

SASKATCHEWAN SURVEY OF INDIVIDUALS TO EVALUATE THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS ABOUT ABUSE IN FEMALE SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF AND NEED FOR "LESBIAN FRIENDLY" SERVICES FOR WOMEN ABUSED IN SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS

We need your help. Thank you for reading and responding to the following:

ABOUT THE STUDY

The Saskatchewan Ad Hoc Committee on Abuse in Lesbian Relationships received funding from Status of Women Canada to evaluate the availability of and need for "lesbian friendly" services for women abused in same-sex relationships. The Ad Hoc Committee is comprised of five members, being: [Gay & Lesbian Health Services of Saskatoon](#) (GLHS), the Lesbian Bisexual and Gay Health Initiative (LBGHI) (Regina), the [Provincial Association of Transition Houses of Saskatchewan](#) (PATHS), [Sexual Assault Services of Saskatchewan](#) (SASS), and the [University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Centre](#) (USSU LGB Centre). Virginia Fisher, Coordinator of PATHS, and Dawn McCarthy, Executive Director of SASS, are the staff members of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The attached questionnaire is being made available all over Saskatchewan, for completion by any woman who considers herself to be a woman who has or has had intimate sexual relationships with women, whether she calls herself lesbian, dyke, gay, queer, a woman who sleeps with women, bi-sexual, two-spirited, or by some other label or none at all. The more completed questionnaires we receive, the better picture we can develop of the level of awareness about abuse in female same-sex relationships, and the availability of and need for "lesbian friendly" services for women abused in same-sex in specific areas of the province. Your feedback would therefore be extremely valuable. The completion of each questionnaire should take less than 15 minutes.

YOUR PARTICIPATION

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. All of the information collected as part of this survey is anonymous and will be kept confidential. You can discontinue completing the questionnaire at any time and you do not have to answer any question you do not want to. The majority of information resulting from this survey will be reported and presented publicly in aggregate form only. Reference to specific questionnaires will be made rarely and without any reference to identifying characteristics. The completed questionnaires will be stored in a secure manner such that no one other than the Ad Hoc Committee and its employees have access to the raw data. If you have any questions about this questionnaire or the survey itself, please call Virginia Fisher at (306) 978-6654 or email her at paths@sk.sympatico.ca.

Having read the information presented above, do you wish to participate?

YES - Please return this form with the questionnaire in the attached envelope by December 7, 2001.

If you would like a copy of the resulting report, please send a separate request to the **Saskatchewan Ad Hoc Committee on Abuse in Lesbian Relationships** by FAX to (306) 978-6692 or by e-mail to paths@sk.sympatico.ca. Our preference will be to supply the report by Word attachment to an email and by a link to a web site address where the report will be available in html, pdf and Word.

THANK YOU very much for your participation.

Abuse in Lesbian Relationships: Questionnaire for Individuals

This is a survey to measure the level of awareness in Saskatchewan's 'lesbian community' about abuse in female same-sex relationships and the availability of and need for 'lesbian friendly' services for women abused in same-sex relationships. This questionnaire is for **any woman living in Saskatchewan who considers herself to be a woman who has or has had intimate sexual relationships with women**, whether she calls herself lesbian, dyke, gay, queer, a woman who sleeps with women, bi-sexual, two-spirited, or by some other label or none at all.

1. Your sexual orientation/preference is known: (check all that apply)

to: very few friends some friends most friends all friends

to: very few family members some family members most/all family members

to no one but your partner/ex-partner at work/school to your doctor

to your therapist/counselor to your spiritual advisor to an Elder

2. Of those you are out to, your sexual orientation/preference is generally accepted:

(check all that apply)

by friends by family at work/school by your doctor by your partner/ex-partner

by your therapist/counselor by your spiritual advisor by an Elder

3. What do you currently know about abuse in intimate relationships generally?

nothing very little some quite a bit

4. What do you currently know about abuse in female same-sex relationships?

nothing very little some quite a bit

5. Of the following, which would you consider to be abusive in an intimate same-sex relationship: (check all that apply)

slapping, hitting, punching, choking, kicking,

scratching, biting, hair pulling, grabbing, shoving, cornering

punching, kicking, smashing or slamming doors, walls, furniture, possessions

abuse of: your kids, your pets

threatening you with: weapons, looks, gestures

threatening suicide; threatening to leave you

verbal threats to hurt: you, your kids, friends, family, pets

forcing you to have: sex, rough sex

putting down: your kids, friends, family

putting you down, calling you names, swearing at you, yelling

humiliating you in front of other people

controlling: all the money, including money you earn

making you responsible for the money, and blaming you when there's not enough

not allowing you to work, insisting that you work

blaming: you, your kids for almost everything

making you feel like nothing you do is ever good enough, making you the 'bad guy'

treating you like a servant or slave, refusing to let you leave the relationship

controlling: where you go, what you do, what you wear

controlling: who you see, who you talk to, what you say

outing you against your wishes, threatening to out you, refusing to let you be out

other (please specify): _____

6. What do you currently know about the services offered by abuse help agencies to abused straight women?

nothing very little some quite a bit

7. What do you currently know about the services offered by abuse help agencies to women abused in same-sex relationships?

nothing very little some quite a bit

8. If someone who was experiencing abuse in a female same-sex relationship asked you where to get information or assistance, what would you suggest?

9. Your current status:

single

in a female same-sex relationship

other (please specify) _____

10. Have you ever been abused in a female same-sex relationship? yes no

If no, please go to question 25.

If yes, and you are not currently in a female same-sex relationship, go to question 12.

11. Have you been abused in your current female same-sex relationship? yes no

If no, go to question 12.

If yes, is this the first same-sex relationship in which you have been abused? yes no

If yes, go to question 16.

12. While in your past abusive same-sex relationship(s), what did you know about abuse in intimate relationships?

nothing very little some quite a bit

13. While in your past abusive same-sex relationship(s), what did you know about abuse in female same-sex relationships?

nothing very little some quite a bit

14. While in your past abusive same-sex relationship(s), what did you know about the services offered by abuse help agencies to abused women in general?

nothing very little some quite a bit

15. While in your past abusive same-sex relationship(s), what did you know about the services offered by abuse help agencies to women abused in same-sex relationships?

nothing very little some quite a bit

16. If you have been or are being abused in a female same-sex relationship, which of the following has occurred: (check all that apply)

- slapping, hitting, punching, choking, kicking,
- scratching, biting, hair pulling, grabbing, shoving, cornering
- punching, kicking, or smashing walls, doors, furniture, possessions
- abuse of: your kids, your pets
- threatening you with: weapons, looks, gestures
- threatening suicide; threatening to leave you
- verbal threats to hurt: you, your kids, friends, family, pets
- forcing you to have: sex, rough sex
- putting down: your kids, friends, family
- putting you down, calling you names, swearing at you, yelling
- humiliating you in front of other people;
- controlling: all the money, including money you earn
- making you responsible for the money, and blaming you when there's not enough
- not allowing you to work, insisting that you work
- blaming: you, your kids for almost everything
- making you feel like nothing you do is ever good enough, making you the 'bad guy'
- treating you like a servant or slave, refusing to let you leave the relationship
- controlling: where you go, what you do, what you wear
- controlling: who you see, who you talk to, what you say
- outing you against your wishes, threatening to out you, refusing to let you be out
- other (please specify):

17. While in an abusive same-sex relationship, you have talked about the abuse to: (check all that apply)

- no one friends family your abusive partner
- co-worker doctor therapist/counselor
- spiritual advisor Elder other (please specify)_____

18. While in an abusive same-sex relationship, have you sought help or support from an abuse help agency? yes no

If yes, go to question 20.

19. If you have not sought help or support from an abuse help agency while in an abusive same-sex relationship, why not? (check all that apply)

afraid of partner hadn't self-identified as an abuse victim in denial about abuse
 no idea where to go for help too ashamed didn't feel safe going to an agency
 felt that sexual orientation was a barrier worried about anonymity/confidentiality
 your 'butchness' makes you look like you're the abuser other (please specify):

What might have encouraged you to seek the services of an abuse help agency?

If you are currently in your first abusive female same-sex relationship, go to question 25. Otherwise, go to question 21.

20. If you have sought help or support from an abuse help agency while in an abusive female same-sex relationship, where did you go for help?

Why did you go there for help? Were you aware at the time of anything else that was available?

How did it go? What was helpful? What was not helpful? Were there gaps in service? Do you have suggestions for improvement?

If you are currently in your first abusive female same-sex relationship, go to question 25.

21. Since leaving an abusive same-sex relationship, you have talked about the abuse to:

(check all that apply)

- no one friends family new partner ex-partner
 co-worker doctor therapist/counselor
 spiritual advisor Elder other (please specify) _____

22. Since leaving an abusive same-sex relationship, have you sought help or support from an abuse help agency? yes no

If yes, go to question 24.

23. If you have not sought help or support from an abuse help agency since leaving an abusive same-sex relationship, why not? (check all that apply)

- afraid of ex-partner hadn't self-identified as an abuse victim in denial about abuse
 no idea where to go for help too ashamed didn't feel safe going to an agency
 felt that sexual orientation was a barrier worried about anonymity/confidentiality
 your 'butchness' makes you look like you're the abuser other (please specify):

What might have encouraged you to seek the services of an abuse help agency?

Go to question 25.

24. If you have sought help or support from an abuse help agency since leaving an abusive female same-sex relationship, where did you go for help?

Why did you go there for help? Were you aware at the time of anything else that was available?

How did it go? What was helpful? What was not helpful? Were there gaps in service? Do you have suggestions for improvement?

