

# The Impact of IPV on the LGBTQ+ Community: Health System Response and Responsibility

*Brigham and Women's Hospital's  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual Event Honoring*



February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# Event Overview

## *Introductory Remarks and Event Overview*

- **Jeffrey Katz, MD, MSc:** Professor of Medicine and Orthopedic Surgery, HMS; Director, Orthopedic and Arthritis Center for Outcomes Research, BWH
- **Claire McHugh, BS:** Research Assistant, Orthopedic and Arthritis Center for Outcomes Research, BWH

## *V-Day and the Impact of IPV on LGBTQ+ populations*

- **Zoe Zimmerman, BS:** Research Assistant, Orthopedic and Arthritis Center for Outcomes Research, BWH
- **Carrie Braverman, MSW, LICSW:** HIV Clinical Social Worker, BWH; Co-chair BWH LGBTQ & Friends Employee Resource Group

## *Survivor Speakers*

### *Panel Discussion*

- Moderated by **Christopher AhnAllen, PhD:** Co-Director of Psychology and Director of Psychology Education, BWH
- Featuring
  - **Trevor Boylston:** Racial Equity Action Committee Chair, Fenway Health; Former Global Lead, Boston Scientific's LGBTQ+ ERG called "PRIDE" – Promoting Respect, Inclusion, Diversity, & Equality
  - **Sam Nguyen, MPH, MSW:** Passageway Domestic Violence Advocate, Center for Community Health and Health Equity, BWH
  - **Erica Pérez:** Community Awareness Associate, The Network/La Red
  - **Jennifer Potter, MD:** Co-Chair of The Fenway Institute; Professor of Medicine, HMS; Founding Director of the Women's Health Center and Attending Physician, Beth Israel Lahey Health

**CONTENT WARNING // suicide and self-harm, sexual assault, and child abuse**

***Please submit questions publicly in the Zoom chat or via private message to Mardi Chadwick Balcom!***

# What is V-Day?

- V-Day is an organized response against violence toward all women, girls, and the planet
- The mission of V-day is to raise awareness, funds, and motivation to continue to combat intimate partner violence
- This year, we hope to expand from the solely female-focused approach to V-day and examine violence in relation to persons of all gender identities and sexual orientations

# Key Terminology

- **Trauma:** an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as **physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening** and has **lasting adverse effects** on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.
- **Interpersonal Violence:** violence **between individuals**, which includes **family and intimate partner violence and community violence**.
  - **Intimate partner violence (IPV)** can include acts of **physical violence, sexual violence, emotional abuse, and controlling behaviors**.

# Burden of IPV in LGBTQ+ populations

- Bisexual women are 1.8 times more likely to report ever having experienced IPV than heterosexual women
- 26.9% of gay men experience IPV in their lifetimes
- In a 2015 survey of 27,715 transgender people, more than half (54%) experienced some form of IPV



# Advice for providers during patient visits

# Creating a Safe Space

## *Using Inclusive Language*

- Introduce yourself using name and pronouns (including how you prefer others address you)
- Ask for and use patients' and colleagues' names and pronouns
- Ask/clarify gender of partners as well as type (casual, committed, etc.) and number

“Hello, my name is Joseph Smith. I’m a physical therapist and my pronouns are he/him. You can just call me Joe. What name and pronouns would you like me to use for you?”

# Creating a Safe Space, Cont.

*When asking about IPV or when someone discloses IPV...*

- Confirm privacy before asking screening questions
  - When on-site, ask partner(s) to leave the room
  - If virtual, clarify whether the patient is alone or partner/others are nearby – can ask “do you have privacy for this conversation?”
- Provide universal education (disclosure is not necessary to provide information/resources)
- Use the appropriate language when discussing identity and IPV



# Creating a Safe Space, Cont.

*When asking about IPV or when someone discloses IPV...*

- Maintain awareness of one's own unconscious bias
- Acknowledge that stigma, bias, and racism are forms of trauma
- Be transparent ("I don't have an answer to XYZ, but I do have resources and colleagues here. I will inquire and get back to you.")

# Resources

- Passageway: 617-732-8753
- MGB Employee Assistance Program (EAP): <https://eap.partners.org/>
- BWH Faculty/Trainee Mental Health Program: 617-732-8905
- Suicide prevention resources: <https://afsp.org/suicide-prevention-resources>
- The Trevor Project: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help/>
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255
- The Network / La Red Hotline: 800-832-1901
- Safelink Hotline / Jane Doe Inc.: [www.janedoe.org](http://www.janedoe.org), 877-785-2020
- Fenway Health Violence Recovery Program: <https://fenwayhealth.org/care/behavioral-health/violence-recovery>, 617-927-6202