

SPECIFICITIES OF VIOLENCE IN LGBTQIA+ INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS: A NARRATIVE REVIEW OF BRAZILIAN THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

ESPECIFICIDADES DA VIOLÊNCIA NOS RELACIONAMENTOS ÍNTIMOS LGBTQIA+: REVISÃO NARRATIVA DAS TESES E DISSERTAÇÕES BRASILEIRAS

ESPECIFICIDADES DE LA VIOLENCIA EN LAS RELACIONES ÍNTIMAS LGBTQIA+: REVISIÓN NARRATIVA DE LAS TESIS Y DISERTACIONES BRASILEÑAS

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Abstract: Abusive relationships, commonly referred to in the health field under the terminology of intimate partner violence (IPV), are widely documented from a cis heteronormative perspective, with comparatively limited attention to how this phenomenon is experienced by the LGBTQIA+ population. Considering the specific relational experiences within this community — shaped by the presence of social stressors as well as relational dynamics and cultural patterns specific to sexual and gender minorities — it is necessary to explore the particularities of IPV beyond heterosexual populations. This article presents a narrative literature review conducted in the Brazilian Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (BDTD), examining Brazilian academic works on the phenomenon. The findings indicate a scarcity of studies addressing this topic, with a predominance of research focused on the experiences of cisgender gay men and limited attention to other segments of the LGBTQIA+ community. The results highlight the influence of hetero-centered social conceptions of IPV on rendering its occurrence within LGBTQIA+ relationships invisible, while also pointing to the presence of power imbalances, intersectional vulnerabilities, and institutional barriers that shape these experiences.

Keywords: Intimate Partner Violence; Sexual and Gender Minorities; LGBTQIA+ people.

Resumo: Os relacionamentos abusivos, comumente referidos no campo da saúde sob a terminologia de violência por parceiro íntimo (VPI), são amplamente documentados com enfoque cisheteronormativo, havendo comparativa escassez no que concerne à vivência desse fenômeno pela população LGBTQIA+. Haja vista as especificidades vivenciais de relações amorosas experienciadas por esta comunidade, pelo atravessamento de estressores sociais, bem como a existência de dinâmicas relacionais e padrões culturais específicos a minorias sexuais e de gênero, é mister explorar as particularidades da VPI para além de populações heterossexuais. O presente artigo constitui uma revisão narrativa de literatura, realizada na Biblioteca Digital Brasileira de Teses e Dissertações (BDTD), que explora produções brasileiras sobre o fenômeno. Observou-se escassez de estudos voltados à temática, com predominância de pesquisas centradas nas experiências de homens cis gays e reduzida atenção a outros segmentos da comunidade LGBTQIA+. Os resultados evidenciam a influência de concepções sociais heterocentradas da VPI na invisibilização de sua ocorrência em relações LGBTQIA+, bem como apontam a presença de desigualdades de poder, vulnerabilidades interseccionais e barreiras institucionais que atravessam essas vivências.

Palavras-chave: Violência por Parceiro Íntimo; Minorias Sexuais e de Gênero; Pessoas LGBTQIA+.

Resumen: Las relaciones abusivas, comúnmente denominadas en el campo de la salud bajo la terminología de violencia de pareja íntima (VPI), están ampliamente documentadas desde una perspectiva cisheteronormativa, existiendo una escasez comparativa en lo que respecta a la vivencia de este fenómeno por parte de la población LGBTQIA+. Dadas las especificidades de las experiencias relacionales dentro de esta comunidad —atravesadas por estresores sociales, así como por dinámicas relacionales y patrones culturales propios de las minorías sexuales y de género— resulta necesario explorar las particularidades de la VPI más allá de las poblaciones heterossexuales. El presente artículo constituye una revisión narrativa de la literatura, realizada en la Biblioteca Digital Brasileña de Tesis y Disertaciones (BDTD), que examina producciones académicas brasileñas sobre el fenómeno. Se observó una escasez de estudios centrados en esta temática,



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con predominio de investigaciones enfocadas en las experiencias de hombres cis gays y una atención reducida a otros segmentos de la comunidad LGBTQIA+. Los resultados evidencian la influencia de concepciones sociales heterocentradas de la VPI en la invisibilización de su ocurrencia en relaciones LGBTQIA+, así como señalan la presencia de desigualdades de poder, vulnerabilidades interseccionales y barreras institucionales que atraviesan estas experiencias.

Palabras clave: Violencia de Pareja; Minorías sexuales y de género; Personas LGBTQIA+.

Introduction

Abusive relationships are widely discussed today, being referred to in common parlance on social media, as well as in academic literature (Sousa, 2017) as relationships in which one party exercises excessive power over the other, demonstrating domination through violence (Tribunal de Justiça do Paraná, 2023). It is worth noting the lack of consensus regarding the definition of this concept within the scientific community, with variation in the terminology used to refer to it (Coelho; Silva; Lindner, 2018).

Zibenberg and Costa (2023) analyzed different definitions used for abusive relationships, highlighting their variations and divergences, including those regarding the types of relationships encompassed by the term (Zibenberg; Costa, 2023). Thus, they suggest that “abusive relationship” should encompass “relationships characterized by abusive dynamics in a comprehensive and non-exclusive manner” (Zibenberg; Costa, 2023, p. 40), similar to Pires’s (2022, p. 11) definition: “any intimate relationship in which violence is present, whether explicit or subtle”.

The most broadly used definition in the health field or health sciences arises from the classifications of violence proposed by the World Health Organization (OMS) in the World Report on Violence and Health (Krug *et al.*, 2002). In this report, violence is categorized into three groups: self-inflicted, collective, and interpersonal, with the latter divided into two subgroups, one of which is “family and intimate partner violence”, in which violent acts may be physical, sexual or psychological and may involve deprivation or neglect (Krug *et al.*, 2002, p. 6, my translation).

It is within this typology that abusive romantic relationships are understood, with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) defined as “behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours” (WHO, 2022), encompassing both current and former partners.

It is worth noting the emphasis placed by academic literature and social discourse (Sousa, 2017; OMS, 2018; Krug *et al.*, 2002) on a gender-critical perspective of violent relationships. This lens recognizes the influence of patriarchy on structural social inequalities between men and women and, consequently, on the establishment of hierarchies that lead to the occurrence of violent relational dynamics (Krug *et al.*, 2002; OMS, 2018). Given the high incidence of violence historically suffered by women, the predominance of studies aimed at denouncing, understanding, and seeking ways to combat such subjugation is justified.

However, it is evident that this perspective, focused on violence perpetrated against women by male partners, limits the scope of discussions to relationships in which the participants are cisgender and heterosexual. There are fewer studies that explore violent relationships beyond these frameworks, as noted by Zibenberg and Costa (2023), whose analysis found that 70% of the examined studies focused solely on heterosexual relationships.

The experiences of individuals belonging to sexual and gender minorities are shaped by characteristics of what is known as Minority Stress (MS), a concept that includes stigmatizing and marginalizing social events and processes, such as the internalization of negative self-concepts and the concealment of membership in minority groups (Meyer, 2003). Thus, it is understood that structural and cultural aspects of a cisheteronormative society – which is violent toward individuals who deviate from this norm – often result in physical and psychological illness, highlighting health disparities compared to heterosexual individuals (Meyer, 2003). Gaspar and Vieira (2025) identify effects such as diminished self-esteem, weakened bonds, and a lack of family support, as well as engaging in compensatory behaviors and a willingness to compromise one’s authenticity in order to fit in.

It is noteworthy that there are specific characteristics and vulnerabilities in the experiences of sexual

and gender minorities, including violent relationships. Studies focused primarily on the cisgender heterosexual community contribute to the social perception that in LGBTQIA+ relationships, there are no power asymmetries or systemic violence such as those found in cisgender and heterosexual relationships, making it difficult to recognize such issues. In light of this, this article aims to understand the specific characteristics of violence in relationships among LGBTQIA+ individuals as presented in Brazilian academic literature. To this end, the study is based on a narrative review of Brazilian theses and dissertations.

Methods

This narrative literature review, characterized by the systematization of information with methodological flexibility (Flor *et al.*, 2021), was conducted between October and December 2025. Dissertations and theses were selected because of their theoretical depth and methodological rigor. Accordingly, the search was restricted to the Brazilian Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (BDTD) database.

The terms “abusive relationship” and “intimate partner violence” were combined with keywords referring to the LGBTQIA+ community – whether broad (“sexual and gender minorities”, “LGBT” and “same-sex individuals”) or specific populations (“gays”, “lesbians”, “bisexuals”, “homosexuals”, “trans people”, “men who have sex with men”, and “women who have sex with women”). Truncation characters were used to account for variations in gender and number. The searches were then replicated in English, resulting in the inclusion of one publication (Gil, 2022), whose Portuguese descriptors contained typographical errors.

A total of 187 records were identified. After duplicates were removed and titles and abstracts were screened, studies that did not address both violent relationships and the LGBTQIA+ community were excluded, leaving thirteen studies. It should be noted that some of the studies addressed the intersection of these themes only partially, rather than focusing exclusively on it. Among the selected works, one is confidential (Chotgues, 2023) and was therefore excluded from the analysis. The final sample comprised four doctoral dissertations and eight master’s theses, totaling twelve studies.

Results

The analyzed works, published between 2017 and 2024, exhibit methodological heterogeneity, ranging from quantitative to qualitative studies with descriptive and cross-sectional designs, thereby precluding direct comparisons. Among them, studies involving cisgender gay men predominate, comprising four works. In comparison, other population groups or other target groups were less frequent: two studies addressed cisgender women in relationships with women, two encompassed the LGBTQIA+ community as a whole, and two focused on sexual minority youth, one of which was dedicated exclusively to bisexuals.

It is worth noting the low inclusion of the transgender and non-binary population, especially trans men, reflecting their invisibility in the literature. Two studies focused on the experiences of trans women and transvestites. However, both addressed violence more broadly, with LGBTQIA+ violence being only one category analyzed.

In this regard, LGBTQIA+ IPV, although addressed by all the studies, was not the central focus of a significant portion of them, and it was sometimes addressed only tangentially. Notably, some of the studies included people who had not experienced abusive relationships, focusing instead on their perceptions of the issue. This scenario highlights the scarcity of research specific to diverse populations, hindering a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon.

Furthermore, non-monogamous relationships were not explored in the studies, being mentioned only tangentially in Souza (2021), in the theoretical articulation between monogamy, masculinity, and possession. Regarding geographic scope, six studies were concentrated in the Southeast region of Brazil. The other regions were represented by one study each, while two studies conducted data collection online, reaching participants from different locations.

Discussion

The findings of this review showed that violence in LGBTQIA+ relationships, although a persistent and relevant topic, is the focus of few theses and dissertations conducted in Brazil. Despite the differences in population focuses, theoretical frameworks, and methodological approaches identified, it was possible to identify specific characteristics and vulnerabilities of LGBTQIA+ intimate partner violence, which emerge at the intersection of social and normative conditions (Ferrari, 2021; Campeiz, 2023; Matta, 2021). Thus, it is understood that LGBTQIA+ intimate partner violence extends beyond private dynamics, being linked to social markers and structural conditions that contribute to the invisibility and vulnerability of this phenomenon (Souza, 2021; Silva, 2020). The following section discusses the specific characteristics of LGBTQIA+ intimate partner violence identified in the research.

Factors Contributing to Occurrence

The analysis of the studies revealed power inequalities that contribute to the occurrence of violence in LGBTQIA+ intimate relationships, challenging the common social understanding that such violence stems solely from gender roles in cis heterosexual relationships (Ferrari, 2021; Silva, 2020). These asymmetries are not limited to the sexual orientation or gender identity of the partners but are constructed through the interplay of markers such as race, class, age, education, religion, aesthetic standards, and sociopolitical and cultural contexts that intersect with relational performances and expectations (Souza, 2021; Ferrari, 2021; Silva, 2020; Matta, 2021; Campeiz, 2023).

In this sense, the attribution of values and hierarchies associated with gender and performances of sexuality is combined with social pressures directed at these individuals, producing tensions and reinforcing power distinctions in LGBTQIA+ relationships. This, in turn, generates vulnerabilities and dependencies – emotional, material, and symbolic – linked to specific forms of violence, such as racist, classist, and fatphobic violence, among others (Souza, 2021; Ferrari, 2021; Domingos, 2024; Silva, 2020).

Studies addressing relationships between men point to masculinity as a factor influencing power dynamics and violence, considering the subjectivation of individuals in our society, marked by patriarchal dominance, which attributes superiority to values such as virility, strength, aggressiveness, and domination, associated with the masculine (Souza, 2021; Ferrari, 2021; Moreira, 2017; Domingos, 2024; Campeiz, 2021). Such constructs have repercussions on the affective-sexual relationships between men, influencing roles and expectations related to gender performance and the sexual positions adopted.

In this sense, positions of sexual passivity and gender performances that break with hegemonic masculinity were associated by participants with the social role of “femininity” attributed pejoratively to women, leading to expectations of subservience and influencing the occurrence of IPV. In Ferrari (2021), higher rates of IPV victimization emerged among interviewees who self-identified as “passive” and “effeminate”. Similarly, Domingos (2024) identifies a higher risk of IPV among interviewees who rigidly adhered to heteronormative gender expectations, especially those related to controlling behaviors, jealousy, and violent communication. Souza (2021) identifies tensions related to “appearing or not appearing gay” as factors influencing conflicts in relationships between men. The author also notes that breaking away from performances of hegemonic masculinity does not necessarily imply assuming the role of victim, as evidenced by accounts from interviewees who, even while occupying positions of sexual passivity or exhibiting performances of femininity, report having perpetrated acts of violence (Souza, 2021).

In relationships between women, gender constructions manifest themselves in distinct ways, shaped by a social discourse that characterizes femininity as “nonviolent” (Silva, 2020). The author highlights that some of her interviewees recognized a particular action as violent only when perpetrated by someone with a masculinized gender performance, associated with ideas of physical and symbolic strength, while disregarding violence and threats from partners perceived as feminine (Silva, 2020). Furthermore, the interviewees often draw a distinction between “violence”, “abuse”, and “conflicts”, frequently failing to identify their intimate relationships as violent, despite reporting practices of control and aggression (Silva, 2020).

Going beyond gender-based analyses, studies point to social stigma and discrimination as factors that increase the vulnerability of LGBTQIA+ individuals to violence. Souza (2021) highlights the impacts of this social context on self-esteem, mental health, and self-care strategies, while Domingos (2024) links Minority

Stress (MS) to higher levels of IPV among LGB couples, affecting both victimization and perpetration. In this context, Gaspodini (2021) seeks to correlate IPV, MS, and emotional symptoms in LGBT individuals; although the study did not find sufficient statistical parameters for structural analyses, its results align with international evidence (Gaspodini, 2021). In addition, Silva (2020) and Domingos (2024) report that participants experienced social violence prior to their romantic relationships, stemming from their sexual orientations and gender performances. In these cases, the normalization or desensitization to violence may be considered a potential obstacle to the recognition of IPV.

According to the analyzed studies, identifying the violence experienced in LGBTQIA+ romantic relationships is also hindered by the prevalence of largely heteronormative social discourses regarding IPV, leading to the belief that LGBTQIA+ IPV has no specific characteristics or does not occur at all (Matta, 2021). This context has social repercussions in the form of the invisibility of the issue, explained by Souza (2021) through the notion of “production of absence”, in which social discourses work to conceal or invalidate an existing issue. This is reflected, for example, in interpretations of violence between men as “fights between equals” or that “men must defend themselves”, as discussed by Souza (2021) and Moreira (2017), as well as in the belief that people assigned female at birth are incapable of perpetrating violence.

Issues such as the psychological vulnerability of LGBTQIA+ individuals to IPV (Gomes, 2022), the invisibility of the phenomenon – sustained by relational and gender discourses centered on heterosexuality – and the consequent difficulty in recognizing IPV in these relationships are of major relevance to understanding the issue. The influence of erroneous beliefs that at times romanticize and at times stigmatize these relationships, as well as attribute heteronormative gender roles to them (Barros; Sani; Santos, 2019; Mota; Almeida; Machado, 2023), affects not only the occurrence of violence but also its specific characteristics.

Specific Characteristics of Violence

The analyzed studies show that violence in LGBTQIA+ relationships takes on specific characteristics stemming from the context of heteronormativity and social stigma. Among these, the existence of violence related to the forced disclosure of a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity (*outing*) stands out as a form of control, blackmail, and punishment (Souza, 2021; Domingos, 2024). This type of violence is evident in one of the interviewees in Souza (2021), whose sexual orientation was threatened with exposure. Moreira (2017) reports a case in which a participant's HIV status was revealed to their family by their partner. Gaspodini (2021) highlights an important nuance by pointing out that forcing public displays of affection can function as a form of non-consensual exposure of the relationship and, consequently, of sexual orientation.

Regarding the specificities of IPV experiences within specific segments of the LGBTQIA+ community, studies do not address these in depth, with the exception of Campeiz (2023). Her interviewees – young bisexual individuals – report experiences of violence heavily marked by biphobia, the invalidation of their sexual orientation, and challenges to it, which were used as a “justification” for blackmail and coercion (Campeiz, 2023). In this regard, stigmatizing perceptions of bisexuality were employed by both female and male partners, as well as by those of heterosexual and homosexual orientations alike. Bisexual women also reported being treated with less care and affection by male partners and resorting to more pronounced displays of femininity in an attempt to mitigate the violence they suffered (Campeiz, 2023). In addition, Gaspodini (2021) found that, in the analyzed sample, forms of violence specific to LGBT relationships (such as *outing* or forced concealment) were more frequently experienced by bisexual individuals.

It is worth noting that studies focused on the population of trans women and transvestites have revealed a scenario of ongoing structural violence, which extends to family, community, workplace, and institutional settings, and encompasses psychological, physical, and sexual manifestations (Nascimento, 2024; Gil, 2022). In this context, IPV emerges as one of several forms of violence experienced within a scenario of marginalization marked by limited family support and exclusion from the formal labor market, among other processes that increase vulnerability (Nascimento, 2024). The studies in question do not delve into the experience of IPV among this group in order to characterize it, but it is important to note that in Nascimento (2024), IPV is grouped by the interviewees with sexual violence, and although they reported such experiences, the participants did not feel comfortable elaborating on these experiences, indicating the sensitivity

of the topic (Nascimento, 2024).

Another aspect highlighted by the studies is the bidirectional nature of violence, characterized by an alternation between the roles of victim and perpetrator within the same relationship or at different times (Souza, 2021; Domingos, 2024; Silva, 2020). In Domingos's (2024) study, this phenomenon was present in the accounts of 50% of the participants, particularly in cases of physical violence and violence involving control or monitoring behaviors. In some of the reported contexts, "retaliation" emerges as an attempt at self-defense or payback (Campeiz, 2023).

Regarding the types of violence reported, a high prevalence of psychological violence was observed across the different populations studied. Domingos (2024) found psychological IPV in all interviewees, associated with one or more forms of violence occurring within the same relationship. Among lesbian and bisexual women, Furukawa's (2022) findings indicate a high prevalence of psychological violence, with a probability close to or greater than 50% in all groups, including those considered "healthy". In Gaspodini's (2021) study, psychological violence was the most prevalent form, both among perpetrators (72.1%) and among victims (71.4%), with differences in the profiles of perpetrators and victims: it was more commonly perpetrated by men and more frequently experienced by non-binary individuals.

The findings reported in this section align with international evidence, although the national literature is sparse. Practices such as *outing*, for example, are recurrent in foreign studies (Russell, 2020). However, specific aspects of IPV experienced by the transgender population are mentioned by Bermea, Slakoff, and Goldberg (2021) but were not found in the studies analyzed in this review, highlighting gaps in the research focus of theses and dissertations produced nationally. In this regard, violent tactics such as the intentional use of inappropriate pronouns and restrictions on access to gender-affirming resources – among other forms mentioned in the international literature – do not appear (Bermea; Slakoff; Goldberg, 2021; Anderson, 2020).

Vulnerabilities and Institutional Barriers

As noted earlier, factors such as exposure to stigma and everyday discrimination, internalized homophobia, the expectation of rejection, and concealment of sexual orientation act as stressors associated with LGBTQIA+ IPV (Campeiz, 2023). This observation is corroborated by Furukawa (2022), whose participants point to structural and internalized homophobia, as well as fear of reprisal, as barriers to accessing support networks. In this regard, even when intimate partner violence is recognized, victims still face the weakening of informal support networks, which poses a significant risk to the continuation of the relationship, given the possibility that the partner may be the primary or only source of support (Matta, 2021; Souza, 2021) amid a lack of family support resulting from homophobia.

This situation is identified as exacerbating vulnerabilities and intensifying the experienced stressors (Souza, 2021; Ferrari, 2021). This factor is related to the so-called "double closet" (Souza, 2021; Domingos, 2024), which refers to the simultaneous and interrelated concealment of one's sexual orientation or the existence of a relationship, as well as the violence suffered within that relationship, since reporting such violence necessarily involves revealing one's non-conformity with heterosexuality, thereby intensifying isolation and preventing the search for help (Souza, 2021; Domingos, 2024). This phenomenon is discussed in Matta (2021), who shows that reporting violence is closely linked to disclosing one's sexual orientation, thereby posing an obstacle to seeking help.

In this regard, Furukawa (2022) identified a significant association between IPV and Perceived Social Support, although these two constructs are not always directly related, highlighting the heterogeneity of these phenomena. The author found that social support can act as a protective factor against IPV in some scenarios, but not in all (Furukawa, 2022). The importance of the support network also emerges in Ferrari (2021), with friends and virtual environments being perceived as safer than family, school, and religion in cases of LGBTQIA+ IPV. It is worth noting that in Souza (2021), friends also emerge as a potential source of victimization, due to the perpetuation of stereotypes that deny the possibility of men being victims of IPV (Souza, 2021).

Instances in which this support network is weakened contribute to the emergence or worsening of IPV, as evidenced by the perceived intensification during the COVID-19 pandemic, as reported by Campeiz (2023),

with participants experiencing isolation and control, emotional instability, and barriers to accessing help during that period (Campeiz, 2023). Furthermore, this scenario is compounded by institutional and structural factors that hinder access to formal health, public safety, and justice services.

Barriers to accessing these mechanisms are documented in Ferrari (2021), whose interviewees, when seeking help after experiencing severe forms of violence, such as sexual violence, described institutional violence and disrespect on the part of healthcare professionals. Seeking help at police stations was also marked by fear of discrimination, shame, and apprehension, as noted in Souza (2021), whose participants point to the low rate of formal support-seeking among gay men due to social prejudice and the belief that their reports would not be taken seriously. Similarly, for the participants in Moreira (2017), reporting to official agencies would only become a viable option in extreme situations, such as death threats, which corresponds to the findings of Gil (2022) and Nascimento (2024), who highlight institutional barriers faced by the transgender and transvestite population, resulting in these services being used only in situations of extreme violence due to recurring experiences of disrespect, transphobia, and discrediting in these settings.

In the legal sphere, the legislative gap regarding the protection of men who are victims of intimate partner violence is highlighted by Souza (2021) and Moreira (2017), who argue that the Maria da Penha Law does not explicitly cover violence between male couples, leading to the categorization of cases of physical intimate partner violence – when they fall under the jurisdiction of the state – as bodily injury (Souza, 2021). This scenario contributes to the underreporting and invisibility of intimate partner violence.

Gil (2022) extends this discussion to the health sector by highlighting existing gaps in the reporting of violence in the Ministry of Health's Notifiable Diseases Information System (SINAN). In the study in question, although 63 of the 139 transgender women and transvestites interviewed reported experiencing IPV, only 2.94% of the incidents of violence were recorded in SINAN after comparing the data in the system. The discrepancy between 82.35% of interpersonal violence reported in the survey and the few formal records reveals the invisibility of this issue (Gil, 2022). Healthcare professionals are required to complete case reports in cases of violence, but the author highlights gaps in the completion of the categories for sexual orientation and gender identity, compromising the epidemiological monitoring of this issue (Gil, 2022).

Thus, methodological gaps reinforce social stigmas and institutional limitations, contributing to the invisibility of the phenomenon. The scenario described here aligns with findings from other sources in the literature, with the context of vulnerability being strongly linked to the fragility of the support network and the discrimination experienced by the LGBTQIA+ population (Gomes, 2022; Mota, Almeida, & Machado, 2023).

Final Considerations

This narrative literature review found a scarcity of theses and dissertations focused on the topic of intimate partner violence within the LGBTQIA+ context, with a total of 12 works included in the analysis. These works exhibited theoretical and methodological diversity, which hinders an understanding of the phenomenon as a whole, particularly its specific characteristics. The studies identified are notable for their focus on specific locations and population subgroups.

There is a clear focus on the experiences of men who have relationships with men. This group was the subject of four of the studies, which allowed a comparison of the qualitative data found. Thus, the influence of traditional ideals of masculinity on Brazilian male socialization was evident, defining rigid expectations regarding gender performances and sexual roles. In this context, relationships between men are identified as being particularly influenced by such patterns, compounded by social expectations, which facilitate and normalize violence.

Although other population segments were less explored in the studies, making a broader analysis of the experiences in question difficult, it was shown that relationships between women are also affected by gender expectations, which are largely shaped by a social discourse that views femininity as nonviolent, often disregarding the possibility of IPV in these contexts. Specific forms of LGBTQIA+ IPV are highlighted by some of the studies, specifically regarding the threat of forced disclosure of an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Furthermore, the studies identified factors such as the difficulty in recognizing the possibility of violence in LGBTQIA+ relationships, stemming from social stigmas. In addition, the studies reveal the heightened vulnerability of LGBTQIA+ individuals due to a homophobic and discriminatory social context, which creates barriers to accessing formal and informal protection mechanisms.

Significant gaps were identified regarding IPV among transgender individuals, although this topic was touched upon in two quantitative studies involving this population. These studies highlighted the recurrence of violence and the increased vulnerability faced by transgender people, with a focus on transgender women and transvestites. Important gaps remain in the availability of robust statistical data, underscoring the need for further research. Additionally, it is important to consider the methodological limitations of this study.

In this regard, it should be noted that, although all studies identified as addressing the topic were included in the analyses, the search strategy adopted may not have captured all existing studies. Given the terminological diversity surrounding the topic, one limitation is that a single researcher conducted both the definition of the search terms and the search and analysis processes, which may have limited the scope of the results and introduced biases in the interpretation of the material.

Furthermore, the characteristics of the analyzed body of literature constitute a significant limitation, since the aforementioned focus on the experiences of cisgender men who have relationships with men, combined with the scarcity of studies targeting other segments of the LGBTQIA+ population, narrows the scope of the data found. In addition, the recent nature of the included publications highlights that the field is still developing and evolving. These aspects point to the need for continued and expanded research, with a greater diversity of population subgroups and improved methodological designs. Despite this, the review made it possible to identify vulnerabilities and specific characteristics of LGBTQIA+ IPV.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – Characterization of the works analyzed

Table 1 – Summary of the theses and dissertations included in the review

Author / Title	Year	Method / Subject of study
Souza, D. C. Violência por parceiro íntimo nas relações entre homens.	2021	Qualitative. Meanings of intimate partner violence for men living in Manaus.
Ferrari, W. Nas tramas da sexualidade: um estudo sobre trajetórias afetivo-sexuais de homens jovens gays.	2021	Qualitative. Experiences of socialization and relationships among young people from lower-income backgrounds in Rio de Janeiro.
Moreira, A. M. A violência por parceiro íntimo (VPI) em casais homoafetivos masculinos: visibilizando o fenômeno.	2017	Qualitative. Perceptions of gay men – whether or not they have experienced IPV – regarding this issue.
Matta, T. F. Violência entre parceiros íntimos na percepção de jovens das minorias sexuais.	2021	Qualitative. Perceptions of LGBT youth at public universities in Rio de Janeiro regarding IPV.
Gil, A. C. (Sub)notificações de violências interpessoais contra travestis e mulheres transexuais: linkage entre um inquérito populacional e o Sistema de Informação.	2022	Quantitative, cross-sectional. Comparison between the expected and observed prevalence of interpersonal violence against transvestites and transgender women in Rio de Janeiro's SINAN.
Domingos, V. A. Violência nas relações íntimas entre homens gays: fatores de risco e psicossociais.	2024	Qualitative. Experiences of gay men in Ceará with intimate partner violence, mapping risk factors and protective factors.
Santos, R. Notificações de violência interpessoal e autoprovocada em lésbicas, gays, bissexuais, travestis e transexuais (LGBT) no Paraná de 2015 a 2017.	2021	Quantitative, epidemiological, descriptive. Characterization of data on interpersonal violence against LGBT people reported reported in Paraná's SINAN.
Furukawa, L. Y. A. Violência entre parceiras íntimas: caracterização do fenômeno e avaliação da rede de apoio das vítimas.	2022	Quantitative, cross-sectional. Characterization of intimate partner violence among women, correlated with Perceived Social Support.
Nascimento, E. M. Acesso aos serviços de saúde e suas interfaces com as violências: perspectivas das mulheres transgênero e travestis.	2024	Qualitative, descriptive. Perceptions of trans women and transvestites in Rio de Janeiro regarding violence they have experienced and their access to health care systems.
Campeiz, A. B. A violência nas relações de intimidade vivenciada por bissexuais em contexto pandêmico: Perspectiva do Paradigma da Complexidade.	2023	Qualitative. Accounts of intimate partner violence experienced by young bisexual residents of São Paulo during the pandemic.
Silva, P. C. A. 'Mas, entre mulheres? Como assim?': Uma análise antropológica sobre conflitos e violências em narrativas sobre conjugalidades lésbicas em Goiânia.	2020	Qualitative. Meanings and perceptions of WSW regarding violence and abuse in their relationships.
Gaspodini, I. B. Estresse de Minoria, Sintomas Emocionais e Violência entre Parceiros Íntimos em Pessoas LGBT no Contexto Brasileiro.	2021	Quantitative. Correlations between IPV, minority stress, and emotional symptoms in the Brazilian LGBT population.

Fonte: Author's own work (2026).