



Keeping Count

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Trevor Project

MIHA
Mental Health America
B4Stage4

The Trevor Project

The Trevor Project is the world's largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ young people. We work to save young LGBTQ lives by providing free and confidential suicide prevention and crisis intervention programs on platforms where young people spend their time: our 24/7 phone lifeline, chat, and text.

We H.E.A.R. LGBTQ youth in crisis:

Help, Education, Advocacy, Research

Background

The Trevor Project estimates there are an estimated **1.8 million** LGBTQ youth in crisis every year and government surveys show **LGBTQ youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight/cisgender peers** — but because of a lack of systematic sexual orientation and gender identity data collection we have no idea how many LGBTQ youth actually die by suicide each year, complicating efforts to enact policies needed to save lives.

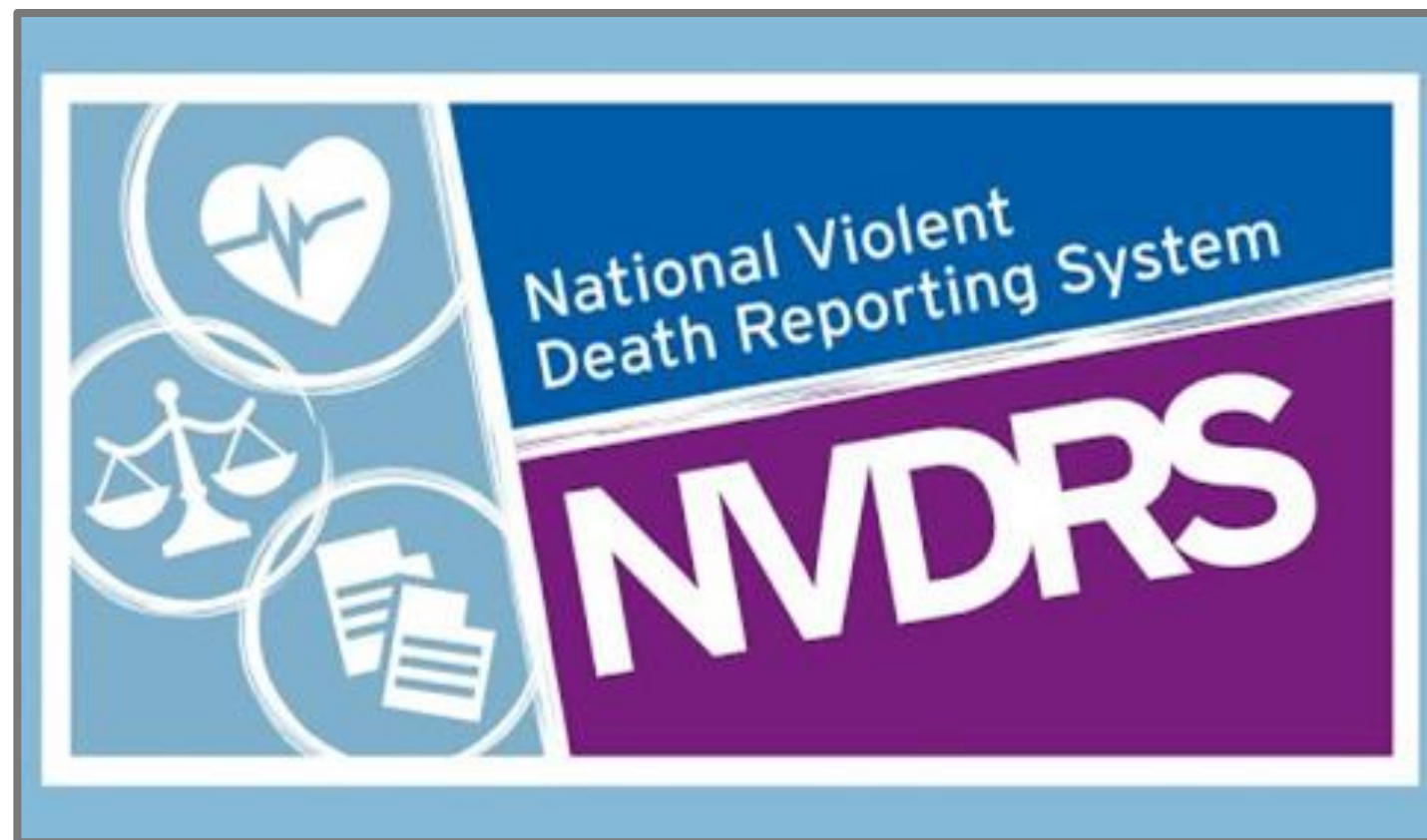
Trans and Nonbinary Youth Suicide: What We Know

- More than **half** of transgender and nonbinary youth have seriously considered suicide.
- Only 1 in 5 transgender and nonbinary youth reported having their pronouns respected by all or most of the people in their lives, including less than **one in ten** among those who primarily identified as nonbinary.
- I know what that feels like...



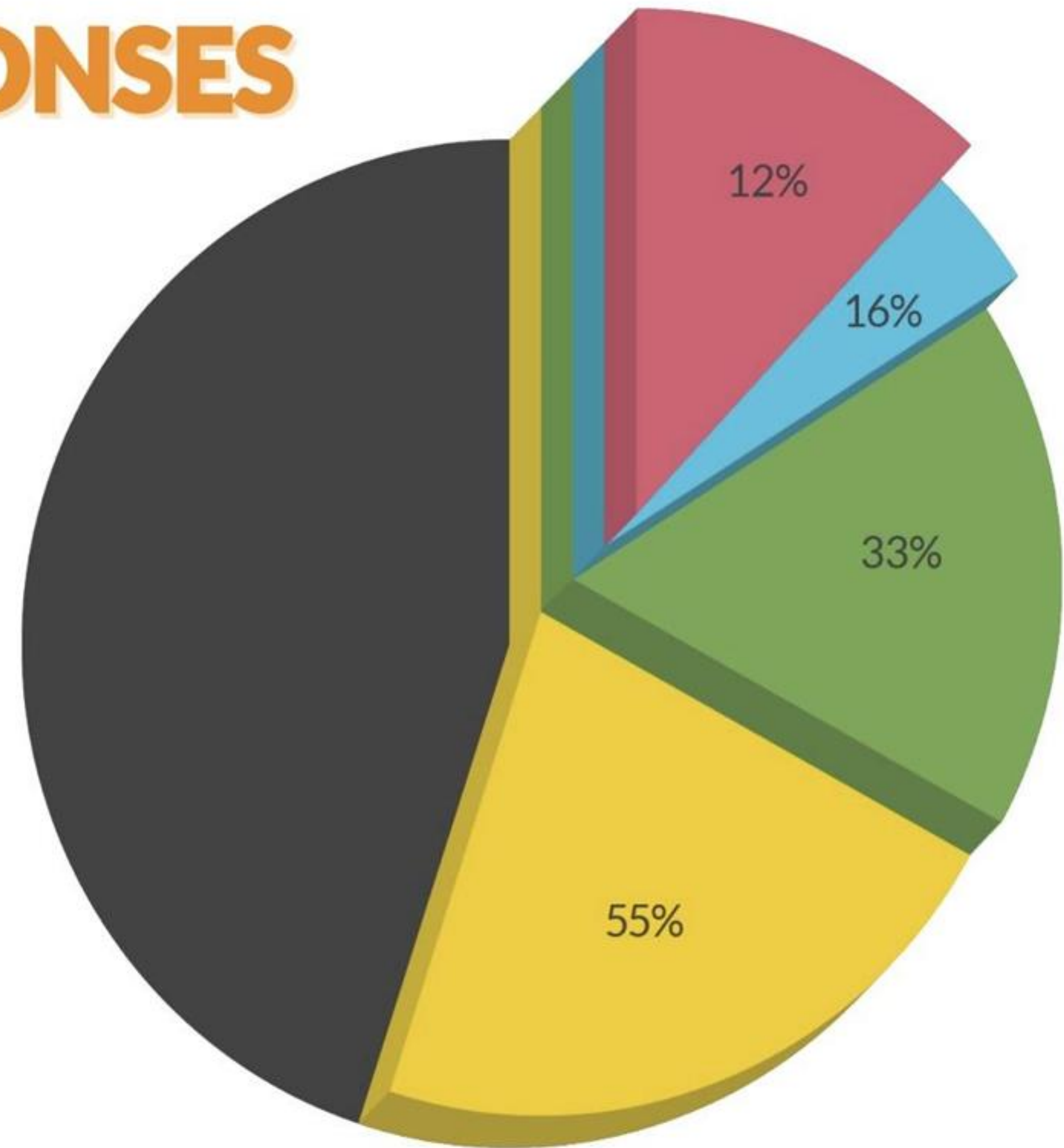
Trevor and NVDRS: What We Did

- The NVDRS is where this data SHOULD be collected.
- In Summer and Fall 2018, Trevor reached out to each of the 42 NVDRS states and territories (now at 50, woohoo!)
- We requested data reports regarding variables 3.1.6 (Sex Unknown)
 - 3.1.7 (Transgender), and 3.1.19 (Sexual Orientation) and systems and procedures



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

- 55% (23) of states and territories provided any response
 - data in the form of reportable numbers of LGBT deaths, or
 - censored data due to low reported numbers
- Only 33% (14) reported any LGBT deaths since the LGBT-relevant variables were added to the coding manual in 2013.
- 16% (7) did not even have correct contact information available
- 12% (5) reported more than 50 LGBT deaths



Specific Example: Colorado

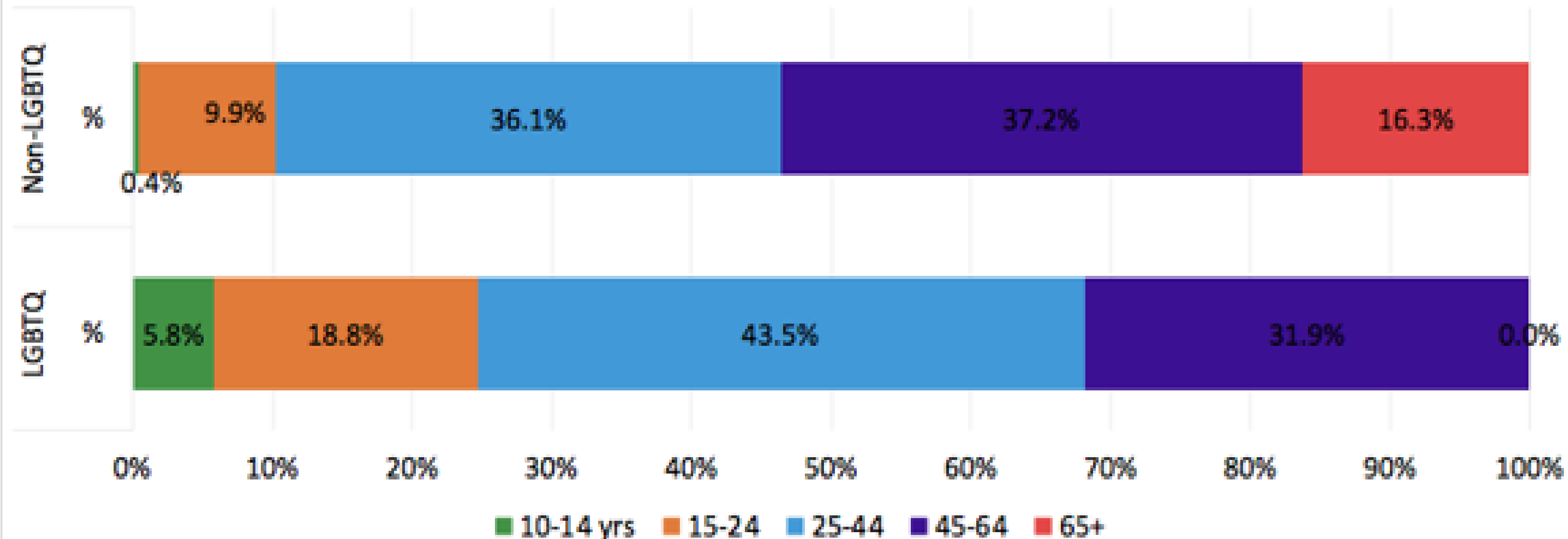
- 64 county coroners and over 200 law enforcement agencies
- Maggie Mortali from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention did a training for the Colorado Coroner's Association
- Creation of an improved Suicide Investigation Form

The Result: CO reported 79 suicides under 3.1.19 (Sexual Orientation) (and even that is likely a significant undercount and omits transgender)

LGBTQ and Sexual Orientation Suicides by Year 2014-2016

Year	LGBTQ		Non-LGBTQ		Unknown		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
2014	24	2.3%	523	49.2%	516	48.5%	1063
2015	22	2.1%	561	52.6%	483	45.3%	1066
2016	23	2.0%	629	55.2%	488	42.8%	1140

LGBTQ Suicides by Age Group 2014-2016



Concluding Thoughts

- There is currently a serious lack of **routine and systematic** collection of postmortem data and statistics accurately identifying sexual orientation and **especially gender identity**
- It can get better: training and intentional action matters
- We want to provide support to people on the ground to collect this data more comprehensively.
- **Your work makes a difference.**

Contact Information

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

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