Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Against Transgender People

Transgender communities include people who identify with a gender that is different than the sex category assigned at birth (male, female, intersex, etc.). Transgender individuals may be transitioning or may have transitioned from female to male (FTM), male to female (MTF), or they may identify as gender-queer, non-binary, or agender. Sexual assault and intimate partner violence of transgender people is underestimated due to lack of research, documentation errors, and transphobia and stigma creates a barrier to accessing help when assault occurs.

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By the Numbers:

- Lifetime prevalence for intimate partner violence against the transgender community is between 31.1% and 50% (Brown & Herman, 2015).
- 6 out of 13 victims of intimate partner homicides in 2015 were transgender women of color (NCAVP, 2016).
- Transgender people are more likely than any other group to report abuse from a former partner/lover (Waters, 2016).
- 12% of gender nonconforming or transgender K-12 students reported sexual violence (Grant, Mottet, Tanis, Harrison, Herman, & Keisling, 2011).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>50% of transgender people have experienced sexual violence.</th>
<th>Those who lost a job due to transphobia were almost 3x times likely to engage in sex work.</th>
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<td>Forge, 2012</td>
<td>Fitzgerald, et al., 2015</td>
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<th>12% of transgender people of color experience sexual assault in a K-12 setting.</th>
<th>31% of abuse of transgender youth is from their teachers.</th>
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<td>HRC, 2017</td>
<td>Forge-Forward, 2012</td>
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The survivor of sexual assault or intimate partner violence/is never at fault for being abused.
A Call to Action: How We Can Help Transgender Communities

**Hate Crime:** A *criminal* offense against a person or property, motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity (FBI, 2017). Sexual assault and intimate partner violence can be used to inflict violence of this nature to silence/control victim.

- Transgender people may be afraid to see legal and medical help for fear of their concerns dismissed on the basis of their gender identity (National Center for Trans Equality, 2009).
  - *Make it a top priority to know the person’s name and appropriate pronouns, and use them to prevent “outing.” If at a legal or medical facility, ensure others use them.*
- Transgender specific medical care is limited and may be hard to find, especially crisis medical care or trauma recovery services (National Center for Trans Equality, 2009).
  - *Be an advocate. Call medical providers, or our LGBTQ+ program coordinator, to ask about specialized transgender care and services available in case of an emergency.*
- When physical and/or sexual violence is aimed at the transgender community, transphobic and homophobic slurs are commonly used (HRC, 2016).
  - *Educate others on gender identity and sexual orientation. Education fights ignorance and hate by dispelling stereotypes that make transgender experiences invisible.*
- Sexual assault and physical violence can happen anywhere, and at any time.
  - *Intervene if you hear or see something concerning. Bystanders intervening can help BEFORE violent situations occur. Get trained and speak up for those who cannot.*
- Re-victimization decreases when social and emotional support is provided from others (Mason, Ullman, Long, Starzynski, 2009).
  - *Listen when someone tells you about past abuse or concerns about current abuse. Refer survivors to the Coalition support groups, including the transgender support groups at Santa Paula West Medical Group. Take action, ONLY if given permission.*

The Coalition for Family Harmony provides counselling services, a emergency shelter for domestic/intimate partner violence survivors, and intimate partner violence transitional housing, and the rape crisis center for advocacy and counseling for those in need.

24–Hour Bilingual Crisis Hotline: 1 (800) 300 – 2181
www.thecoalition.org

We are a California Safe at Home provider. Contact the Coalition for more information about details and requirements.