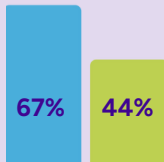


What does 2SLGBTQIA+ mean?

2SLGBTQIA+ is a common acronym for two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and/or aromantic + more.

Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in 2SLGBTQIA+ relationships



67% of LGB+ women experienced at least one type of IPV **since the age of 15**, compared to **44% among heterosexual women**.



3 in 5 (60%) trans women in Canada experienced IPV since the age of 16.



More than half of gay and bisexual men (54%) have experienced IPV and were **five times more likely** to experience sexual assault by an intimate partner **than heterosexual men**.



Neighbours, Friends & Families

CREATING SAFER & INCLUSIVE SUPPORT: UNDERSTANDING IPV IN 2SLGBTQIA+ COMMUNITIES

CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH

WorQshop:
Building Safer Spaces



Western

Centre for Research & Education on
Violence Against Women & Children



What Neighbours, Friends and Families Need to Know



IPV in 2SLGBTQIA+ relationships can take unique forms that may not always be recognized in mainstream discussions of IPV. Some examples include:

Withholding Gender-affirming care or Medications:

Preventing access to hormones, binders, or other necessary medical aids.

Controlling Gender Expression & Sexuality:

Forcing a partner to conform to certain gender roles or suppress their identity.

Outing or Threatening to Out a Partner:

Revealing someone's gender identity or sexual orientation without their consent as a means of manipulation and control.

Isolating from the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community or "found family":


Cutting them off from affirming people, spaces and support networks.

Extreme Jealousy and Possessiveness:

Using jealousy as a means of control, sometimes weaponizing homophobia/transphobia in the process.

Misgendering and Homophobic/Transphobic Abuse:

Deliberately using incorrect pronouns, deadnaming, or using slurs to degrade and manipulate.



Supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ victims/survivors can look different, and it's important to consider unique challenges that may exist:

What Neighbours, Friends and Families Can do to Help



Recognize and Challenge Biases:

Be mindful of personal biases and avoid bringing them into conversations about support and safety.

Use Inclusive Language and Respect Pronouns:

IPV affects people of all genders and sexualities. Instead of assuming the gender of a victim/survivor or their partner, use terms like partner, person experiencing harm, or victim/survivor rather than husband/wife or boyfriend/girlfriend. Always use the victim/survivors correct name and pronouns-if unsure, ask respectfully. Misgendering or assuming heterosexuality can add to a victim's/survivor's trauma.

Consider Intersectionality:

Understand that 2SLGBTQIA+ victims/survivors of IPV may face overlapping forms of discrimination, based on factors such as race, immigration status, disability, and socioeconomic status.

Support with Compassion and Understanding:

Offer nonjudgmental support and listen to the victim's/survivor's needs, rather than assuming what is best for them.

Be Realistic and Creative About Support:

Not all victims/survivors have access to traditional resources like shelters or legal aid. Explore alternative ways to support, such as helping with transportation, or connecting them to 2SLGBTQIA+ affirming resources.

Lack of 2SLGBTQIA+ Specific Services and Limited Inclusive Services:

Many shelters and support organizations, lack specialized, or staff trained in 2SLGBTQIA+ issues, making it difficult for victims/survivors to access affirming support.

Legal and Identity Barriers:

Changing legal names and gender markers on identification documents can be a complex and costly process, often affecting access to housing, employment, and other services.



Prioritize Safety: Supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ victims/survivors of IPV can be complex, but safety should always come first – for the victim/survivor, yourself, and others involved. Offer support without pressuring them into actions that could put them at greater risk. Respect their choices and work with them to explore safe and realistic options.

Trauma-Informed Care: Due to historical and ongoing anti-2SLGBTQIA+ violence and discrimination, victims/survivors may face additional barriers when seeking support. A trauma-informed approach that prioritizes safety, trust, and empowerment can help them feel supported and reduce the risk of further traumatization.

To learn more about trauma-informed care, Scan the QR code:



Concerns About Law Enforcement:

Some victims/survivors may prefer to avoid police involvement due to past negative experiences, discrimination, or fear of being misgendered or outed.

Challenges in Healthcare Access:

Navigating the healthcare system can be particularly difficult, especially when seeking gender affirming care, mental health support, or services that respect identity.