



Intimate Partner Violence and the Trans Community

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This information focuses on relationships where one or both partners is trans.

What is intimate partner violence (IPV)?

- Gender-based violence caused by a current or former intimate partner or spouse.
- Can include physical abuse, stalking, sexual violence, financial/emotional/financial/spiritual abuse, coercive control, reproductive coercion, and cyberviolence.

IPV warning signs and abuse tactics unique to trans survivors

- Threaten to withhold gender-affirmative hormones
- Question the validity of a partner's gender identity
- Control how a partner expresses their gender
- Denial that abuse can occur with a transgender partner
- Threaten to reveal partner's trans identity to friends, family, children, community, or employer to coerce a certain act or outcome
- Force partner to perform sexual acts that don't align with their gender identity

Barriers to seeking help unique to trans survivors

- Certain shelters or support organizations might turn trans women away
- Fear that one's trans identity will be revealed through seeking help
- Fear that one's trans identity will not be respected by support organizations
- Cisnormativity (widespread assumption that all humans have a gender identity that matches their sex) can affect organizational policies, programming, and how healthcare professionals interact with Trans victims
- Limited research on IPV for Trans survivors in Canada

Canadian trans women IPV statistics

A [2019 survey by Trans PULSE](#) found that:

- 3 in 5 trans women experienced IPV since 16 years of age
- 56% of trans women had a partner that verbally abused them
- 29% of trans women have experienced a physical altercation with a partner (such as a push, shove, shake, or pin down)
- One in three trans women was forced or pressured into non-consensual sexual activity