to refer to the entire LGBTQ community. (2) A term identifying individuals that identify as a sexual minority. (3) A term that some straight allies use to self-identify, acknowledging their connection to the community, based upon shared values, supportive behavior, commitment to social change etc. which is not contingent on their own sexual identity.
LGBTQ individuals are incredibly diverse and come from all racial, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.
Teen Dating Violence is Domestic Violence that occurs in the context of teen relationships. It involves the conscious manipulation and control of one person by another through the use of threats, coercion, humiliation and force. Teen Dating Violence is about Power and Control it is not a relationship dispute.
"Dating Relationship" means frequent, intimate associations primarily characterized by the expectation of affectional or sexual involvement independent of financial considerations.

California Penal code section 243
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TEEN DATING VIOLENCE DEFINED

Labeling Teen Relationships

- Hooking Up/ Hit it & Quit it
- Bae
- Crushin
- Partner
- Friend/ Best Friends
- Talking
- Friends with benefits
- Hanging out
- Boo
- Together
- Facebook “Wifey” or “Hubby”
The range of violence in a relationship may include:

- Threats
- Social Isolation
- Kidnapping
- Stalking
- Intimidation
- Name Calling
- Death
• **Physical Abuse**: includes pushing, shoving, pinching, scratching, hitting, kicking, slapping, hickeys.
• **Emotional Abuse**: includes name-calling, constant criticizing, threatening, public humiliation, lying to you, neglecting you, causing you to feel degraded, jealousy.
• **Verbal Abuse**: includes name-calling, yelling, threatening, screaming, insulting, swearing, sarcasm.
• **Mental Abuse**: includes destroying things that belong to you, not letting you have friends, punching the walls, stalking, and not letting you leave.
• **Sexual Abuse**: Forcing sex or certain acts, forcing sex with others, assaulting parts of your body, withholding sex, criticizing sexual performance, refusing safer sex.
• **Heterosexist abuse**: Threatening to “out” you in situations where you have chosen not to come out or feel it is safe to do so.
• **HIV-related Abuse**: Getting in the way of medical treatment, withholding medication, destroying important documents, threatening to reveal HIV status to friends, family, immigration, employers and governmental authorities.
One in three teens experience some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships, including verbal and emotional abuse.

40% of teenage girls, ages 14 to 17, know someone their age who has been hit or beaten by their partner.

In fact, girls and women between the ages of 16-24 are at the highest risk for experiencing domestic violence.

Note - there are few statistics on Teen Dating Violence within the LGBGT community.
First relationships, lack of awareness, not understanding the differences between healthy, unhealthy and domestic violent behavior

Belief by others that violence does not happen in teen relationships – or it is puppy love.

Lack of transportation

Compounded issues because of family and school pressures

Lack of confidentiality, fear that parents, police, child protective services will be notified.
Fear of continued victimization by law enforcement, criminal justice, and social service workers keeps many domestic violence survivors in same-sex relationships from seeking assistance and safety.

Fear of being “outed” to friends, family, employers/employees may make it more difficult for the survivor to seek assistance. (i.e. homeless population).

Fear that the abuse the survivor is experiencing will not be taken seriously because it is occurring within an LGBT relationship.
• Same-Sex relationships are often not considered to be an acceptable family or partnership.
• Fear if you are the more masculine partner you will be presumed to be the abuser.
• Discarding hormones, hiding binders, referring to trans partner as “it” or touching body parts that the partner does not want touched. Telling partner that they deserve abuse or will never find anyone better.
Homophobia is the irrational fear of, aversion to, or discrimination against homosexuality or homosexuals, bisexuals (biphobia), and transgender persons (transphobia).

Heterosexism is a belief that male/female sexuality is the only natural or moral mode of sexual behavior.

Heterocentrism is an assumption (often subconscious) that everyone is heterosexual, and the attitudes associated with assumption.
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IMPACTS OF HOMOPHOBIA & HETEROSEXISM

- Lack of Immediate Role Models
- Lack of Basic Civil Rights-Ageism
- Isolation
- Youth Suicide, Drugs/Alcohol, Homelessness - 40%
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WHAT CAN YOU DO?
• Use gender neutral language on intake forms, brochures & other written materials.
• Help decrease the invisibility of the LGBTQ Community and LGBTQ Dating Violence by including stories, images, facts about LGBTQ Domestic Violence in your agency brochures, reports & website.
• Display LGBTQ-welcoming materials in the office and shelter environments (e.g., rainbow flag, sticker or banner):
If someone identifies as transgender, asking the simple question, “Which pronoun do you prefer?” & using it.

Never assume someone is out.

Never assume that the more “masculine” partner is the abuser.

Please don’t “Quiz the Queer Kid”
- When did you come out?
- Was it hard?
- How did you know?
- When did you know?
Domestic Violence & Dating Violence occurs in approximately one in three relationships regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, education, religious affiliation, political ideology, physical ability etc.

Domestic violence crosses all boundaries and does not discriminate.