

National Advocacy for Local LGBTQ Communities

# NCAVP 2015 Intimate Partner Violence Report Toolkit

2016 Release Edition

#### Introduction

We'd like to believe that LGBTQ intimate partner violence doesn't happen—but it does, and it affects our entire community. By not talking about the ways that IPV affects us and our loved ones, we make survivors live in silence. We need to broaden the narrative about what IPV looks like and start to talk about how it impacts LGBTQ and HIV affected people.

Because LGBTQ folks experience bias and discrimination in their homes, schools, and workplaces at higher rates, not only are they more vulnerable to experiencing intimate partner violence, but they're also more vulnerable to remaining caught in cycles of violence. This is especially true for LGBTQ people of color, LGBTQ people who are undocumented, and LGBTQ people with disabilities whose stories are rarely heard.

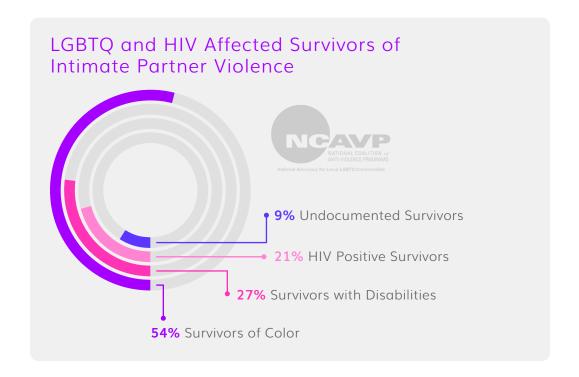
In 2013, the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) created the first federal legislation to protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. VAWA funded services like emergency shelter, crisis counseling, and attorneys are essential to helping survivors of IPV regain security. In the Toolkit for this report, we want to bring attention to the fact that these resources do exist, and that LGBTQ people have a right to services that are culturally specific and safe for them.

We see this report as being useful for journalists, community organizers, educators, policy-makers, LGBTQ organizations and mainstream anti-violence organizations, students, and anyone who wants to take a stand against LGBTQ and HIV-affected intimate partner violence. You can use this report in the following ways:

- Images and stats for social sharing
- · Research for further reporting
- As a guide for policy strategy and decision making
- As a guide for informing culturally specific service providers
- As a guide for funding decisions
- Messaging for community-building and community organizing

Get involved: Join NCAVP in our efforts to prevent and respond to LGBTQ intimate partner violence. To learn more about our national advocacy visit www.NCAVP.org or contact info@ncavp.org.

#### Let's Talk About It



## LGBTQ people deserve to be in healthy, loving relationships.

What does love look like to you?

## Let's take care of our chosen family and our loved ones.

IPV affects our whole community. If you think someone is in an unhealthy relationship, reach out to them. We need to look out for and support each other.

## Leaving an abusive relationship is hard, and often dangerous.

This year, more LGBTQ survivors reported experiencing violence by their former or ex-partners. It's not always possible to leave an abusive relationship, and leaving doesn't always mean the violence stops. Survivors know what's best for them and what keeps them safe. We need to support survivors in their self-determination.

# LBGTQ survivors often experience discrimination when trying to access intimate partner violence services.

This year, 44% of LGBTQ and HIV-affected survivors seeking shelter were denied shelter. 71% reported being denied for reasons relating to gender identity. Survivor-centered and identity-affirming housing options must be made available to survivors.

## Sometimes intimate partner violence isn't physical.

LGBTQ survivors reported that their abusive partners used financial control, verbal harassment, and isolation as ways to exert their power in the relationships. Lesbian survivors and survivors with disabilities were 2x's more likely to be isolated by an abusive partner. Reach out to your friends and loved ones—it matters.

## We all experience intimate partner violence in different ways.

Transgender women were 3x's more likely to report experiencing sexual violence and financial violence. LGBTQ survivors with disabilities were 2x's more likely to be isolated by their abusive partner, 3x's more likely to be stalked, and 4x's more likely to experience financial violence. We need to make sure we're reaching all survivors and supporting their unique needs in a survivorcentered way.

# Bias motivated violence in workplaces, in schools, in homes exacerbate LGBTQ survivors' experiences of intimate partner violence.

We must start drawing the connections between intimate partner violence and other forms of violence that LGBTQ people experience daily. This year, the majority of LGBTQ IPV survivors identified as people of color. Racial justice, housing justice, economic justice, immigration justice, and other equality movements are LGBTQ and intimate partner violence issues.

# LGBTQ intimate partner violence survivors experience violence and criminalization from the police.

This year, 31% of LGBTQ survivors who interacted with police were arrested—that's almost one in three. Arresting survivors has serious emotional, financial, and legal consequences for the survivor. Police must be trained to recognize signs of IPV in LGBTQ relationships. We must seek and create alternatives to the criminal justice system, especially for the safety of those whose identities are already criminalized. Police accountability is an LGBTQ and intimate partner violence issue.

# The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) provides protections for LGBTQ survivors of intimate partner violence.

Organizations that receive VAWA funding, like domestic violence service providers and law enforcement, cannot discriminate on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. You have a right to access supportive services and seek help without experiencing discrimination. If you think you or someone you know has been discriminated against, you can file a complaint with NCAVP's assistance: bit.ly/VAWAclaim. We're here for you.

# If your agency receives VAWA funding, you cannot discriminate on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation.

It's vital that you provide identity-affirming services and intentionally reach out to all LGBTQ survivors, including survivors of color, survivors with disabilities, undocumented survivors, and HIV-affected survivors. Make sure your advocacy is for everyone! NCAVP provides training and technical assistance on working with LGBTQ survivors. Find out more here: bit.ly/NCAVPTTA.

#### **Tweets**

Intimate partner violence affects us all – as individuals and as members of LGBTQ communities. The NCAVP LGBTQ Intimate Partner Violence in 2015 report highlights some of the complex, nuanced, and intersectional ways our communities experience intimate partner violence. We must look out for one another, talk about our relationships, and seek community solutions to end this violence.

NCAVP is using the hashtag #Not1Story to share the findings of this report and inspire an ongoing discussion online. We hope you will use #Not1Story to be in dialogue with us about the report's findings, and to share your stories and experiences with us as well.

- The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs has released their 2015
   Intimate Partner Violence report #Not1Story: bit.ly/Not1StoryIPV
- How does IPV affect the LGBTQ & HIV+ communities? NCAVP has released their 2015 report #Not1Story: bit.ly/Not1StoryIPV
- IPV affects us all as individuals and as members of #LGBTQ communities!
   Read NCAVP's 2015 report #Not1Story: bit.ly/Not1StoryIPVLGBTQ people deserve to be in healthy, loving relationships. Talking about what love looks like to us builds better relationship models. #Not1Story
- What does love look like to you? Let's talk about relationships in the LGBTQ community. #Not1Story
- IPV affects our whole community. It may feel tough, but if you think someone's in an unhealthy relationship: reach out to them! #Not1Story
- Let's take care of our chosen family and loved ones. Reach out to folks in your life and talk about IPV frankly and honestly. #Not1Story
- Leaving an abusive relationship is hard, and often dangerous. When working with survivors, remember they know what keeps them safe. #Not1Story
- This year, more LGBTQ survivors reported violence from former or ex-partners. IPV doesn't always end when the relationship ends. #Not1Story
- It's not always possible to leave an abusive relationship. Support survivors in their self-determination, even if they stay. #Not1Story
- LGBTQ survivors exp discrimination from service providers. 44% seeking shelter were denied, 71% for reasons related to gender ID. #Not1Story

- This year, 44% of LGBTQ survivors seeking shelter were denied it. 71% said it
  was for reasons related to gender identity. #Not1Story
- 71% of LGBTQ survivors denied shelter cited reasons related to gender identity. We need identity-affirming housing options! #Not1Story
- Sometimes IPV isn't physical. LGBTQ survivors reported financial control, verbal harassment & isolation as tactics of abuse #Not1Story
- Lesbian survivors & LGBTQ survivors with disabilities were 2x's more likely to be isolated by an abusive partner w/in IPV #Not1Story
- IPV isn't always visible. Financial control, verbal harassment and isolation are abuse tactics. Reach out to friends: it matters. #Not1Story
- We all experience IPV in different ways. We need to make sure we're reaching all survivors and supporting their unique needs #Not1Story
- Transgender women were 3x's more likely to report experiencing sexual violence & financial abuse w/in intimate partner violence #Not1Story
- LGBTQ survivors with disabilities were 2x's more likely to be isolated by their abusive partner within IPV #Not1Story
- LGBTQ survivors w/ disabilities were 3x's more likely to be stalked & 4x's more likely to experience financial abuse w/in IPV #Not1StoryIntimate partner violence & other forms of violence & discrimination that LGBTQ people experience daily are all connected #Not1Story
- This year, the majority of LGBTQ IPV survivors identified as people of color.
   Racial justice is an LGBTQ & IPV issue #Not1Story
- Housing justice, economic justice, immigration justice & other equality movements are LGBTQ & intimate partner violence issues #Not1Story
- LGBTQ intimate partner violence survivors experience violence and criminalization from the police #Not1Story
- Nearly one in three LGBTQ IPV survivors who interacted w/ police were arrested. Police accountability is an LGBTQ & IPV issue #Not1Story
- Arresting LGBTQ IPV survivors has serious emotional, financial, and legal consequences for the survivor #Not1Story
- The Violence Against Women Act provides protections for LGBTQ survivors of intimate partner violence bit.ly/VAWAclaim #Not1Story
- You have a right to access supportive LGBTQ IPV services & seek help without experiencing discrimination! bit.ly/VAWAclaim #Not1Story

- Agencies receiving VAWA funding can't discriminate re: gender identity or sexual orientation! Call NCAVP: bit.ly/NCAVPTTA #Not1Story
- NCAVP provides training and technical assistance on working with LGBTQ IPV survivors: bit.ly/NCAVPTTA #Not1Story
- Want to get trained to work with LGBTQ survivors of IPV? Call NCAVP! bit.ly/ NCAVPTTA #Not1Story

#### **Guiding Questions**

When NCAVP's 2015 Intimate Partner Violence Report was released on October 18, 2016, we held a Twitter Town Hall where we shared the findings above, and facilitated a conversation using the questions below.

These questions are intended to guide ongoing discussion around the report's findings, and to facilitate discussion on the intersecting ways intimate partner violence impacts our communities as we work together to seek solutions to end this violence.

- Q1: What are some of the ways LGBTQ & HIV-affected people experience intimate partner violence that are rarely talked about? #Not1Story
- Q2: What are ways we can encourage discussion of LGBTQ IPV in our communities? #Not1Story
- Q3: How can our service providers offer survivor-centered and identity affirming resources to LGBTQ survivors? #Not1Story
- Q4: How do we, as LGBTQ people, center \*love\* in our discussions about healthy relationships and IPV? #Not1Story

#### **Graphics**

The following shareable graphics can also be accessed at bit.ly/IPV2015Toolkit.

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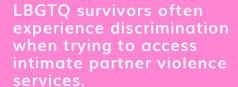
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