

## Quick Facts About Sexual Violence within the LGBT+ Community:



- 44% of lesbians and 61% of bisexual women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner
- 26% of gay men and 37% of bisexual men experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner
- Nearly 50% of transgender people experience sexual violence
- LGBT+ individuals are more likely to experience sexual assault, sexual harassment, physical assault and stalking than any other group targeted in hate crimes
- LGBT+ people face the same danger from acquaintance, date, and partner rape as heterosexual individuals.

## Who We Are

The West Georgia Prevention & Advocacy Resource Center strives to end sexual violence in our community through prevention and awareness. We provide direct service to survivors of sexual assault, their families and their friends. We are committed to fostering awareness of sexual assault through community education. We work to create a climate of safety and healing for all victims of sexual assault. All services are free and confidential.

### Contact Us

24-Hour Hotline: 770-834-RAPE (7273)  
Business Line: 770-834-8905  
Email: [prevention@wgaparc.org](mailto:prevention@wgaparc.org)  
Web: [www.wgaparc.org](http://www.wgaparc.org)  
Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/pages/WGAPARC](https://www.facebook.com/pages/WGAPARC)  
Twitter: @WGAPARC

### Stop the Stigma: Sexual Violence within the LGBT+ Community

Prevention & Advocacy Resource Center  
P.O. Box 2825  
Carrollton, GA 30112  
770-834-8905 (Business line)  
770-834-7273 (24-Hour Hotline)

# LGBT+

## Stop the Stigma Sexual Violence within the LGBT+ Community



## PARC

Prevention & Advocacy Resource Center  
Sexual Assault Center for Teens & Adults

## Unique Challenges

In general, situations of sexual violence that involve LGBT+ people are very similar to those that heterosexuals experience. However, there are factors that are unique in the experiences of LGBT+ people impacted by sexual violence.

- Perpetrators may use specific tactics to maintain power and control such as threatening to “out” the individual (reveal sexual orientation or status without their consent).
- Homophobia in our culture puts LGBT+ people at greater risk for sexual violence. Individuals may not feel comfortable telling anyone what happened for fear of being “outed.”
- Intersections between systems of inequality and discrimination heighten risks and challenges for diverse subsets of the LGBT+ population.
- Woman-to-woman sexual violence is not highly recognized, which may lead to the marginalization of lesbian and bisexual women as victims.
- Shelters may be unavailable to transgendered persons or gay men, and shelter environments may be hostile to lesbian women.
- Sexual violence can be a form of a hate motivated crime against individuals who identify as, or are perceived to be, LGBT+.

## Barriers for Seeking Help within LGBT+ Community

- Not being taken seriously or having their experience minimized.
- Not having their experience called sexual assault or rape.
- Having to explain their experience in more detail than one would ask a heterosexual survivor or a survivor of male-female assault.
- Having to educate those they reach out to.
- Being blamed for the assault.
- Being treated in a homophobic manner by police, hospital staff, rape crisis center, counselors and others.



## Helping Those Impacted by Sexual Violence



- Listen, believe, and only ask relevant questions.
- Assist impacted individuals in finding accessible and affirming services.
- Use appropriate pronouns. When in doubt, ask the individual how they prefer to be called. Don't make assumptions about pronouns as a survivor may refer to themselves differently than how they may appear.
- Separate disclosure from truthfulness. Lack of disclosure regarding status shouldn't be taken as a sign of noncompliance or deceit.
- Don't assume causality. Avoid assuming sexual violence caused sexual orientation/gender identity, or ones sexual orientation/gender identity provoked sexual violence.
- Educate yourself about LGBT+ issues and LGBT+ friendly resources in your community.