

# YOUNG LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**How does being a part of the LGBTIQ+ community interact with domestic and family violence and how may domestic and family violence present differently for young LGBTIQ+ people?**

## THIS FACT SHEET CAN HELP IF...

1. You would like to learn some of the basic ways in which LGBTIQ+ identity and domestic violence can interact
2. You would like to be given some examples of ways that domestic violence can occur and how abuse can take different forms for LGBTIQ+ people
3. You are interested in better understanding why young LGBTIQ+ people may experience abuse

## THIS FACT SHEET IS HELPFUL FOR...

**Anybody** who wants to learn more about young LGBTIQ+ people & family/domestic violence



---

## WHAT IS FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Family and domestic violence is a crime. The term **domestic violence** is usually used to describe abuse that occurs between two intimate partners. Domestic violence includes many different forms of abuse, such as emotional and financial abuse and is not limited to physical violence. Examples of these forms of abuse are given in the next section.

The term **family violence** is used more broadly to describe abuse that happens in the home between family members.

This can include abuse between parents & children, abuse between siblings or abuse between you and anybody you live with.

There is often the belief that domestic violence is only committed by men against women. While this happens frequently, it is not always the case. Not only does this stereotype make it harder to identify domestic violence within the LGBTIQ+ community, it creates assumptions about who can and cannot be a victim or perpetrator. **However, LGBTIQ+ people can and do also face the 'stereotypical' forms of domestic and family violence just as non-LGBTIQ+ people do.**

## WAYS THAT DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE CAN OCCUR: Including non-traditional forms specific to LGBTIQ+ people

### PHYSICAL

- Hitting, slapping, punching, choking, kicking, pushing, burning or overpowering due to homophobia/transphobia.
- Not giving somebody access to their hormone medication.



### EMOTIONAL



- Misgendering/using incorrect pronouns - this diminishes gender-diverse identity
- Invalidating sexual identity (i.e. biphobia, homophobia, lesbophobia)
- Saying authorities won't believe them or discriminate against them, reinforcing common perceptions of domestic violence being straight cis couples perpetuated by the man in a relationship
- Threatening to out someone to family, friends, or work colleagues to control their relationships, employment, etc
- Threatening to share personal health information, such as HIV status, as a means of control
- Telling someone they will lose custody of their children as a result of their LGBTIQ+ status/discriminating against their ability to parent because of their identity
- Telling someone they will 'go to Hell' or not be accepted within their religion as a result of their sexual/gender identity

## WAYS THAT DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE CAN OCCUR: Including non-traditional forms specific to LGBTIQA+ people

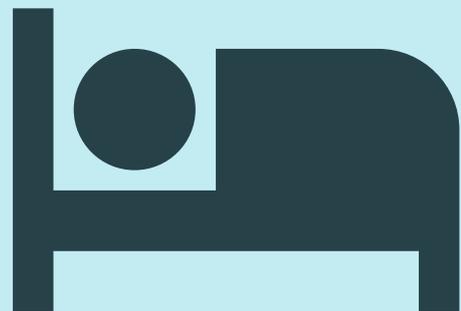


### FINANCIAL

- Not allowing somebody to choose how they spend their money.
- Controlling somebody's money and not giving them access to their own bank accounts.
- Not paying somebody's bills correctly for them. With bills including things like rent, utilities, groceries, medicine and medical expenses.
- Denying money that may be used for treatments of surgeries, preventing access to gender-affirming care or services

### SEXUAL

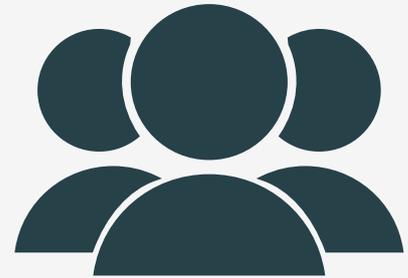
- Assault of body parts such as chest, genitals, and hair that signify specific 'notions' of sex or gender identity
- Coercing a partner to have sex through manipulation of shame related to the victim's sexual orientation/gender identity
- Withholding hormone medications to manipulate someone into sex
- Taking and/or sharing explicit photos or videos of someone without their consent
- Forcing somebody to become pregnant and have a child if this is not what they want
- Any other forms of rape, sexual harassment and assault





## SOCIAL

- Not letting somebody see or speak to their friends, family or support services.
- Leaving somebody at home to avoid helping them with getting ready to go out.
- Stopping somebody from engaging with communities that they are a part of. For example, not letting them practise their religion or not allowing them to explore or be open about their sexuality or gender identity.



## UNDERSTANDING VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBTIQA+ PEOPLE:

### Why do young LGBTIQA+ people experience similar or higher rates of abuse?



Family and domestic violence is often framed as violence perpetrated against women and children by men. Because of this, most research and national efforts have been centred around this core belief.

However, LGBTIQA+ people can - and do - experience violence. Some of the main reasons that young LGBTIQA+ people are at equal (sometimes greater) risk of experiencing abuse are:

- The societal understanding of what constitutes family and domestic violence renders much of the violence committed against and by LGBTIQA+ persons as largely invisible.
- This understanding is often internalised and thus many do not recognise that what they are experiencing is family and/or domestic violence, and/or feel that they can't seek help.
- Trans & bisexual people are more likely to experience violence, due to being perceived as outside the 'standard' societal understanding of gender, sex and sexuality
- Persistent discrimination within society, so threats to 'out' someone can have significant impact of the victims life including losing employment, relationships, etc
- Assumption that violence between two men in a relationship is a normal manifestation of masculinity, and violence between two women in a relationship does not occur due to conceptions of femininity as being non-violent
- Data simply isn't often collected/focussed upon LGBTIQA+ specific domestic & family violence

It may be difficult for those in same-gender relationships to recognise power differences that they associate with heterosexual relationships (given that they may manifest in different ways).

---

**IF READING THIS INFORMATION HAS BROUGHT UP ANY CHALLENGING EMOTIONS, YOU CAN CALL:**

1800 RESPECT: **1800 737 732**

This service is available 24 hours a day Australia wide



Domestic Violence Helpline: **1800 007 339**

This service is available 24 hours a day in Western Australia

Diverse Voices: **1800 184 527**

This service is available from 3pm - midnight, 7 days a week Australia wide

**Or you can access the online chat available through 1800 RESPECT:**

<https://chat.1800respect.org.au/#/welcome>

---

**OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES:**

1. Domestic & family violence in LGBTIQ+ communities **factsheet**  
<https://www.dss.gov.au/women-publications-articles-reducing-violence/domestic-and-family-violence-within-lgbtqi-communities-factsheet>
2. **Another Closet**, a healthy relationships resource for the LGBTIQ+ community <http://www.anothercloset.com.au/>
3. **DV Connect's** LGBTIQ+ and sexual assault/abuse information and hotline  
<https://www.dvconnect.org/sexual-assault-helpline/lgbtiq-and-sexual-assault/>
4. **Say It Out Loud**, a healthy relationships & domestic violence resource page for the LGBTIQ+ community <https://sayitoutloud.org.au>
5. **Say It Out Loud's** 'Are you in a healthy relationship?' Quiz  
<https://sayitoutloud.org.au/healthy-relationships/quiz/?state=all>
6. **1800RESPECT's** Inclusive practise - supporting LGBTIQ+ victims of domestic violence [https://www.1800respect.org.au/inclusive-practice/supporting-people-who-identify-as-lgbti/understanding\\_the\\_issues](https://www.1800respect.org.au/inclusive-practice/supporting-people-who-identify-as-lgbti/understanding_the_issues)