

2SLGBTQQIA+ Survivors

Understanding Queer and Gender Diverse Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)



Definitions

2SLGBTQQIA+

An inclusive acronym that represents a spectrum of sexual orientations and gender identities: Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and others (+). The term reflects the evolving nature of identity language within queer and trans communities and promotes recognition of diverse lived experiences and intersectional realities (Thelwall et al., 2023).

Cisheteronormativity

The assumption that all individuals are cisgender (identify with the gender assigned at birth) and heterosexual, which is often embedded in social norms, institutions, and services (Thelwall et al., 2023).

Intersectionality

An analytical framework that recognizes how overlapping social identities—such as race, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, and Indigeneity—interact to produce unique experiences of discrimination or privilege (Giesbrecht et al., 2023).

IPV in 2SLGBTQQIA+ Communities

- 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals experience higher rates of IPV compared to their heterosexual and cisgender counterparts (WAGE, 2024)
- They also experience identity-specific forms of abuse (abuse related to their gender identity and/or sexual orientation) (Lorenzetti et al., 2014, as cited in Haller et al., 2021)
- Queer and gender diverse people with multiple marginalized social identities face compounding experiences of IPV and barriers to accessing help—Intersectionality is crucial.

Barriers to Care

- IPV services and research are highly gendered spaces and often operate according to cisheteronormative assumptions (i.e. male perpetrator, female victim) (Haller et al., 2021)
- Consequently, they are often not reflective nor accommodating of the needs and experiences of queer and gender-diverse individuals
- Without informed and tailored care, 2SLGBTQQIA+ survivors may not seek or receive help. Survivors report avoiding services due to (Haller et al., 2021):
 - a lack of culturally safe or affirming supports
 - stigma, discrimination, and minority stress
 - Confidentiality concerns and prior negative experiences

Intersection of IPV-TBI in 2SLGBTQQIA+ Communities

- Partner-perpetrated TBI research often excludes 2SLGBTQQIA+ survivors, focusing narrowly on cisgender women, leaving significant gaps in understanding of how queer and trans survivors experience and access care for IPV-related TBIs (J. Chan et al., 2024; Stranges et al., 2025).
- Queer and trans survivors present with IPV-TBI symptoms that mirror the same prevalence rates found in heterosexual/cisgender women. However, their pathways of care may differ due to unique barriers (Stranges et al., 2025).

Scan the QR code to learn more about our project!

This document was developed with the assistance of AI (OpenAI's ChatGPT) for drafting and phrasing, based on our literature review findings

