

Understanding Coercive Control in 2SLGBTQIA+ Communities

Keywords

Intimate partner violence; 2SLGBTQIA+; scoping review

Helpful Terms

2SLGBTQIA+: Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual and other gender nonconforming or sexually diverse people.

Coercive control: A form of intimate partner violence. Involves exerting control over the partner. Includes emotional abuse, economic abuse, intimidation, isolation, blaming, and limiting access to friends, family, money, movement and information.

Intimate partner violence: Domestic violence by a current or former partner in an intimate relationship against the other partner. It can take a number of forms, including physical, verbal, emotional, economic and sexual abuse.

Project Title: *A scoping review of the lived experience, measurement, and policing of coercive control in 2SLGBTQIA+ relationships*

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Key Question

- What is the state of the current research on coercive control among 2SLGBTQIA+ communities?

Project Aims

Intimate partner violence is especially prevalent in the lives of 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Coercive control is often understood in terms of using “male privilege” against women, but this theory may be inappropriate to apply to 2SLGBTQIA+ relationships. A law adding coercive control to the Criminal Code of Canada has been proposed. But it isn’t clear how police assess coercive control and how they can support 2SLGBTQIA+ people who report it. Furthermore, existing measures largely assess men’s use of coercive control with women.

Thus, 2SLGBTQIA+ communities’ experiences of coercive control deserve timely attention. This scoping review will set the stage for advancing research on coercive control in 2SLGBTQIA+ relationships. The study will guide ways to improve current research methods. It will also help set a research agenda to support evidence-based policing of coercive control in 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

Activities

- Summarizing the existing research on coercive control in 2SLGBTQIA+ relationships.
- Assessing how researchers currently measure and study coercive control, and whether those measures help us understand 2SLGBTQIA+ experiences.
- Examining the research on how police view coercive control—and on 2SLGBTQIA+ people’s experiences of reporting (or choosing not to report) coercive control to police.