The Impact of IPV on the LGBTQ+ Community: Health System Response and Responsibility

Brigham and Women’s Hospital’s 7th Annual Event Honoring

February 11th, 2022
Event Overview

Introductory Remarks and Event Overview

• Jeffrey Katz, MD, MSc: Professor of Medicine and Orthopedic Surgery, HMS; Director, Orthopedic and Arthritis Center for Outcomes Research, BWH
• Claire McHugh, BS: Research Assistant, Orthopedic and Arthritis Center for Outcomes Research, BWH

V-Day and the Impact of IPV on LGBTQ+ populations

• Zoe Zimmerman, BS: Research Assistant, Orthopedic and Arthritis Center for Outcomes Research, BWH
• Carrie Braverman, MSW, LICSW: HIV Clinical Social Worker, BWH; Co-chair BWH LGBTQ & Friends Employee Resource Group

Survivor Speakers

Panel Discussion

• Moderated by Christopher AhnAllen, PhD: Co-Director of Psychology and Director of Psychology Education, BWH
• Featuring
  • Trevor Boylston: Racial Equity Action Committee Chair, Fenway Health; Former Global Lead, Boston Scientific’s LGBTQ+ ERG called “PRIDE” – Promoting Respect, Inclusion, Diversity, & Equality
  • Sam Nguyen, MPH, MSW: Passageway Domestic Violence Advocate, Center for Community Health and Health Equity, BWH
  • Erica Pérez: Community Awareness Associate, The Network/La Red
  • Jennifer Potter, MD: Co-Chair of The Fenway Institute; Professor of Medicine, HMS; Founding Director of the Women’s Health Center and Attending Physician, Beth Israel Lahey Health

CONTENT WARNING // suicide and self-harm, sexual assault, and child abuse

Please submit questions publicly in the Zoom chat or via private message to Mardi Chadwick Balcom!
What is V-Day?

• V-Day is an organized response against violence toward all women, girls, and the planet

• The mission of V-day is to raise awareness, funds, and motivation to continue to combat intimate partner violence

• This year, we hope to expand from the solely female-focused approach to V-day and examine violence in relation to persons of all gender identities and sexual orientations
• **Trauma**: an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and has lasting adverse effects on the individual’s functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

• **Interpersonal Violence**: violence between individuals, which includes family and intimate partner violence and community violence.
  • **Intimate partner violence (IPV)** can include acts of physical violence, sexual violence, emotional abuse, and controlling behaviors.
Burden of IPV in LGBTQ+ populations

- Bisexual women are 1.8 times more likely to report ever having experienced IPV than heterosexual women

- 26.9% of gay men experience IPV in their lifetimes

- In a 2015 survey of 27,715 transgender people, more than half (54%) experienced some form of IPV


Advice for providers during patient visits
Creating a Safe Space

*Using Inclusive Language*

- Introduce yourself using name and pronouns (including how you prefer others address you)
- Ask for and use patients’ and colleagues’ names and pronouns
- Ask/clarify gender of partners as well as type (casual, committed, etc.) and number

“Hello, my name is Joseph Smith. I’m a physical therapist and my pronouns are he/him. You can just call me Joe. What name and pronouns would you like me to use for you?”
When asking about IPV or when someone discloses IPV...

- Confirm privacy before asking screening questions
  - When on-site, ask partner(s) to leave the room
  - If virtual, clarify whether the patient is alone or partner/others are nearby – can ask “do you have privacy for this conversation?”

- Provide universal education (disclosure is not necessary to provide information/resources)

- Use the appropriate language when discussing identity and IPV
When asking about IPV or when someone discloses IPV...

- Maintain awareness of one’s own unconscious bias
- Acknowledge that stigma, bias, and racism are forms of trauma
- Be transparent (“I don’t have an answer to XYZ, but I do have resources and colleagues here. I will inquire and get back to you.”)
Resources

• Passageway: 617-732-8753
• MGB Employee Assistance Program (EAP): https://eap.partners.org/
• BWH Faculty/Trainee Mental Health Program: 617-732-8905

• Suicide prevention resources: https://afsp.org/suicide-prevention-resources
• The Trevor Project: https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help/
• National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255

• The Network / La Red Hotline: 800-832-1901
• Safelink Hotline / Jane Doe Inc.: www.janedoe.org, 877-785-2020