

How Do I know if My Relationship Might Be Abusive?

Has she or he ever:

- Threatened you physically?
- Pushed you, hit you or held you down?
- Threatened to tell anyone that you are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender?
- Forced you to have sex in unwanted ways or against your will?
- Refused to have safer sex?
- Not respected your “safe words” or violated the boundaries of a “scene”?

When you're with your partner, do you feel as though:

- You have to watch what you say or do?
- Sometimes you're just not safe?
- Things are either really great, or there's a lot of trouble-but it's never just OK?

Has your partner ever:

- Told you who you could see or where you could go?
- Told you what to wear?
- Said how you could spend your money?
- Gotten in the way of your medical care?

The above questions do not absolutely determine whether or not your relationship is abusive, but if you answered yes to one or more of them, you should consider the possibility of abuse.

CSU, Chico Resources

Safe Place: (530)898-5724
Pride: pride@csuchico.edu
Office of Diversity: (530)898-4764
Transgender Task Force:
www.csuchico.edu/ttf
Counseling & Wellness Center:
(530)898-6345

Butte College Resources:

Safe Place: (530)897-6185
Student Health Services:
Maureen Hernandez MFT
(530)895-2441

Community Resources:

Catalyst Domestic Violence:
800-895-8476
Stonewall Alliance Center:
(530)893-3336
Rape Crisis:
(530)342-7273

National Resources

Community United Against Violence - 24
hour LGBT victim hotline: (415)333-HELP



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LGBTQ

Intimate Partner Violence



What is Intimate Partner Violence?

The abuse, mental or physical, of one person to another person with whom the abused has a significant and intimate relationship. Violence in relationships can take many forms. The abuse ranges from verbal attacks to sexual assault.



Signs of Abuse

A friend is in a new or long term relationship and he or she is not spending time with friends, makes excuses to avoid going out without his or her partner, or seems nervous when you bring up the relationship. Abusers will often try to isolate the victim in order to assert power and control.

Myths & Truths



- Myth - Only heterosexual women are victims of intimate partner violence. Men are not victims and women cannot be abusers.
- **Truth - Men can be and are victims of intimate partner violence. Women can be and are abusers. Domestic violence is fundamentally a power issue. Even when two people are of the same gender, power differences exist and can be abused.**
- Myth - Intimate Partner Violence is not as common or severe in LGBT relationships as it is in heterosexual relationships.
- **Truth- Studies show that abuse is just as prevalent (approx. 25%-33%) and dangerous in LGBT relationships.**
- Myth - Abuse in LGBT relationships isn't really violence, it is a fight between equals.
- **Truth - Either partner can be emotionally and/or physically abusive. Law enforcement and service providers often confuse the victim from the abuser in same sex rela-**

tionships due to gender-based assumptions.

- Myth - The abuser in the relationship is always the bigger, "masculine" or "butch" one.
- **Truth - Battering is about control, not size or strength. There is no way to tell by looking at a couple who is the batterer and who is battered.**

Barriers/Fears to reporting abuse that are unique to the LGBT community:

- Being "outed."
- Fear of being treated in a homophobic manner by the police, hospital, rape crisis center and others.
- Not being taken seriously or having their experience minimized.
- Having experience sensationalized.
- Having to explain how the assault happened in more detail than one would ask a survivor of opposite-sex abuse.
- Lack of services/ shelters that are trained in and sensitive to LGBT issues.
- Gay/bi male survivors may be hesitant to report for fear of being ignored and/or rejected.
- Lesbian/bi women survivors may fear being ignored or having their claims discarded if their attacker is a female because women are not socially seen as abusers.



