

**GLBT Homicide Analysis**

***One-Third of Victims in GLBT-Related Homicides are People of Color***

People of Color are over-represented among victims of homicide.  According to the FBI, nearly half of all homicide victims in the U.S. are People of Color even though People of Color represent only 29% of the total U.S. population.   A similar over-representation of People of Color involved in GLBT-related homicides is presenting itself among the Center’s data as well.

At present, race and ethnicity data is limited in the CHR database.  Because this determination is made using the death certificate, only about 15% of the Center's 3,000 GLBT homicide cases have race data at this time.

***The Offender in a GLBT Homicide is Twice as Likely to be Younger than the Victim and Nearly Half of those Offenders are More than 20 Years Younger than their Victims***

In general, most U.S. homicide offenders are younger people in their late teens or early twenties.  However, most U.S. homicide victims are also about the same age.  Homicide is all-too-often a young person’s crime.

Analysis of GLBT homicide data, however, shows a significant age difference between victims and offenders.  Most offenders in GLBT-related homicide incidents are significantly younger than their victims.  This finding could be significant in developing education and prevention strategies among both older GLBT people who could be at risk of becoming homicide victims, as well as young people who may be at risk of offending.

***Female GLBT Homicide Higher Than Previously Reported***

The Center’s analysis of 2,700 homicides where gender of the victim is known indicates that females make up 13% of GLBT-related homicides, while males account for 86%.

This gender finding is very different from prior analyses of homicide data.  According to the FBI’s Supplemental Homicide Report, 75% of all homicide victims are male, 24% are female.  The 1994 National Coalition of Antiviolence Project’s report of GLBT homicides showed a more striking breakdown:  95% of GLBT homicide victims were male, 5% were female.  The Center’s research shows a more significant involvement of women in GLBT-related homicides than previously reported, though not all women in the GLBT homicide incidents were lesbian.

While these findings seem to indicate that victimization of females is relatively low, it is also important to keep in mind that population studies have consistently shown that rates of homosexuality varies between males and females.  Across all population studies, whether undertaken by pro- or anti-gay researchers, the ratio between homosexual males and females is 2:1.  This means that to understand homicide victimization of women, comparison should not be made between men and women, but instead within GLBT and non-GLBT women.  Thus, homicide victimization of lesbians may be higher than it first appears

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