

### LGBT Individuals

- 82% of the suspected perpetrators of child sexual abuse in a study sample were at the time of the offense or had been at some time involved in a heterosexual relationship with a close relative of the child they victimized. In their study sample, researchers found that a child's risk of being molested by his or her relative's heterosexual partner was over 100 times greater than their being molested by someone who identifies as being homosexual, lesbian or bisexual (0.7% of the cases).<sup>1</sup>
- According to a study conducted in Massachusetts, young lesbians and bisexual girls experienced more sexual harassment than heterosexual girls. 72% of lesbian and bisexual girls reported that they were "called sexually offensive names" by their peers, compared with 63% of heterosexual girls. Lesbians and bisexual girls were significantly more likely than heterosexual girls to be "touched, brushed up against, or cornered in a sexual way (63% as compared to 52% of heterosexual girls) and to be grabbed or have their clothing pulled in a sexual way (50% compared to 44%). 23% of young lesbian and bisexual girls reported that their peers had "attempted to hurt them in a sexual way (attempted rape or rape)," while 6% of the heterosexual girls surveyed had experienced sexual violence of this nature."<sup>2</sup>
- A recent study of 103 transgender women in Massachusetts found that approximately 60% of the respondents have been forced to have sex against their will and 38% had been subject to multiple incidents of sexual assault.<sup>3</sup>
- According to the First National Survey of Transgender Violence, 13.7% of 402 persons reported being a victim of rape or attempted rape.<sup>4</sup>
- In a study of 162 gay men and 111 lesbians, 52% reported at least one incident of sexual coercion by same-sex partners. Gay men experienced 1.6 incidents per person; while lesbians experienced 1.2 incidents per person.<sup>5</sup>
- According to a study of homeless and marginally housed people, 32% of women, 27% of men, and 38% of transgendered persons reported either physical or sexual victimization in the previous year. Sexual assault was reported by 9.4% of women,

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<sup>1</sup> Jenny, C., Roesler, T.A., & Poyer, K.L. (1994) "Are Children at Risk For Sexual Abuse by Homosexuals?" Pediatrics Vol. 94, No. 1, 41-44.

<sup>2</sup> Susan Fineran, "Sexual Minority Students and Peer Sexual Harassment in High School," Journal of School Social Work, vol.11: 2001.

<sup>3</sup> *HIV Prevention and Health Education Needs for Transgender Women in the Greater Boston Area (Community Needs Assessment Summary Report Draft)*, Cambridge Cares About AIDS TransCEND Program, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> "GenderPAC, Gender, Affectional, and Racial Equality," April, 1997. First Annual Survey of Transgender Violence.

<sup>5</sup> Waldner-Haugrud, Lisa K. and Vaden Gratch, Linda. 1997. "Sexual Coercion in Gay/Lesbian Relationships: Descriptives and Gender Differences." Violence and Victims 12(1): 87-98.

1.4% of men and 11.9% of transgendered persons. Marginally housed people reported significantly less victimization than those who were homeless.<sup>6</sup>

- GLBT homeless youth were physically and sexually victimized on average by seven more people than heterosexual homeless youth.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Kushel, Evans, Perry, Robertson, & Moss, 2003

<sup>7</sup> WCSAP, 2004.

