

Sexual Assault in the LGBTQ+ Community

Sexual assault is any sexual contact without voluntary, conscious, “**affirmative**” consent from the other person. The LGBTQ+ community faces higher risks for marginalization, poverty, and stigma, which increase the risk of sexual assault (HRC, 2017).

Sexual assault is a **crime**.

Sexual assault includes and is not limited to:

- ◆ Rape
- ◆ Molestation
- ◆ Oral/vaginal/anal sex without affirmative consent



According to California law, lack of resistance or protest does not mean consent. Silence does not mean consent, and it can be revoked at any time.

	Lifetime Intimate Partner Violence		Lifetime Intimate Partner Sexual Violence	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
General Population	28.1%	32.9%	8.0%	15.9%
Heterosexual	28.7%	32.3%	*	15.3%
Bisexual	37.3%	56.9%^	*	40.0%^
Gay/Lesbian	25.2%	40.4%	*	**

**estimate not reported **estimate not reported; sample size too small ^statistically significant difference in prevalence of IPV between bisexual and heterosexual women (p<.05)*

Brown & Herman, 2015

By the Numbers:

- ◆ 13% of lesbians and 46% of bisexual women have been raped in their lifetime (Walter, Chen, & Brieding, 2013).
- ◆ 40% of gay men and 47% of bisexual men have experienced of sexual violence other than rape in their lifetime (Walter, Chen, & Brieding, 2013).
- ◆ 41% of LGBTQ+ survivors reported being forced to have sex by their partner; only 1/2 of their partners used safer sex practices (Heintz & Melendez, 2006).
- ◆ Transgender, Genderqueer, Questioning, or Not-listed (TGQN) undergraduate students reported the highest rates of penetration by force or incapacitation (12%), followed by undergraduate females (10.8%) (Cantor, et al., 2015).

Coalition for Family Harmony LGBTQ+ Program

Main office:
(805) 983-6014 ext. 106
24/7 Bilingual Crisis Hotline:
1 (800) 300-2181

Call to ask about 10 free counseling sessions or walk-in crisis support for the LGBTQ+ community

*The survivor of sexual assault or intimate partner violence is **never** at fault for being abused.*



Coalition for Family Harmony
Building Stronger Families

1030 N. Ventura Rd. Oxnard, CA 93030

A Call to Action: Helping Survivors

When implemented before victimization occurs, Sexual Assault Prevention Programs have shown some effectiveness in decreasing the likelihood of assault for LGBTQ+ people (Rothman & Silverman, 2007). Without social supports after sexual assault, some survivors have a lower quality of life due to self-esteem issues, low confidence, low self-worth, and distrust of friends and loved ones (Golding, Wilsnack, & Cooper, 2002). Non-judgmental privacy and confidentiality creates the space for others to disclose what happened to them, and re-victimization decreases when others provide social and emotional support (Mason, Ullman, Long, & Starzynski, 2009).

Create a safe environment for the survivor to tell their story, as they see it.

- ***Actively listening*** when someone tells you about past abuse or concerns that reveal current abuse. Take action only if they will give you permission, and sensitive to avoid unnecessary “outing” (disclosing another’s sexual orientation or transgender identity).
- ***Affirm and do not place blame*** on the survivor. Listen for the sake of listening, and not to respond. Avoid assumptions based on gender expression and sexual identity.
- ***Assist survivors*** with future plans on dealing with their assault, including safety planning and our crisis hotline. Offer LGBTQ+ training legal, police, or medical supports as a good way of actively supporting recovery.

Contact our LGBTQ+ Program Coordinator for information about local services.

- ***Create or support*** sexual assault prevention programs in schools or in LGBTQ+ community centers that emphasize consent, the various types of problematic sexual behavior, and risk factors such as substance abuse that make someone vulnerable.

The Coalition for Family Harmony provides LGBTQ+ centered counseling, emergency shelter & a transitional living program, and Ventura County’s rape crisis center, which is staffed by trained MFT interns who provide advocacy and counseling for those in need.

24– Hour Bilingual Crisis Hotline: (800) 300– 2181

www.thecoalition.org



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