

Annotated Bibliography:

Intersections of Gender-Based Violence and Black Women's Experiences

Bukowski, L. A., Hampton, M. C., Escobar-Viera, C. G., Sang, J. M., Chandler, C. J., Henderson, E., Creasy, S. L., & Stall, R. D. (2019). Intimate partner violence and depression among black transgender women in the USA: The potential suppressive effect of perceived social support. *Journal of Urban Health*, 96(5), 760–771.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-019-00355-3>

Researchers from the University of Pittsburgh and Emory University explored the link between intimate partner violence (IPV) and depression among Black transgender women who have sex with men across 6 U.S cities. Through a statistical analysis of survey data from the Promoting Our Worth, Equality, and Resilience (POWER) study, the authors found a high prevalence of IPV among Black transgender women as well as a respective correlation to increased symptoms associated with depression. Moreover, access to a social support network may decrease depression among Black transgender women who have experienced IPV. Recommendations from this study included increasing access to economic opportunities as a method to reduce dependency on a partner as well as opportunities for connecting with other Black transgender women. The researchers filled a critical gap in literature by focusing on the experiences of Black transgender women, who are often left out of anti-gender violence initiatives yet encounter disproportionately high rates of IPV.

Hampton, R. L., LaTaillade, J. J., Dacey, A., & Marghi, J. R. (2008). Evaluating domestic violence interventions for black women. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 16(3), 330–353. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10926770801925759>

This peer-reviewed article provided an evaluation of interventions for Black women survivors of domestic violence through a literature review. Key findings include the inadequacy of the criminal justice response due to systemic racism, which resulted in Black women survivors naming law enforcement unhelpful when called to a scene. Black women reported feeling more uncomfortable reporting abuse when mandatory intervention policies were in effect. Incorporating a restorative justice response was encouraged in order to empower Black women to address the issues in their community, for example through mediation or intimate abuse circles. These recommendations are aligned with Richie & Eife (2020) as well as Johnson (2015).

Johnson, M. Z. (2015). The science of resilience: What the world can learn from QTPOC survivors of domestic violence [Blog]. *Black Girl Dangerous*.

<https://www.bgdblog.org/2015/03/the-science-of-resilience-what-the-world-can-learn-from-qt poc-survivors-of-domestic-violence/>

Johnson offered an accessible analysis of her lived experience as a queer Black woman and survivor of domestic violence. The author argued that QTPOC survivors are “their own heroes in seeking out care” because they do not have the option of relying on the carceral justice system which is built on their oppression (para. 8). Survivors of colour are creating the resources that they need to address the harm in their community, for example through safe spaces that are free from homophobia and transphobia. Exploring alternatives to the criminal justice system through safety plans and community accountability is critical in order to end violence in communities of colour. Johnson provided a personal perspective in accordance with findings from both Hampton, LaTaillade, Dacey & Marghi (2008) as well as Richie & Eife (2020).

Johnson, K. (2018). The SASHA model: Black women’s triangulation of rape [Infographic].

Sexual Assault Services for Holistic Healing and Awareness Center.

https://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SASHA-Model-Black-Womens-Triangulation-and-Rape_Condencia-Brade.pdf

Johnson, a Black survivor and founder of the Sexual Assault Services for Holistic Healing and Awareness Center, introduced a new model revealing the roots of gender-based violence for Black women through a visual pyramid. For example, one side of the pyramid displays that systemic barriers such as police violence and legacy of slavery are at the foundation of the issue and lead to cultural appropriation. Next, cultural appropriation contributes to the over-sexualizing of Black women through misogynoir. The result is the de-humanization of Black women through assaults and microaggressions. This tool exposes the need for culturally relevant services that considers a holistic approach to healing, as many studies have suggested such as McMahon & Seabrook (2020), West (2002) and Wooten, S. C. (2017).

MacDougall, A. M. (2020, February 21). Black women in Canada and the black women's program at BWSS [Blog]. *Battered Women's Support Services*.

<https://www.bwss.org/black-women-in-canada/>

This article, written by Black activist and executive director at Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS), offers a brief overview of the history of Black people in Vancouver and connects these contexts to the high prevalence of gender-based violence Black women experience. Citing the concept "misogynoir", the ways in which misogyny and race interlock with each other and contribute to the silencing of Black women's experiences of violence are discussed. In the final section, the author explains that the BWSS responds to these concerns by providing programming specific to Black women, which are run by and for them. Examples of services offered include workshops about self-love, monthly meet-ups, and support groups

focusing on trauma. This article provided concrete examples of culturally sensitive services that other authors have called for, including McMahon & Seabrook (2020), West (2002) and Wooten, S. C. (2017).

McMahon, S., & Seabrook, R. C. (2020). Reasons for nondisclosure of campus sexual violence by sexual and racial/ethnic minority women. *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*, 57(4), 417–431. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19496591.2019.1662798>

Researchers from Rutgers University examined reasoning behind nondisclosure of campus sexual violence by both LGBTQ survivors and racialized women at a mid-Atlantic university. Through an online survey, LGBTQ survivors and racialized women identified stigma as the main reason for nondisclosure due to a fear of not being believed as well as a fear of tarnishing the reputation of their respective community. Therefore, the researchers argued against a “one-size-fits-all” model (426) and alternatively called to strengthen culturally sensitive services that ought to be paired with efforts to end systematic racism and homophobia. A major limitation of this study was their lack of cross-analysis of these two social groups because racialized women can also be members of the LGBTQ+ community. This critical intersection was examined by Simpson & Helfrich (2014).

Richie, B. E., & Eife, E. (2020). Black bodies at the dangerous intersection of gender violence and mass criminalization. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10926771.2019.1703063>

This study, conducted by researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago, used case history to connect gender violence experienced by Black women and their systematic overcriminalization in the United States. Notably, they presented the Violence Matrix as a critical analysis tool, which examines the interlocking intersections of physical assault, sexual assault and social

disenfranchisement at three levels: in households, community and the social sphere. The authors condemn prison reform as ineffective at preventing harm for Black women survivors and instead call for re-investing in communities of colour. Similarly to Hampton, LaTaillade, Dacey, & Marghi (2008), this study concluded that there is a need for transformative justice responses that refuse to depend on the violence of the criminal justice system.

Simpson, E. K., & Helfrich, C. A. (2014). Oppression and barriers to service for black, lesbian survivors of intimate partner violence. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, 26(4), 441–465. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10538720.2014.951816>

This study by researchers at Midwestern University and Boston University examined the specific barriers to intimate partner violence services faced by lesbian and bisexual Black women. On a societal level, participants named homophobia, classism, sexism, racism and/or disability as systems that impacted their safety. On an agency level, the barriers experienced included lack of confidentiality, discriminatory language and lack of outreach in Black communities. Services must be individualized to meet the needs of diverse clients, which incorporates a cultural competency and anti-oppression component. While this study filled a critical gap by examining the effects of homophobia in Black communities, their conclusion is also supported by McMahon & Seabrook (2020), West (2002) and Wooten, S. C. (2017).

West, C. M. (2002). I Find Myself at Therapy's Doorstep: Summary and Suggested Readings on Violence in the Lives of Black Women. *Women & Therapy*, 25(3–4), 193–201.

https://doi.org/10.1300/J015v25n03_15

Using a Black feminist lens, this article offers a summary of key terminology, recommendations for anti-violence intervention and further suggested readings. Black women's needs are not adequately addressed by current anti-violence strategies, resulting in finding themselves “at

therapy's doorstep" (194). To improve this state of affairs, key intervention approaches proposed include educating service providers such as therapists and law enforcement; service providers completing a holistic assessment which considers all forms of violence; and ameliorating social support networks for Black women. Similarly to McMahon, & Seabrook (2020) and others, the authors conclude there is a strong need for a culturally sensitive approach to anti-violence that is committed to social justice.

Wooten, S. C. (2017). Revealing a hidden curriculum of black women's erasure in sexual violence prevention policy. *Gender and Education*, 29(3), 405–417.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09540253.2016.1225012>

Using a critical discourse analysis, this study from the Louisiana State University found that Black women's needs are erased in American sexual violence prevention policy due to an ahistorical and acultural approach. An analysis of the report *Not Alone* released in 2014 by the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault revealed that a "race-neutral" model is utilized (406); one that ignores the racism Black women may experience when accessing anti-violence services. The need for an intersectional approach that considers the history of systematic racism that Black women continue to experience is emphasized. This study called to challenge the "homogenised constructions of sexual violence" and advocated against the "neo-liberal call for one-size-fits-all educational policies" (414), parallel to McMahon & Seabrook (2020).