

Violence Against **LGBTQ** Youth

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Introduction to the population



- **Lesbian**
- **Gay**
- **Bisexual**
- **Transgender**
- **Queer/Questioning**
- **Allies**

Combination of sexual orientation, gender identity and injustice

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Lesbian

A woman whose primary sexual and affectional orientation is toward people of the same gender.

Gay

A person whose primary sexual and affectional Orientation is toward people of the same gender; a commonly-used word for male homosexuals.

Colloquially used as an umbrella term to include all LGBTQ people.

Bisexuality

Also bi. A person who is attracted to two sexes or two genders, but not necessarily simultaneously or equally.

Transgender

Transgender (trans or TG) people are those whose psychological self ("gender identity") differs from the social expectations for the physical sex they were born with.

http://geneq.berkeley.edu/lgbt_resources_definiton_of_terms#transphobia
<http://lgbtcenter.ucdavis.edu/lgbt-education/lgbtqia-glossary>



Politics and Injustice?

QUEER

- **A political statement, as well as a sexual orientation**
- **Advocates breaking binary thinking**
- **Umbrella term to refer to all LGBTQ people**
- **Sexual orientation and gender identity as potentially fluid**
- **Older LGBT may find offensive due to historical use**

ALLY

- **Confronts heterosexism, homophobia, transphobia, heterosexual privilege**
- **Challenges themselves and others out of concern for LGBTQ population**
- **Believes that heterosexism is a social injustice.**

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Prevalence- LGBTQ

- **Comprises 3.5% of the adult population**
- **Nearly 700,000 transgender individuals in the US**
- **An estimated 9 million Americans identify as LGBT**
- **Approximately 19 million Americans (8.2%)**
 - **engaged in same-sex sexual behavior**
- **Stigmatization of LGBTQ youth – hard to get statistics**
- **2001 - Massachusetts study estimates 5% youth LGBTQ**
- **2002 - U.S. DOE estimates 689,000 LGBTQ age 15-18yrs**

Cianciotto & Cahill (2003)

Gates(2011). How Many People are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender?

[http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/census-lgbt-demographics-studies/how-many-people-are-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender.](http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/census-lgbt-demographics-studies/how-many-people-are-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender)

Historical Oppression

- **Homophobia in the middle ages**
 - **Burning, mutilation, torture of “sodomites”**
 - **Execution of homosexuals in Europe**
- **1863 Walt Whitman fired as government clerk**
- **Post WWII – “Sexual perverts” deemed a risk to national security**
 - **1953 Eisenhower’s executive order 10450**
- **U.S. Postal workers monitored/traced**
- **Until 1973 homosexuality pathologized as a mental disorder in DSM.**
- **1975 Civil Service Commission officially prohibited discrimination**

Crompton (2003)

King, M. (2003).

Riggs, Rosenthal, & Smith-Bonahue (2011)

Morrow & Messinger (2006)

http://salempress.com/store/samples/great_events_from_history_glb/great_events_from_history_glb_eisenhower.htm

Risk factors for violence

- **Homophobia**: The irrational fear and intolerance of people who are homosexual or of homosexual feelings within one's self. This assumes that **heterosexuality is superior**.
- **Heterosexism**: Assuming every person to be heterosexual therefore **marginalizing persons who do not identify as heterosexual**. It is also believing **heterosexuality to be superior to homosexuality and all other sexual orientations**
- **Institutional Oppression**: Arrangement of a society used to benefit one group at the expense of another through the use of language, media education, religion, economics, etc.
- **Discrimination**: the practice of unfairly treating a person or group of people **differently from other people or groups of people**

http://geneq.berkeley.edu/lgbt_resources_definiton_of_terms#homophobia
<http://www.learnersdictionary.com/search/discrimination>

LGBTQ Hate Crimes

- **2010 27 anti- LGBTQ murders**
- **44% murdered Transgender women**
- **2010 - 2,503 victims and survivors of violence in the U.S.**
- **48.4% Gay men are hate violence survivors**
- **26% Lesbian hate crime victims**
- **8.9% Bisexual hate crime survivors**
- **30.2% of LGBTQ with disabilities did not report the violence**
- **3.8 times more likely to experience sexual violence**
- **1.5 x more likely to experience parental physical abuse**

Friedman et.al (2009)
<http://www.avp.org/documents/NCAVPHateViolenceReport2011Finaledjfinalaedit.pdf>

Violence Against LGBTQ Youth

- **Victimization is normal in the lives of LGBTQ youth**
- **Bullying focuses actual or perceived sexual orientation**
- **Stems from negative beliefs, attitudes and stereotypes**
- **Threatened with Weapons**
- **Openness increases risk of violence**

Manifests as:

- **Name calling and rumor spreading**
- **Ostracism**
- **Threats of or actual physical violence**
- **Social isolation**

Basile et. al (2009)
Espelage, Basile & Hamburger (2011)
Morrow & Messinger (2006)

Violence Against LGBTQ Youth

Massachusetts school study on LGBT youth:

- **Fights requiring medical attention (3x)**
- **Miss school due to fear (5x)**

Youth fearing victimization suffered:

- **More psychological distress**
- **Conformed resulting in denial/suppression of self**
- **Sexual identity emerged but suppressed**

Intersectionality can foster twice the violence:

- **Double Jeopardy hypothesis**
- **Resilience hypothesis**

<http://kap.samhsa.gov/products/manuals/pdfs/lgbt.pdf>
<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/globalcenter/policy/bkgdbrfintersec.html>

Bullying of LGBTQ Youth

- **65.4% of LGBTQ youth experienced sexual harassment ¹**
- **68.6% of LGBTQ high school students felt unsafe ¹**
- **83.2% of LGBTQ youth suffered verbal harassment ¹**
- **LGBTQ youth are 2-3 times more likely to consider suicide ²**
- **40.1% reported physical harassment in a school based study ²**
- **18.8% of LGBTQ students reported being assaulted ²**
- **Victimized because perceived to be gay**

Morrow & Messinger (2006)

Shields, Whitaker, Glassman, Franks, & Howard. (2011)

LGBTQA Youth and Schools

How youth are impacted:

- **P.T.S.D**
- **Anxiety**
- **Depression**
- **Risky sexual behavior**
- **Suicidality**
- **Substance abuse**
- **Decreased school connectedness**
- **Higher absenteeism**
- **Low G.P.A**
- **Feel unsafe at school**
- **Self harm**

Morrow & Messinger (2006)

Toomey, McGuire, Russell, (2011)

LGBTQ Youth and Family

“ The family is recognized as the primary group to which individuals turn for emotional and financial security as well as safety and comfort when facing negative pressures from the larger society”.

- **LGBTQ families are often not safe havens**
- **First closets may be in:**
 - **Family home**
 - **Extended families**
- **Over 30% verbally abused at home**
- **Fear of violence may begin at home**

Morrow & Messinger (2006)

LGBTQ Youth and Family

- **Raised with stipulated gender roles/heterocentric ideals**
- **Face family rejection or removal by coming out**
- **Experience family withdrawal of financial/emotional support**
- **Study found 10% of LGBTQ youth assaulted by a family member**
- **Violence due to Transgender Identity/sexual orientation**
- **Lack guidance and support with expressing:**
 - **gender identity**
 - **sexual orientation**

Morrow & Messinger (2006)

Recommendations

- **Survivors: responding to their needs**
 - **Utilize existing monies and create new funding streams**
 - **Increase access to specialized LGBTQ services for victims and survivors**
- **Devise and implement Prevention strategies**
 - **Governments should decrease obstacles for service**
 - **Community campaigns to deter violence**
 - **School initiatives to combat heterosexism**
- **Research**
 - **Expand and gather data**
 - **Governmental justice dept's, schools, law enforcement, hospitals**

○ <http://www.avp.org/documents/NCAVPHateViolenceReport2011Finaldjlfinal edits.pdf>



Culturally Competent Practice

- **Be educated on the LGBTQ culture**
- **Do not assume that a client is heterosexual**
- **Know that homophobia is society's problem, not the sexual orientation**
- **Accept LGBTQ identity as a positive**
- **Work with clients to decrease internalized homophobia**
- **Clients can achieve a positive identity as a gay or lesbian person**
- **Coming out process a critical time when violence occurs**
- **Deal with one's own homophobia and heterosexual bias**

Catherine Crisp (2002)

THANK YOU

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