

## Definitions:

**Intimate partner violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and battering** are all terms used to describe a pattern of abusive behaviors used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence.

**Abuse** happens when one person believes they are entitled to control another's thoughts, feelings, and/or actions.

Abusive behaviors take many forms, some behaviors are subtle and coercive and others more visible.

### Types of abusive behaviors include:

- Emotional or Verbal Abuse
- Psychological Abuse
- Spiritual Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse

These abusive behaviors may share similar dynamics when present in gay, lesbian, trans, bisexual, and questioning relationships as they would in a heterosexual context, however there are also differences. One such difference is homophobia. Homophobia can be used by an abuser in a same-sex relationship to control their partner in various ways. For example-threatening to out their partner to unsafe people or in unsafe situations.

**These questions describe abusive behaviors. You may be experiencing abuse if partner has ever...**

Yelled at you, called you names, thrown objects, broken sentimental possessions?



Withheld affection, punished you by using the silent treatment?



Intentionally started an argument before dinner or kept you awake at night?



Blamed you for how they feel or act?



Treated you roughly—grabbed, pinched, shoved, hit or held you down, blocked you from leaving when you felt unsafe?



Made you feel bad or ashamed of the things you think and/or feel?



Forced uncomfortable or unwanted sexual acts, or refused safer sex?



Humiliated you sexually or caused pain without consent?



Blamed his or her behavior on past history of abuse as a child or adult?



Threatened suicide or said they could not go on without you?

**Abuse is a learned behavior.  
Abusive behaviors are a choice.  
No one has the right to abuse.  
No one deserves to be abused.**

## Domestic Violence: Myths vs. Facts

There are many myths relating to domestic violence in gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, and questioning communities. These myths are held both within these communities and by the mainstream public. Myths are harmful because they can be misused to excuse abusive behaviors and they may keep someone who is being abused from seeking support.

### Helpful Facts:

- ~ Violence and abuse are found in all parts of our community. No group, regardless of race, class, ethnicity, gender identity, age, ability, education, politics, religion or lifestyle, is free from abuse.
- ~ Alcohol and drug abuse may become part of the dynamics of abuse, but they do not cause abuse.
- ~ Most sexual minorities experience some kind of stress and many have experienced childhood violence, but these factors in no cause one to perpetuate abusive behavior or domestic violence.
- ~ Survivors of abuse in lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer relationships are often hesitant to seek out mainstream resources for help due to homophobia and fear of not being believed.
- ~ Every person deserves safety, dignity, and respect in their intimate partnerships.

## ATVP Services:

24-hour Crisis Intervention  
Advocacy-Based Counseling  
Emergency Confidential Shelter  
Legal and Medical Advocacy  
Information and Referrals  
Support Groups

ATVP services are free, confidential, and provided without discrimination on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, sex, ability, age, national origin, or marital status.

## Useful Statistics

Between 20% and 35% of relationships between lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender partners include abuse, a rate equal to that of heterosexual relationships.

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 2002

A recent study of gay and bisexual men found 2 in 5 relationships experience abuse between intimate partners.

American Journal of Public Health, 2002

In recent studies about intimate partner violence between women, anywhere between 40% and 50% were in at least one abusive relationship with another woman.

National Coalition of Anti-Violent Programs, 2002

The Portland, Oregon based 1998 Survivor Project's Gender, Violence, and Resource Access Survey of transgender and intersex individuals found that 50% of respondents had been raped or assaulted by a romantic partner, though only 62% of these individuals identified themselves as survivors of domestic violence when asked.

National Coalition of Anti-Violent Programs, 2002

# ATVP

## Celebrating 25 Years of Survivors' Strength in 2005

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**24-Hour Hotline**  
Collect Crisis Calls Accepted

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# Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse

*Relationship Violence in the  
Lesbian, Gay, Trans, Bisexual,  
and Questioning Community*



Help for victims and  
survivors of domestic  
violence and  
sexual assault

24 hour Crisis Hotline  
**(509) 332-HELP**  
or  
**(208) 883-HELP**