

LGBT Communities and Domestic Violence

Information & Resources

FACT SHEET



prepared by

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- **While same-sex battering mirrors heterosexual battering both in type and prevalence, its victims receive fewer protections.** [Barnes, P.G. (1998). It's just a quarrel. *American Bar Association Journal*, 24.]
- **Same-sex abusers use a form of abuse similar to those of heterosexual batterers, but they also have an additional weapon in the threat of “outing” their partner to family, friends, employers, or community.** [Lundy, S.E., (Winter, 1993). Abuse that dare not speak its name: Assisting victims of lesbian and gay domestic violence in Massachusetts. *New England Law Review*, 28.]
- **Many battered Gays or Lesbians fight back to defend themselves – it is a myth that same-sex battering is mutual.** [Murphy, N. (1995). Queer justice: Equal protection for victims of same-sex domestic violence. *Val. University Law Review*, 8, 335.]
- **Rates of battering victimization among urban men having sex with men are substantially higher than among heterosexual men and are comparable to rates found among heterosexual women.** [Greenwood, G.L., Relf, M.V., Huang, B., Pollack, L.M., Canchola, J.A. & Catania, J.A. (2002). Battering victimization among a probability-based sample of men who have sex with men. *American Journal of Public Health*, 92, 1964-1969.]
- **Battering involving men in same-sex relationships does not appear to be associated with racial or ethnic identity, income level, self-described sexual orientation, or the city of residence.** [Greenwood, G.L., Relf, M.V., Huang, B., Pollack, L.M., Canchola, J.A. & Catania, J.A. (2002). Battering victimization among a probability-based sample of men who have sex with men. *American Journal of Public Health*, 92, 1964-1969.]
- **Battering among Lesbians crosses age, race, class, lifestyle and socio-economic lines.** [Lobel, K. (Ed.) (1986). *Naming the Violence: Speaking Out About Lesbian Battering*. Seattle, WA: Seal]
- **Bisexual victims are likely to be undercounted if the agency from which they seek services constructs the sexual orientation of the victim based on the gender identity of the abusive partner and does not explicitly query victim self-identification.** [Fountain, K. & Skolnik, A. (2007). *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Domestic Violence in the United States in 2006: A Report of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs*. New York, NY: National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.]
- **Victimization by intimate partners in male same-sex relationships is most commonly experienced by men age 40 and younger.** [Greenwood, G.L., Relf, M.V., Huang, B., Pollack, L.M., Canchola, J.A. & Catania, J.A. (2002). Battering victimization among a probability-based sample of men who have sex with men. *American Journal of Public Health*, 92, 1964-1969.]

- Men infected with the AIDS virus were more at risk for psychological and physical abuse [from male partners] than their HIV-negative peers. [Greenwood, G.L., Relf, M.V., Huang, B., Pollack, L.M., Canchola, J.A. & Catania, J.A. (2002). Battering victimization among a probability-based sample of men who have sex with men. *American Journal of Public Health*, 92, 1964-1969.]
- Figures from a study published in the *American Journal of Public Health* indicate that the rate of abuse between urban homosexual men in intimate relationships “is a very serious public health problem.” [Greenwood, G.L., Relf, M.V., Huang, B., Pollack, L.M., Canchola, J.A. & Catania, J.A. (2002). Battering victimization among a probability-based sample of men who have sex with men. *American Journal of Public Health*, 92, 1964-1969.]