

Limited English Proficiency Issues



LEP is a Label Used by Systems

As advocates we prefer not to put survivors into categories,

~but~

We need to know how systems define people

LEP is defined as:

People for whom English is not their primary language *and* who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English.

These people may be entitled to language assistance to access services or benefits.

Other ways LEP survivors may be defined:

- English language learners
- English as a second, third, or fourth language
- English for speakers of other languages
- English as a foreign language

Note: Each survivor has different language knowledge.

LEP issues connect to...

- **Human Rights**

DV advocates are committed to working for human rights.

- **Economic Justice**

LEP individuals may face discrimination, low wages and unstable jobs, lack of access to public and private assistance, disproportionate levels of poverty, and lack of information about U.S. financial systems.

- **Culture**

Language is a big part of culture. Service practices may not make sense to people of all cultures. Words may translate, but concepts may not translate. This is a barrier to services.

- **Immigration**

LEP people may be facing many barriers because of their immigration status. Our immigration laws make getting safe a real challenge.

- **The Law**

All systems must provide access. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, federal law requires agencies to provide linguistically appropriate services to LEP individuals.