

LGBTQ

Abuse

MYTH

FACT

Domestic violence is more common in straight relationships than it is in LGBTQ relationships.

The extent and severity of abuse in these communities is becoming increasingly evident and is very common.

Factors such as substance abuse, stress, childhood violence or provocation really cause battering and abuse.

Alcohol and drug use may become part of the dynamics of abuse, but they do not cause domestic violence. Stopping substance abuse does not guarantee that the battering will stop.

Domestic violence occurs primarily among gay men and lesbians who hang out at bars, are poor, or people of color

Domestic violence is a non-discriminatory phenomenon. Batterers come from all walks of life, all racial/ethnic groups, all socioeconomic strata, and all educational levels. The LGBT community includes members of every other minority and majority group.

Victims often provoke the violence done to them. They're getting what they "deserve."

The dynamics of same-sex relationships are not the same as in heterosexual relationships. The stresses of being without full legal protections and the lack of societal support for their relationships are added barriers for LGBT victims/survivors to overcome.

Lesbian and Gay domestic violence is the same as domestic violence between a man and a woman.

Violent behavior is solely the responsibility of the violent person. Batterers choose violence; victims do not "provoke" it."

If it were really that bad, they would just leave.

Batterers threaten their victims with more violence (including threats of murder) if they leave. Threatening to leave may put the victim in more danger. Leaving also requires strength, self-confidence, self-reliance, and a healthy self esteem.



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