INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE: SPECIAL ISSUES IN LGBT POPULATIONS

Intimate partner violence is at least as common, if not more common, in LGBT relationships as it is in heterosexual relationships.

IT IS COMMON
One in three women and one in four men experience some form of physical violence by a partner in their lifetime.

PROVIDERS ARE A FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE
Among members of the LGBT population, the following are at highest risk to become victims:
- People of color
- Young adults aged 19-29
- Gay men
- Bisexual individuals
- Transgender individuals

Healthcare professionals may be the first—and possibly be the only—trusted individuals to identify intimate partner violence. A supportive, nonjudgmental response is extremely important, as is referral to community resources equipped to address the unique needs of this vulnerable population.

IT IS COMPLEX
Intimate partner violence in LGBT relationships is associated with:
- Internal and external stressors from being a sexual minority that worsen vulnerabilities
- Higher risk for multiple and cumulative trauma experiences
- Difficulties accessing supportive services

The “double closet”: the victim seeking aid has to disclose the violence that occurred and also his or her sexual orientation.

IT IS DEADLY
Homicides resulting from intimate partner violence are recently at an all-time high.

76% of LGBT partner homicides were against gay men.

For more information, see the following ECRI Institute guidance:
Are LGBT-Inclusive Approaches for Patients and Staff on Your Radar Screen?
Intimate Partner Violence

Sources