

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Intimate partner violence (IPV) has been defined as physical violence, sexual violence, threats of physical or sexual violence, and psychological aggression by a current or former spouse or dating partner. IPV can occur among heterosexual and same-sex couples and does not require sexual intimacy.⁴¹ In 2010, 35.6 percent of adult women aged 18 years and older, or 42.4 million women, reported having experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime while nearly one-half (48.4 percent) reported having experienced psychological aggression.⁴²

The prevalence of IPV varies by sexual orientation. In 2010, bisexual women (56.9 percent) were more likely than either lesbians (40.4 percent) or heterosexual women (32.3 percent) to report any lifetime experience of physical IPV, including slapping, pushing, or shoving and severe acts such as being beaten, burned, or choked.

Among women who reported experiencing physical violence, more than half of bisexual women (55.1 percent) reported having ever been slapped, pushed, or shoved by an intimate partner, compared to 36.3 percent of lesbian women and 29.8 percent of heterosexual women. Bisexual women were also more likely to report having experienced severe physical violence, such as having been choked or beaten (49.3 percent) than

lesbian (29.4 percent) or heterosexual women (23.6 percent; data not shown).

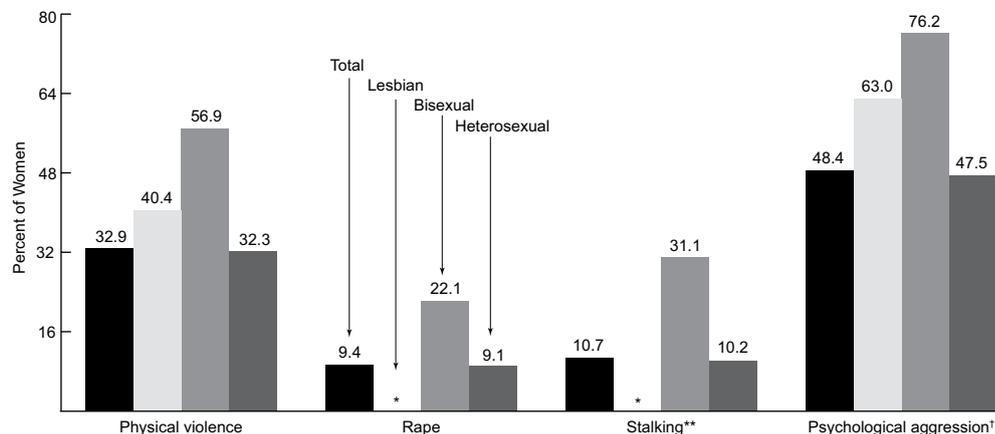
Lifetime experience of rape by an intimate partner was reported by approximately 1 in 5 bisexual women and 1 in 10 heterosexual women. Stalking, defined as a pattern of harassing or threatening tactics that is both unwanted and causes fear or safety concerns for the victim, was also more common among bisexual women than heterosexual women (31.1 versus 10.7 percent, respectively). Estimates of rape and stalking for lesbians were not reliable.

Finally, both bisexual and lesbian women reported higher rates of lifetime psychological aggression (such as name calling, humiliation, or coercion) by an intimate partner than heterosexual women (76.2, 63.0, and 47.5 percent, respectively).

Among bisexual women who experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner, approximately 90 percent reported only male perpetrators. Among lesbian survivors of IPV, 67.4 percent reported only female perpetrators (data not shown).

Lifetime Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence Among Women Aged 18 and Older, by Type of Violence and Sexual Orientation, 2010

Source II.10: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey



*Estimate does not meet the standards of reliability or precision. **Includes harassing or threatening tactics that are unwanted and cause fear or safety concerns. †Includes expressive aggression (such as name calling, insulting, or humiliating an intimate partner), and coercive control, which includes behaviors that are intended to monitor and control or threaten an intimate partner.