

# Circumstances of Suicide Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Individuals



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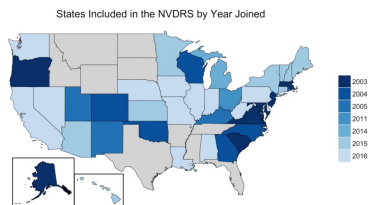
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## INTRODUCTION

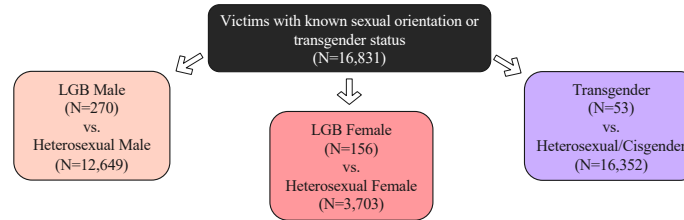
Suicide rates for sexual minorities are higher than the heterosexual/cisgender population. The purpose of this study is to **explore circumstances surrounding suicide completion for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals as compared to their heterosexual counterparts** to inform future intervention strategies for this population.

## METHODS

We completed an analysis of data from the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) from 2013-2017. Victims identified as transgender were considered separately, as this is an important population with unique characteristics. Data was further excluded from state/year combinations when sexual orientation was documented for <20% of patients. We stratified analysis by identified sex of the victim (male or female) for the LGBT population.



Velopulos CG, Carmichael H, Zakrisson TL, Crandall M. Comparison of male and female victims of intimate partner homicide and bidirectionality-an analysis of the national violent death reporting system. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg.* 2019;87(2):331-336.



## RESULTS

- 479 (2.8%) of victims were identified as LGBT; of these, 53 (11%) were transgender
- LGBT victims were younger than non-LGBT victims.
- Male LGBT victims were more likely to have a history of prior suicide attempts, past or current mental illness diagnosis, and were less likely to use firearms than male heterosexual victims.
- Female LGBT victims were more likely to have known problems in an intimate partner relationship than heterosexual women.
- LGBT men were more likely to have problems in family or other relationships.
- Transgender victims were again more likely to have mental health problems and a history of prior attempts, but less likely to have intimate partner problems and more likely to have a history of child abuse.
- All LGBT victims were more likely to disclose intent, with female LGBT victims most often disclosing to an intimate partner, while male LGBT and transgender individuals were most likely to disclose to a family member.

		Age in Years		Minority Race/Ethnicity		Used a Firearm		Past Treatment Mental Illness		IPV Related		Prior Suicide Attempts	
		Median [IQR]	p	%	p	%	p	%	p	%	p	%	p
Male	LGB (N=270)	39 [27,51]		17.4	0.36	29.3		44.8		41.1		30.0	
	Heterosexual (N=12,649)	49 [34,61]	<0.001	15.2		57.3	<0.001	30.4	<0.001	43.9	0.40	15.8	0.40
Female	LGB (N=156)	34 [24,48]		26.9		37.8		46.2		65.4		39.7	
	Heterosexual (N=3,703)	48 [35,57]	<0.001	15.6	<0.001	33.7	0.32	51.1	0.26	36.9	<0.001	33.6	<0.001
Trans-gender	Trans (N=53)	34 [19,50]		11.3		24.5		60.4		17.0		35.8	
	Heterosexual (N=16,352)*	48 [34,60]	<0.001	15.1	0.57	51.9	<0.001	35.1	<0.001	42.3	<0.001	19.9	<0.001

Table 1: Characteristics of LGBT suicide victims versus heterosexual counterparts.

\*Male & Female combined

## CONCLUSION

Circumstances surrounding suicide have important distinctions between LGBT and heterosexual/cisgender individuals. It is important to note that post-mortem identification of sex presents issues of misgendering and could contribute to a degree of bias in understanding the way suicide circumstances differ for transgender individuals. These results highlight the importance of promoting suicide interventions that recognize the complex intersection between stated gender, sex, and sexuality and the different cultural impacts these interplaying identities can have.

## REFERENCES

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