

Intimate Partner Violence Against Transgender and Gender Expansive Individuals: A Review of Existing Literature

Maya Novick

Allyson Blackburn, MS

Rachel C. Garthe, PhD

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Abstract

In the past 20 years, more research has been directed toward intimate partner violence (IPV) within lesbian, gay, and bisexual relationships. However, few studies have examined the prevalence of IPV among transgender and gender expansive (TGE) individuals. This is concerning, given that transgender individuals may be at particularly high risk for IPV. A large, national study in the United States surveyed transgender individuals, and 54% of respondents reported experiencing at least one form of IPV. Given the unique oppressions that places TGE populations at risk for violence, as well as the dearth of research that includes these populations, a thorough synthesis and review of the literature is warranted. In the current study, a literature review was conducted that examined published articles between 2010 and 2020. This review sought to better understand the prevalence, impact, and correlates of IPV victimization among TGE individuals. Articles were searched for on Google Scholar and PsycInfo between September and November of 2022 using the following search terms: ("intimate partner violence" or "domestic abuse" or "domestic violence") AND ((LGBT or LGBTQ) OR (transgender or "gender expansive" or "gender nonbinary" or "gender nonconforming")). A synthesis of the articles and recommendations for future research is provided.

Keywords: transgender and gender expansive, intimate partner violence, and identity abuse.

About the authors: *Maya Novick is a junior working toward a dual degree in social work and psychology. Their research interests the prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) within the LGBTQ+ community and the prevention of sexual violence on college campuses.*

Allyson M. Blackburn is a doctoral candidate in Clinical and Community Psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign researching sexual and gender-based violence.

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Background

- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is an omnipresent social issue and preliminary research suggests that Transgender and Gender Expansive (TGE) individuals might be at disproportionate risk.
- Understanding IPV prevalence among TGE people is crucial for prevention and response efforts as IPV is associated with adverse physical and mental health outcomes (Testa et al., 2012).
- In our current study, we will be analyzing a set of six articles that specifically study the experiences of TGE people with the goal of identifying gaps in the literature.

Method

- PsychINFO and Google Scholar were used to find literature in September through November of 2022.
- Articles were included if: 1) Data on IPV victimization among TGE individuals was provided; 2) The study was written in English; 3) The study was published within the last 20 years.
- After scanning titles and abstracts, 25 articles were reviewed in full to determine if they met our inclusion criteria.
- Six articles were ultimately included in this review.
- We systematically coded the following data: the prevalence of IPV, sample size, the methods used, measures, key findings and prevalence rates of IPV.

Results

- All articles were written between 2010-2020.
- IPV was most frequently divided into three sectors of abuse: physical, psychological, and sexual.
- Only two of the studies presented data on IPV that are unique to TGE individuals (see Table 1). This finding indicates that TGE specific IPV is a subset of IPV that warrants further examination.
- Overall IPV ranged from 22% - 80%

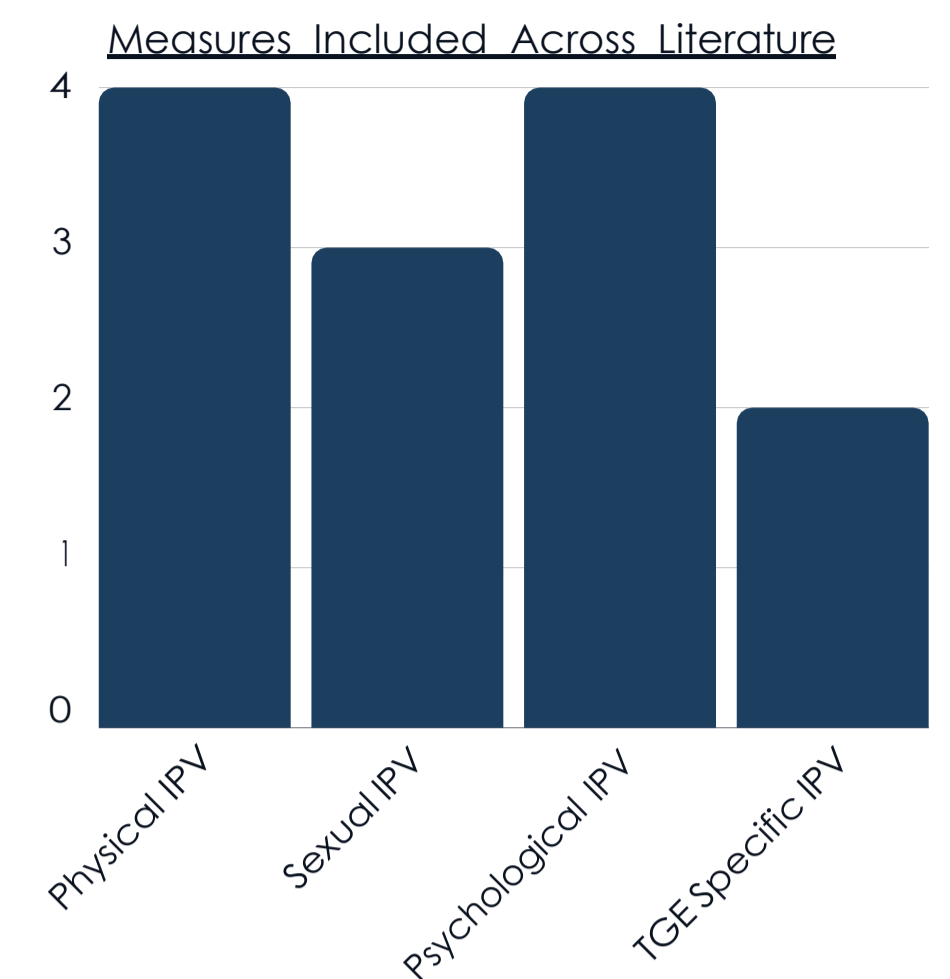




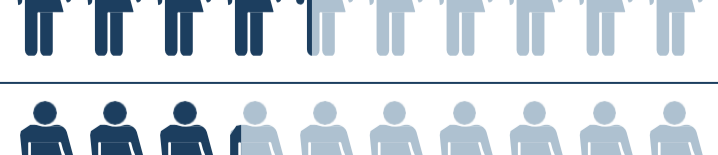



FIGURE 1. Bar chart of the measures used across studies.

Discussion

- IPV in these studies were common and was most commonly divided into psychological, physical, and sexual abuse.
- Few studies focused on IPV that specifically targets someone's status as a member of a gender minority group. Identity Abuse is defined as abuse tactics that specifically leverage societal oppression systems to harm an individual (Woulfe & Goodman, 2021).
- We recommend researchers examine how current system responses can be altered to better cater to TGE survivors.
- Some limitations to our study were that our data was not double coded and publication bias may have occurred because we only pulled from published data. Future studies should include a meta-analysis that includes dissertations and unpublished data.
- Future studies should examine differences within groups (e.g. the experience of transgender women vs. the experience of nonbinary folk).

TABLE 1. Data of coded articles; PSYCH acronym refers to studies having measures on either psychological or emotional abuse, SEXUAL refers to studies having measures on sexual violence, and TGE refers to IPV specifically targeting a survivor's Transgender and/or Gender Expansive identity.

STUDY	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	OVERALL IPV	PSYCH	PHYSICAL	SEXUAL	TGE	OVERALL PREVALENCE
James et al., (2018)	N=27,715	54%	44%	35%	-	-	
Goldenberg et al., (2018)	N=131	45%	-	-	-	-	
Henry et al., (2018)	N=78	72%	70.6%	42.3%	32.1%	73%	
Roch et al., (2010)	N=60	80%	60%	45%	47%	-	
Garthe et al., (2018)	N=204	44%	22%	20%	16%	18%	
Langenderfer-Magruder et al., (2016)	N=1,139	22%	-	-	-	-	

References & Resources

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National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 800-656-4673

Text “START” to: 88788