

LGBTQ+ STUDENTS

The University recognizes that some members of the Lehigh community may experience harassment and sexual misconduct differently due to their identities, which may lead to additional challenges in reporting incidents. We are committed to fostering an inclusive environment and embracing academic, cultural, economic, and physical differences. We recognize that in some situations, these differences can affect access to resources and willingness to report incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct.

- 44% of lesbians and 61% of bisexual women experience sexual assault, stalking, or intimate partner violence (IPV) by an intimate partner as compared to 35% of heterosexual women.
- 26% of gay men and 37% of bisexual men experience sexual assault, stalking, or IPV by an intimate partner as compared to 29% of heterosexual men.
- 4 in 10 LGBTQ college students reported IPV victimization or perpetration within a current relationship. The majority of LGBTQ survivors of IPV were between the ages of 19 and 29.
- More than one-third of the victims told no one about the abuse, a rate that is higher than generally found among heterosexual college students.
- A concern unique to LGBTQ students is the threat of being outed, which can be a threat used to control and abuse another person in a relationship. For those who are concerned about reporting because they aren't out, we recognize the complexity of the situation and will work with you to determine how best to support you while respecting your privacy.

Resources and support are available to all students, faculty, and staff. We recognize that reporting incidents and utilizing resources may be particularly challenging for some identities, and the Equal Opportunity Compliance Coordinator (EOCC) and Office of Gender Violence Education & Support (GVES) strive to assist individuals to address those challenges. The University works with each individual to identify resources and support that are specific to each person's needs. More information can be found at eocc.lehigh.edu or at lehigh.edu/go/gves or you can contact GVES or the EOCC directly to learn more.



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