Sexual Violence in the GLBTIQ Community

Resources

Campus:
- The Women's Resource Center & Interpersonal Violence Prevention Center
  KH 3431, 770-794-7858
- GLBTIQ Student Resource Center
  ST 164, 770-794-7926
- Counseling and Psychological Services
  KH 2401, 770-423-6600
- KSU Student Health Services
  770-423-6644
- KSU Public Safety, Emergency
  770-423-6666

Local:
- The Health Initiative
  404-688-2524 ext. 112

National:
- RAINN: Rape, Abuse & Incest Nat'l Network
  www.rainn.org, 1-800-656-HOPE
- The Survivor Project
  www.survivorproject.org
- National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
  www.avp.org, 212-714-1141

Information gathered from:

University of Minnesota Morris

&

KSU Women's Resource & Interpersonal Violence Prevention Center

GLBTIQ Student Retention Services

Student Center, Room 164
www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/glbtiq
glbtiq@kennesaw.edu
770-794-7926
Unique issues in the GLBTIQ community...

Survivors who are not “out” may find sharing and/or reporting the sexual assault difficult or impossible.

Due to the lack of awareness of same-sex sexual assault, the GLBTIQ community may make silence appear to be the only option.

If the survivor’s community is small, the fear of others’ skepticism and/or people “taking sides” may cause the survivor to keep silent.

One’s own internalized homophobia may further complicate the complexities of sexual assault.

Guilt and self-blame may lead to questioning one’s sexual identity.

Gay/bi male survivors may be apprehensive to report and fear being ignored and/or rejected as overly sensitive due to the stereotype that they are promiscuous and invited it upon themselves.

Lesbian/bi women survivors may face being ignored or having their claims disregarded if their attacker is a female because women are not socially seen as sexual perpetrators.

Trans* survivors may fear discrimination from both police and medical personnel.

The perception that sexual assault services are only for cisgender women can often lead to trans* and cis-males to avoid seeking services.

Common fears of GLBTIQ survivors of Sexual Violence...

Not being taken seriously or having their experiences minimized.

Having their experiences sensationalized.

Having to explain how the assault happened in more detail than one would ask a survivor of opposite sex assault.

Are GLBTIQ identified individuals more likely to be sexually assaulted by a stranger?

Regrettably, the answer is yes. Due to the heightened homophobia in the United States, LGBT individuals are at a greater risk for sexual assaults by strangers. Perpetrators frequently use sexual assaults against GLBTIQ individuals (and individuals perceived to be GLBTIQ) to punish and humiliate them. This can be seen when an individual believes that they can “change” a woman’s sexual orientation by specifically targeting lesbian and bisexual women for sexual assaults.

How can I help my friend/partner?

Believe your friend or partner who has been sexually assaulted/raped.

Respect their need for confidentiality.

Avoid judgmental comments/jokes.

Ask how you can be of assistance rather than giving them advice.

Respect their decisions.

Be a good listener.

Avoid pressure to resume any form of sexual activity until initiated by your partner.

Offer your unconditional love and support.