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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### UNDERSTANDING THE PREVALENCE OF HATE CRIMES AGAINST LGBT POPULATIONS

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#### ABSTRACT

The prevalence of hate crimes against homosexuals is an issue deserving of societal and legislative analysis. Hate crime refers to criminal conduct that is motivated by bias or prejudice and impacts the well being of the victim. Health educators, social workers, teachers, and helping professionals can attest that those who identify themselves as homosexual or bisexual are often subjected to victimization. Research regarding the prevalence of hate crimes against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) individuals is at best, limited. Studies have demonstrated that a correlation exists between the prevalence of victimization of individuals that report as LGBT and other variables within their environment. The purpose of the study is to identify the number of articles, explore, and analyze the professional literature relating to the prevalence of hate crimes against homosexuals to improve practices and change policy to afford healthy living practices for schools. Causal factors of victimization, such as gender deviance (non-conformity) are reported in the findings. Additionally, disparity regarding the mental function of LGBT individuals that are victims of hate crimes and the subsequent effect of those crimes were reported in the findings. Further exploration and research is essential to make implications that are applicable to the majority of the victimized LGBT population.

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## INTRODUCTION

In 1998, two of the most infamous hate crimes were committed in America. Three white ex cons in Jasper, TX tortured and killed James Byrd, Jr. on June 7, 1998 because he was black. In October of the same year, 21-year-old college student, Matthew Sheppard, was beaten, tortured, and left for dead in Laramie, WY allegedly because he was gay. He died six days later. These were prosecuted as *hate crimes*. The cases changed the way in which the public and the court consider victims and prosecution. In response to these cases, almost a decade later, Congress enacted the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act expanding the 1969 United States federal hate-crime law. The rider to the 1969 law was passed in 2009 and specifically named hate crimes as those that may have been motivated by a victim's real or perceived sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability in (Fox News, Retrieved July 7, 2016).

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With the growing popularity and availability of social media, the public has become bystander or witnesses to such crimes and experience the outrage of hate crimes as though they were present. Phillippe Kahn was credited with wirelessly sending the first cellphone picture of his daughter's birth via "camera phone," in 1997 to over 2000 family and associates around the world (). By 2006 over half the world had cellphones with cameras capable of videotaping across the world in seconds. Likewise, technology, social media, and cell phone cameras have made the world a smaller place and the reporting of hate crimes much more accessible. However, neither the public outcry of the Matthew Shepard case (1998), the enactment of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (2009), nor the widespread use of camera phones prevented two of the America's deadliest hate crimes that occurred less than a month apart in 2016. On June 12, 2014 in an Orlando nightclub primarily serving the LGBT community, a shooter "killed 49 people and wounded more than 50 thus making it the deadliest mass shooting in US history" (NASW News Washington, DC (61) 7, p.1). NASW called to collectively end the "culture of hate." Less than a

month later in Dallas, TX, a single shooter *ambushed* police officers at a “Black Lives Matter” protest. A former national guard member upset with current police violence against blacks killed five police officers, wounded eight other officers, and injured two members of the public who were peacefully protesting. Both incidents were captured on cell phone videos and distributed by international news media. Both incidents were considered *hate crimes* although the shooter in the Orlando incident was a man of Islamic descent with terrorist ties. Antigay violence continues to be a growing concern even in today’s society. Recently the prevalence of *hate crimes* has steadily increased amongst the homosexual community. This has lead both researchers, practitioners and community stakeholders to inquire about the variables that influence acts of discrimination and victimization toward individuals that identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (LGBT).

An analytic review of the professional literature to determine the prevalence of hate crimes against LGBT individuals was conducted. The review is structured as an exploratory design with the purpose of acquiring a knowledge base from the professional literature to educate social workers, social service agencies, and policy makers to facilitate change for the protection of the LGBT community. Researchers theorize that factors such as the lack of adherence to traditional gender roles increase the risk of discrimination and victimization (Gordon & Meyer, 2007). It has been implied additionally that LGBT individuals are at a heightened risk for the development of mental health disorders (such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) when they are targeted for discrimination and violence as a result of their sexual preference. The research also implies that health brings a new vision of how Americans can work together to prevent violence. This new vision places emphasis on preventing violence before it occurs, making science integral to identifying effective policies and programs, and integrating the efforts of diverse scientific disciplines, organizations, and communities. A sustained effort at all levels of society will be required to successfully address this complex and deeply rooted problem and to implement state-level policies to protect the LGBT community and thus decrease the occurrence of psychiatric, mental health disorders amongst this population.

A review of the literature was conducted using an academic database. The keywords consisted of hate crimes" and "homosexuals". Initially, 891 (as shown in Table 1-2) results were populated, however, after limiting to scholarly peer reviewed articles and articles within the last five years, 31 articles remained. Thereafter, an additional three articles were eliminated due to face validity, leaving 28 articles (Table 3). The review of the literature yielded limited results related to the prevalence of hate crimes amongst the LGBT community. Despite noted limitations of the study, variables that presented included the lack of adherence to traditional gender roles, and mental disparities that result from victimization and discrimination. The study is an exploratory design, thus not requiring the development of a hypothesis statement but the authors were interested in the number of articles that pertained to hate crimes and homosexuals.

The hunt to discover the motivation that leads noncriminal adults to commit antigay acts propels professionals to explore common patterns in today’s research. Recent studies from Northern California community colleges have attempted to shed light on the antigay phenomenon that is often a matter of

scholarly debate. These exploratory studies depicted a common pattern of antigay behavior in young noncriminal adults, most often younger men, who felt the antigay physical confrontations, were done in self-defense (Franklin, 2000). In a world where backlash and stigma are still attached to the LGBT community, gay lifestyles and relationships are still illegal in some countries and antigay laws have made it difficult to assist people (Clark, 2014). It is reported that the LGBT community often has an increased feeling of being threatened; they are more vulnerable and have a decreased belief that their communities will step in to protect them. With the combination of these factors, the LGBT community results in more mental health outcomes (Lannert, 2015). Evidence also shows that in the LGBT community, homosexual men are three times more likely to be targeted for hate crimes in comparison to lesbians (Cheng, W., Ickes & Kenworthy, 2013).

Stating that hate crimes still occur against the LGBT community is an established fact. It has been depicted in a mainstream comic book's story line involving a central character, Terry Berg, in DC Comics *Green Lantern* (Palmer-Mehta, 2005). This storyline garnered considerable attention from various media outlets and the backlash against it reiterated what qualitative studies showed, "most adults in the United States hold negative attitudes toward homosexual behavior, regarding it as wrong and unnatural" (Herek, 2000). "Studies suggest that violence, threats of physical harm, verbal abuse and other types of aggression directed against people because of their sexual orientation have been an aspect of American society for centuries" (Cheng, 2004). Violence based on an individual's sexual preference is a current public health concern in the United States and worldwide. Sexual prejudice which is a term that encompasses all negative attitudes based on sexual orientation, whether the target is homosexual, bisexual, or heterosexual is one factor that is seen as a determinant of antigay aggression. Research has proven "a positive association between sexual prejudice and both anger and aggression toward gay men " as well as established that "victims of hate crimes based on sexual orientation are at a greater risk for depression, post-traumatic stress, anxiety, and anger, as compared to victims of nonbiased assaults" (Vincent, Parrott & Peterson, 2011).

Studies have supported a correlation between adverse sexual preference and occurrences of victimization. Discovered during the study of violence and discrimination toward homosexuals were varying facets of the issue. Bias and assault toward LGBT individuals is an all-inclusive issue, comprised of many variables. An important causal factor for occurrences of bias or violence, according to Herek, Gillis, Cogan, and Glunt, (1997) is the ideology that the sexual orientation or preference of homosexuals makes them susceptible to discrimination. This assumption and the resulting fear that arises from being a target increases mental stress and cause psychological disparity for LGBT individuals (Herek, Gillis, Cogan, & Glunt 1997). The SLR appears to support the premise that the lack of adherence to traditional gender roles, indicate adverse sexual preference. Gordon & Meyer (2007) ascertain that this deviant behavior has subsequently facilitated “stigmatization within sexual minority communities”(p.56). Stigmatization can impact and increase occurrences of discrimination and victimization (Gordon & Meyer, 2007, p.55). Researchers present through scholarly examination an analytical model that scrutinizes the occurrences of sexual

victimization during the life course of individuals that are reportedly lesbian, gay or bisexual (Rothman, Exner, & Baughman, 2011). Aspects of the study included statistical analysis of instances of sexual assault over the life course; the study was conducted over two decades, 1989-2009 (Rothman et al. 2011, p.55). Coloma's (2006) theoretical model is an analysis of the impact of homophobia that leads to examining why hate crimes occur. The justification for homophobic behavior is related to prevailing American ideals and beliefs that homosexual tendencies that include sexual intercourse represent a deviation from, and resistance to the spiritual designation for a naturalized process; of which the premise is on a biological construct of heterosexuality (Coloma, 2012). The lack of conformity to presumed natural processes are not well accepted or understood and leads, according to Plumm, Terrance, Henderson, and Ellison, 2010, to cruel treatment of individuals deemed abnormal because of their sexual preference. While heterosexuals harbor contradictory attitudes toward gays, heterosexual women were more accepting of homosexuals (Plumm et al., 2010).

Despite this conditional acceptance, homosexuals continue to endure discrimination. Researchers contend that hate crimes targeted toward gays causes mental health disparities for victims and subsequently increase instances of attempted and completed suicide. (Plumm et al., 2010) Adversely, homosexuals as targets for violence and discrimination resulting from gender deviance are often blamed for facilitating occurrences of discrimination and violence and are perceived as "deserving" (p.271) the abuse. Researchers hold theoretically that limited research regarding the judiciary legalities of hate crimes, biases related to shifting responsibility to the victim, and perpetrator accountability (the lack thereof) create legal barriers to the analysis of hate crimes in the judicial system (Plumm et al., 2010). In contrast, the necessity of legislation designed to decrease "attribution errors" (p.272) has facilitated an increase in the adoption of various theories such as those presented by Roxell (2011). Roxell (2011) ascertains that current methods utilized for the analysis of hate crimes focus on occurrences of discrimination and violence from the experience and perspective of the victim. Researchers, through standardized measures such as "hate crime statistics" (p.206) theorize that examining the motives of individuals suspected of hate crimes is crucial to the attainment of knowledge of various causal factors involved in the commission of these crimes (Roxell, 2011).

Stotzer (2014) introduces the correlation that race and deviant sexual preference (as variables) presumably share concerning instances of discrimination and violence. The research was conducted using data retrieved from law enforcement databases for the purpose of the statistical review of the race and cultural background of victims and perpetrators. While cognizant of the noted limitations resulting from the empirical analysis, Stotzer asserts that the study makes the claim that occurrences of discrimination and violence usually transpire between victims and suspects who share similar racial and cultural backgrounds.(Stotzer, 2014). The issue of abuse suffered by homosexual individuals has captured the attention of health education researchers and activists who desire to facilitate legislative processes that will increase recognition of discriminatory practices and acts of violence toward this group (Browne, Bakshi, & Lim, 2011). The attempt to increase awareness through health education is a collaborative effort to facilitate positive variations to the criminalization of such acts

Browne et al. (2011). Increasing awareness of the issues that gay and lesbian individuals face requires altering or shifting scrutiny of what "constitutes abuse" (p.739) to an analysis of the "effects of abuse" (p.739) and the coping mechanisms employed (Browne et al., 2011, p.739). The effects of hate crimes have become widespread and many communities are beginning to document the occurrence of violence against gays in their areas and comprise plans to combat these instances. Herek and Berrill (1990) noted that, "Mainstream religious, health education professional, and civil rights groups also have begun to recognize and respond to the anti-gay violence". Public organizations such as the American Bar Association, American Public Health Association, SOPHE, American Psychological Association, and American Society of Criminologist have begun to form committees to condemn anti-gay violence (Herek et al., 1990). Also, with statistical documentation of these crimes, state-level policies are being drafted in an effort to reduce the prevalence of hate crimes and their detrimental effects. Currently, there are no state-level policies that protect the rights of individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered (LGBT). There are also instances where state laws are influencing healthcare service delivery to LGBT patients. Research studies conducted by Hatzenbuehler, 2009 stated "The results of the present study suggest that the greater prevalence of mood and anxiety disorders in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations may in part be reactions to the threatening environments created in states without protective social policies for gays and lesbian". It is becoming increasingly evident that in order to reduce the occurrences of these hate crimes, policies and increased health educational opportunities need to be implemented at the state and local levels.

## The Review/Methods

### Problem/Framing question for a review

This study was completed using a systematic literature review using the guidelines in Figure 1 and 2. A systematic literature review is a carefully organized, comprehensive, and transparent studies of previous research on a particular topic. This research follows written protocols that specify their central objectives, concepts, and methods in advance. This review explores the prevalence of hate crimes against homosexuals using Figures one and two. A research question and purpose was determined that would yield a numerical computation of the number of articles that discussed the prevalence of hate crimes against LGBT individuals. Thereafter, a comprehensive analysis was conducted of the professional literature to explore the prevalence of hate crimes against homosexuals within the 10 years. An analysis of the variables that contribute to the instances of victimization of the LGBT community is needed to suggest implications for future practice.

### Identify the relevant work

The search for key articles was carried out on the academic databases for Academic Search Complete, Education Resource Information Center (ERIC), LGBT Life with Full Text, PsycArticles, PsycInfo, Social Work Abstracts, and SocINDEX. Key words used were hate crimes, and homosexuals. The initial sample (N=891) of the search yielded articles from the academic databases. As shown in Table 2, the *a priori* limiter, Scholarly, peer-reviewed articles, were applied (n=193). Articles (n=31) were published in the last five years, 2005-2015.

## Assessing the quality of study

After the articles were selected using the *a priori* limiters, there were three articles that upon face validity did not appear to fit the SLR model shown in Table 1. Thus, the research team made the final selection of articles (n=28) that fit the model. The first article was eliminated due to relevancy because it did not depict homosexuality as a reason for the terrorist attack. The second article was omitted because it is an analysis of hate crimes committed against the disabled with no reference to hate crimes committed against members of the LGBTQ community. The third article is omitted for a number of reasons. Primarily the article lacks relevancy to the issue of occurrences of hate crimes against homosexuals.

## Summarizing the evidence

The quantitative designs referenced statistical measures such as analysis of hate crimes reported to law enforcement databases. The qualitative designs were primarily information analysis referencing data collected from individuals solicited for participation in studies of victimization against LGBT individuals. See Tables 1 for a synthesized table of the key articles.

## Interpreting the findings

Researchers theorize that factors such as the lack of adherence to traditional gender roles increase the risk of discrimination and victimization (Gordon & Meyer, 2007). It has been suggested additionally that LGBT individuals are at a heightened risk for the development of mental disorders, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, when they are targeted for discrimination and violence as a result of their sexual preference. Moreover, the implementation of state-level policies and increased educational opportunities to protect the LGBT community will decrease the occurrence of psychiatric, mental health disorders amongst this population.

## Implication, Conclusion and Developing Practice and Policy Context

### Implications

Research has indicated that victims of hate crimes often fail to report occurrences of physical assault, thus limiting the data regarding the prevalence of hate crimes against the LGBT community. This systematic review will be a beneficial reference tool for key stakeholders, including policy makers, health educators, social workers, school officials, others within the human services field, as well as increase general knowledge. These individuals can utilize the systematic review to initiate continued research regarding the prevalence of hate crimes and homosexuals. Additional research will ideally bring about future policy that will provide additional protections for the LGBT community.

## RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

The purpose of this review was to research what the professional literature says about the prevalence of hate crimes against the LGBT population. Of the 28 professional articles a majority were qualitative (17) accompanied by five quantitative articles and four commentaries. Eight themes emerged based on the studies' intent.

Eight reported on the prevalence of mental health issues, followed by politics outside the United States (5), LGBT statistics (4), quality of life (3), motives facilitating aggression (3), determinates of discrimination (3), interventions (2) and resources (1). The SLR (n=28) of the professional literature appears to identify the occurrence of hate crimes against homosexuals. Table 1, research has indicated that that victims of hate crimes are more susceptible to mental health diagnoses as there is a fear of retaliation (Cramer, Nobles, Amacker, & Dovoedo, 2013; Franklin, 2000) that results in loss of self esteem (Drakulich & Rose, 2013), high level of stress (Timofejevs-Henriksson & Peterson, 2011) leading to multiple health issues and high morbidity (Frisell, Lichtenstein, Rohman & Langstrom, 2010). Research also suggests there is limited knowledge regarding the statistical prevalence of hate crimes due to the lack of reporting (Cheng, Ickes & Kenworthy, 2013; Gruenewald, 2012). and the lack of state-level policies (5) (Gillis, 2013; Roulstone, Thomas, Balderston, 2010) protecting LGBT individuals (Williams, 2012; Clark, 2014; Landers & Gruskin, 2010; Haritaworn, 2010; Cahill, 2010; Vanderbeck & Johnson, 2011) contributes to their victimization. Current studies and reports are assistive in bringing awareness to the issue of hate crimes against homosexuals, however, continued advocacy (Day, 2013) and health education (Friedman, 2006; Holosko, 2006) is required at the local, state, and federal level to intervene (Rivers, McPherson & Hughes, 2010) and implement conclusive protections for this population. Research has indicated that challenges present that hinder the analysis of hate crimes and motives (Parrott, Zeichner & Hudepohl, 2010) for such action. Theorists hold that limited information is available regarding the effect that race and culture have in relation to instances of victimization against homosexuals (Stotzer, 2014). In fact, Stotzer maintains that exploration of race as a causal factor influencing physical assault against the sexually deviant is needed. Hypothesized in the study is the principal belief that racially motivated "hate crimes" are more severe when the sexual orientation of the victim is questionable (Stotzer, 2014).

Because the literature is amongst the few studies available regarding the issue, analysis of the actual validity of the research has been difficult. For instance, Stotzer reiterates the necessity of additional research to support the claim of relativity between race, sexual preference and victimization. Findings from the study conclude that while an element of the research (specifically the rationale for victimization between individuals with similar racial backgrounds) is not known, supported is the theory that victimization primarily occurs between individuals that are "racially matched" (Stotzer, 2014, p.371). Further, the study is hindered because the results were not geographically inferred. The research was conducted in California with no other demographic areas referenced Stotzer, 2014. Being a victim of a hate crime, plays a key role in the health of the LGBT community. "Victims of hate crimes based on sexual orientation are at greater risk for depression, post traumatic stress, anxiety, and anger as compared to victims of nonbiased assaults" (Vincent et al, 2011, p 1237). The fear of being victimized causes a great deal of stress and anxiety the LGBT population. According to Lannert, "the fear of crime traumatogenic cognitions and concealment of stigmatized identities have been linked to adverse mental health outcomes" (Lannert, 2015, p. 292). These studies suggest that members of targeted minority groups, including homosexuals, can experience negative vicarious responses to bias crimes with significant mental health implications.

**Table 1. Synthesis of Keywords: Hate Crimes + Homosexuals (N =891)**

Years	Keywords	Limiters	Number of Articles
1973-2015	Hate Crimes + Homosexuals		N = 891
1989-2015	Hate Crimes + Homosexuals	Scholarly, Peer Reviewed Articles	N = 193
2010-2015	Hate Crimes + Homosexuals	Year	N = 31
2010-2015	Hate Crimes + Homosexuals	Eliminated article: "Deconstructing persecution and betrayals in the discourse of Anders Behring Breivik: A Preliminary Essay" due to relevancy. Article does not depict homosexuality as a reason for the terrorist attack.	N= 30
2010-2015	Hate Crimes & Homosexuals	The literature is omitted because it is an analysis of hate crimes committed against the disabled with no reference to hate crimes committed against members of the LGBTQ community.	N=29
2010-2015	Hate Crimes & Homosexuals	The article lacks relevancy to the issue of occurrences hate crimes against homosexuals.	N=28

Engine Searches: Academic Search Complete, ERIC, LGBT Life with Full Text, PsycARTICLES, PsycINFO, Social Work Abstracts, SocIndex with Full Text

**Table 2. Synthesis of Journal Articles for Keywords Hate Crimes + Homosexuals (N=891)**

Total Articles for Keywords Hate Crimes + Homosexuals	N = 891
Omit Dissertations	0 N=891
Omit Books and Magazines	0 n =891
Limit To Scholarly (Peer Reviewed Journals)	698 n = 193
Limit To Full Text	0 n = 31
Omit Articles That Do Not Match Keywords	1 n =30
Total Number of Articles From Searching Databases for Keywords Hate Crimes + Homosexuals	n = 28

Note. Academic Search Complete, ERIC, LGBT Life with Full Text, PsycARTICLES, PsycINFO, Social Work Abstracts, SocIndex with Full Text

**Table 3. Synthesis of Key Articles**

Author/Date	Type of Study	Purpose	General Comments	Strengths and Limitations
1 Cheng, W., Ickes, W., & Kenworthy, J. B. (2013). The phenomenon of hate crimes in the United States. <i>Journal of Applied Social Psychology, 43</i> (4), 761-794. doi: 10.1111/jasp.12004.	Quantitative (Chi-square test was used to show there was as significant difference between the three groups)	A review of the occurrence of hate crimes in the United States as detailed by FBI report from 1996-2008.	-analyzes FBI hate crime data from 1996-2008 for a variety of hate crimes -the study included anti-homosexual, anti-heterosexual and anti-bisexual hate crimes reported by the FBI (Chi-square test was used to show there was as significant difference between the three groups) (771)	could only study hate crimes reported to the FBI- sexual orientation hate crimes often go unreported.
2Makhubu, N. M. (2012). Violence and the cultural logics of pain: representatives of sexuality in the work of Nicholas Hlobo and ZaneleMuholi. <i>A South-North Journal of Cultural &amp; Media Studies, 26</i> (4), 504-524. doi: 10.1080/02560046.2012.723843.	commentary	A focus on the role that violence plays in regarding to sexual politics through a sculptor/performance artist, Nicholas Hlobo, and a photographer/activist, ZaneleMuholi from South Africa (focus on black homosexual subjects).	Hlobo and Muholi use their artwork and photographs to represent the violence towards to the LGBT community	not a study
3Lannert, Brittney. (2015). Traumatogenic Processes and Pathways to Mental Health Outcomes for Sexual Minorities Exposed to Bias Crime Information. <i>Trauma, Violence &amp; Abuse. 16</i> (3), 291-298.	Qualitative	A comprehensive review that brings together theoretical and empirical literature to develop a model of affective, cognitive and physiological responses to LGB individuals after exposure to bias crimes. Qualitative research regarding bias crimes is reviewed. Mental health treatment outlines are suggested for the LBG community.	-this article review will look at the brief literature focusing on vicarious response to bias crimes and presents a model to provide possible mechanisms and moderators for response and dreary mental health outcomes (291)	study showed that mental health outcomes—in today society homosexuality is no longer a mental health disorder—mental health issues in the LGBT community today is due to stress and negative experiences due to be part of this group (294) -given the complex study of stress and trauma and mental health issues cross sectional studies are limited (296-297)

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4Gillis, B. (2013). Understanding Hate Crimes Statutes and Building Towards a Better System in Texas. American Journal of Criminal Law, 40(2), 197-226.	Qualitative	To analyze hate crime statutes in relationship to the number of hate crime statistics in several states, to determine if using the statues (prosecuting offers) reduce the number of hate crimes overall. Then it lays out how Texas can improve its processes on hate crimes.	According to table 1:Protected Groups by Jurisdiction (2011) North Carolina didn't have a state law protection the rights of sexual orientation (210) -recommendation to improve Texas' hate crime issues (223-224)	-often police officers do not report hate crimes-so it's difficult to get an accurate accounting of the number of hate crimes (225)
5Frisell, T., Lichtenstein, P., Rohman, Q., &Langstrom, N. (2010). Psychiatric morbidity associated with same-sex sexual behavior: influence of minority stress and familial factors. Psychological Medicine, 40 (2), 315-324.	Qualitative/ surveys	to determine why is there an increase in psychiatric morbidity among non-heterosexual individuals	results indicated that depression, generalized anxiety disorder, eating disorders, alcohol dependence and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder were increased in same sex relationships. However adjusting for possible discrimination and hate crime risk—and genetic and environmental factors lowered the risk of these health concerns	-shows the importance of having effective laws at a state and federal level -hate crimes often go unreported to the FBI
6Rivers, I., McPherson, K. E., & Hughes, J. R. (2010). The role of social and professional support of seeking trauma recovery: lesbian, gay and bisexual experiences of crime and fears for safety. Psychology & Sexuality, 1(2), 145-155. doi: 10:1080/19419899.2010.484596.	Qualitative	Provides pilot data exploring numerous variables in reducing trauma systems (e counselling) in the UK sample population of the LGB community who are victims of hate crimes or fear for their personal safety due to their sexual orientation (145)	-concluded that counseling is a benefit to the LBG community (153)	strengths and limitations to the study-some strengths: no negative efforts were experienced by the study, cross section of society in the study and well balanced in regards to sex—negatives: sample size and geographical area was based on two regions, older LBG individuals were hard to obtain for the sample. (152-153)
7Gruenewald, J. (2012). Are Anti-LBGT Homicides in the United States Unique? Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 27(18), 3601-3623.	Qualitative study that uses systematical search sources were used to collect the data (3606)	Study to determine the similarities and differences in anti-LBGT homicides in relationship to normal homicides in the United States from 1990-2008.	findings: primary offenders were white 73.4% with less than 20% being black – however in average homicides 45% of the offenders were black, average age for an LGBT homicide is 25 compared to 32 of an average homicide, sexual orientation homicides were less likely to be done with a lethal weapon, 33% of anti-LBGT offenders knew their victims(3613-3614)	this study used open-source batabases which limited the existing bias crimes data—additional research is needed to expand on LBGT violence (3619)
8. Coloma, R. (2012). Homophobic: Lust and Loathing Across Time and Space. International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education. <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09518398.2011.649309">http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09518398.2011.649309</a>	The study is primarily a qualitative analysis.	The study was conducted as an analysis (in-depth review) of the lives and state of being of LGBTQ individuals in an effort to examine the role of sexuality as it relates to societal function for homosexual individuals and the homophobic behavior that this demographic suffers.	The study analyzed and discussed the rarely addressed issue of homophobia. Detailed in the study was an analysis of the function and visibility of homophobia.	Strengths; the study has subsequently increased awareness of the issue and is deemed a valuable resource for professional utilization. Limitations of the study are not elaborated. The author states only that while there is an awareness of the study's limitations, the book is recommended for use in various academic genres.

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9. Roxell, L. (2011). Hate, Threats, and Violence. A Register Study of Persons Suspected of Hate Crime. <i>Journal of Scandinavian Studies in Criminology and Crime Prevention</i> . Vol. 12, pp 198-215, 2011	Quantitative analysis	The intent of the study was a focus on new theories of victimization that essentially analyze the perspective and motive of perpetrators.	The study was insightful because it utilized statistical measures designed to analyze additional variables relative to hate crimes aside from the subjective recall of victims. The statistical analysis reveals concrete evidence of the factors relative to/involved as relative to the perpetrator, such as socioeconomic status and prior conviction(s) for hate related criminal activity.	Strengths of the study; statistical measures used, the measures produced hypotheses of behavior that could be tested. Additionally, figures for the number of hate related crimes was presented and which demonstrated possible trends in victimization. Study limitations included the inability to generalize the findings to all presumed "perpetrators". The study primarily analyzed crimes that are documented. Adversely, criminal reports are limited with regard to the information that is contained within, thus making data analysis difficult.
10. Haritaworn, J. (2010). Queer Injuries: The Racial Politics of "Homophobic Hate Crime" In Germany. <i>Social Justice</i> , Vol. 37 Issue 1, p.69-87	Omitted			The article lacks relevancy to the issue of occurrences hate crimes against homosexuals. The article makes slight references to the politics of hate crimes, however the article does not elaborate or expand current legislation related to the issue. Makes recommendations without a basis in research.
11. Roulstone, A., Thomas, P., & Balderston, S. (2011). Between Hate and Vulnerability: unpacking the British Criminal Justice System's Construction of Disabilist Hate Crime. <i>Disability and Society</i> , 26:3, 351-364. <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2011.560418">http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2011.560418</a>	Omitted			The literature is omitted because it is an analysis of hate crimes committed against the disabled with no reference to hate crimes committed against members of the LGBTQ community.
12. Stotzer, R. (2014). The Intersection of Suspect and Victim Race/Ethnicity Among Anti-Gay and Anti-Lesbian Bias Crimes. <i>Psychology and Sexuality</i> , 5:4, 357-373. <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19419899.2013.843580">http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19419899.2013.843580</a>	Primarily quantitative /descriptive design	The study analyzed the additional variables of race and ethnicity as correlated to occurrences of victimization of homosexual individuals.	The study identified the varying facets related to discrimination and victimization, such as race. Authors detailed the means through which these variables correlate or combine and have a pivotal role (additionally) in occurrences of discrimination and physical attack.	Strengths of the study; the ability to statistically analyze the data. The theories proposed can assist with the expansion of hate crime legislation. the findings present a strong argument for positive variations to mental health treatment. The study is the forerunner for analysis of hate crimes that are relative to race and sexual preference. Limitations of the study include the requirement implication that additional research to support the claim of relativity between race and sexual preference is required. Elements of The study (specifically, perpetrator race) were not primarily influenced by victim recall or crime statistics, rather the information regarding suspects was gleaned from witnesses. Finally the study is not geographically generalized.

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<p>13. Browne, K., Bakshi, L., &amp; Lim, J. (2011). 'It's Something You Just Have to Ignore': Understanding and Addressing Contemporary Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Safety Beyond Hate Crime Paradigms. <i>Journal of Social Policy</i>/Volume 40/ Issue 04. DOI: 10.1017/S0047279411000250</p>	<p>Qualitative</p>	<p>The study was conducted in an effort to highlight recurring discriminatory acts and physical victimization and the subsequent mental and physical effects experienced by LGBT individuals in an effort to facilitate the enactment of stricter hate crime legislation designed to improve the safety and wellbeing of LGBT individuals.</p>	<p>The authors seek to highlight additional variables that warrant review when analyzing causal factors that influence occurrences of bias and physical attack against LGBT individuals.</p>	<p>The study emphasizes the necessity of expanded legislation to guarantee continued and increased protection of LGBT individuals. The authors contend that describing what hate crimes are pale in comparison to an analysis of the effect of victimization on the persona and mental well-being of gay and lesbian men and women. Strengths of this study include direct focus on the mental and physical effects of discrimination and victimization for LGBT individuals. The study is limited however by the lack of statistical analysis that would essentially be beneficial to the cause of scientifically validating theories to support the author's claims.</p>
<p>14. Plumm, K., Terrance, C., Henderson, C., &amp; Ellingson, H. (2010). Victim Blame in a Hate Crime Motivated by Sexual Orientation. <i>Journal of Homosexuality</i>. doi:10.1080/00918360903489101</p>	<p>Quantitative /qualitative type, exploratory design.</p>	<p>The study was designed to assess (through the perspective of jurors assigned to such cases) perceived victim responsibility (causing or provoking) occurrences of victimization.</p>	<p>The intent was to gain knowledge of what potential jurors determine constitutes a hate crime and the means through which these individuals consider what portion of responsibility for instances of victimization belong to the accused, and those that have been victimized.</p>	<p>The study is statistically compromised. Researchers were unable to prove entirely their proposed theories. Additional limits included an inability to generalize the findings. Authors hold that additional research on the topic is required. Adversely, the study highlights the need for legal clarity of hate crimes and the variables at work when determining instances of, specifically, victimization. The authors seek to eliminate intervals in and increase the acquisition of knowledge relative to the classification of bias related crime.</p>
<p>15. Cramer, R. J., Nobles, M. R., Amacker, A. M., &amp; Dovoedo, L. (2013). Defining and evaluating perceptions of victim blame in antigay hate crimes. <i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i>, 28(14), 2894-2914. doi:10.1177/0886260513488687</p>	<p>Qualitative, exploratory</p>	<p>The study was conducted to evaluate psychometric properties of the Perceptions of Victim Blame (PVBS) using mock jury samples in a vignette-based capital murder antigay hate crime context.</p>	<p>The study reviewed the extant literature with emphasis on defining victim blame, clarifying its association with other blame terminology, reviewing major blame attribution theory, considering applications of victim blame, and assessing limitations of how victim blame has been measured to date. It then established antigay hate crimes as a framework to investigate the nature of victim blame.</p>	<p>Strengths are the present study contains noteworthy methodological and sample limitations offering fruitful ground for further evaluation of the blame attribution structure that was found. Overall, perceptions of victim blame, as measured by the PVBS, appear multidimensional. The multifaceted nature of perceptions of victim blame is a conceptual advancement over previous work depicting victim blame as merely dichotomous or a unidimensional construct. Limitation is that in terms of the method, the capital trial scenario holds numerous limitations, as such cases are rare within the United States and do not extend to international or cross-cultural contexts. Moreover, in assessing victim blame in a trial, live testimony can influence such ratings, yet capital murder fails to offer this aspect of juror perception. As such, the three-factor blame structure is limited in that it is primarily inferred from trial details, as opposed to live observation</p>
<p>16 Vincent, W., Parrott, D. J., &amp; Peterson, J. L. (2011). Combined Effects of Masculine Gender-Role Stress and Sexual Prejudice on Anger and Aggression Toward Gay Men. <i>Journal Of Applied Social Psychology</i>, 41(5), 1237-1257. doi:10.1111/j.1559-1816.2011.00755.x</p>	<p>Qualitative</p>	<p>This study was designed to examine the extent to which masculine gender-role stress, sexual prejudice, and antigay anger collectively facilitate antigay aggression.</p>	<p>The study aimed to test the conceptualization in a sample of young adult men, who represent a population at particular risk for antigay aggression that whether or not, masculine gender-role stress and sexual prejudice may interactively elicit antigay anger, which, in turn, triggers aggression toward gay men.</p>	<p>Strength is the present study is the first to illuminate a pathway from masculine gender-role stress to the perpetration of antigay aggression. Some limitations are first, causal or temporal relations between variables cannot be demonstrated with the current cross-sectional design. Second, nearly all of the participants in the sample who reported aggression toward sexual minorities endorsed verbal, rather than physical acts. Finally, the design employed in this study could not disentangle the extent to which the findings reflected men's tendency to experience anger or to behave aggressively in actual interactions with gay men, reflected men's self-presentation to other men (i.e., the male interviewer), or both</p>

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17 Williams, K. (2012). "DIP ME IN CHOCOLATE AND THROW ME TO THE LESBIANS". SA Crime Quarterly, (42), 39-46. Retrieved from <a href="http://search.proquest.com/iproxy.lib.ecu.edu/docview/1281849697?accountid=10639">http://search.proquest.com/iproxy.lib.ecu.edu/docview/1281849697?accountid=10639</a>	Commentary	This article focuses on the questions that the case raised about the relationship between the state and civil society in the prosecution and punishment of homophobic hate crimes.	The article discusses the role of OUT in the criminal process and what it suggests with regard to the relationship between the state and civil society in the development of a constitutional democracy in South Africa.	The approach that the magistrate took in sentencing the three perpetrators undermines the efforts of civil society to put cogent and persuasive evidence before the courts to enable judicial officers to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the right to equality. The approach also enabled the state to evade the moral responsibility of meting out punishment (which is one of the ways in which it legitimises itself).
18 Day, S. (2013). libraries as lgbtiq venues. Gay and Lesbian Issues and Psychology Review, 9(1), 46.	Commentary	A paper written to explore in detail how libraries may be seen as an important resource for LGBTIQ communities	Libraries are in a unique position to give hope to some of our society's most at-risk youth. This is even more evident in rural and regional areas, where there is likely nothing else around to remind LGBTIQ young people that they are not alone in the world.	Informal poll shows just why libraries have the potential to be important spaces for lesbians, gay men, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people.
19 Lippert, L. (2010). "Life in the Memory of One Who No Longer Lives": The Laramie Project and the Politics of Performance. ANQ: A Quarterly Journal of Short Articles, Notes and Reviews, 23(2), 86. doi:10.1080/08957691003712173	Commentary	This essay examines the politics of The Laramie Project, focusing on its engagement with the politics of futurity, and, as a consequence, with its stance towards homosexuality, homophobia, and the cultural narrative of queer social negativity.	An essay that explains/critiques The Laramie Project, a documentary play written by Moisés Kaufman and Tectonic Theater Project in the aftermath of the Shepard murder in October 1998,	Although the exact circumstances of Matthew Shepard's abandonment were never completely made transparent, Dennis undertakes to infuse the gaps with an implausible yet empowering story. He re-describes the moment of solitary death as one of community and belonging and insists that his son "wasn't alone.
20 Hate crimes against LGBT staff described at congress. (2011). Nursing Standard, 25(33), 6. Retrieved from <a href="http://search.proquest.com/iproxy.lib.ecu.edu/docview/864831130?accountid=10639">http://search.proquest.com/iproxy.lib.ecu.edu/docview/864831130?accountid=10639</a>	Commentary	Nurses have called on RCN council to promote awareness about hate crimes after hearing their colleagues highlight incidents of abuse.	Hate crime lowers self-esteem and can make victims 'feel like giving up'.	Congress voted unanimously for the motion last week after newly qualified nurse Philip Schneider told the conference how he was attacked after a night out with friends following his graduation last year.
21 Parrott, D., Zeichner, A., & Hudepohl, A. (2010). Heterosexual men's anger in response to male homosexuality: Effects of erotic and non-erotic depictions of male-male intimacy and sexual prejudice. Journal of Homosexuality, 57(8), 1022. doi:10.1080/00918369.2010.503511	Qualitative	To compare effects of erotic (i.e., low ecological validity) and non-erotic (i.e., high ecological validity) depictions of male-male intimate behavior on the experience of anger in heterosexual men.	The present study demonstrated the importance of sexual prejudice, exposure to ecologically valid depictions of male-male intimate behavior, and anger in our understanding of antigay violence. In addition, it further promoted the use of the GAM in informing research on antigay violence.	Strengths are the findings are consistent with past research which has demonstrated effects of sexual prejudice and exposure to male-male intimate behavior on elicitation of anger. The findings are also in line with survey-based research that has demonstrated the utility of ecologically valid depictions of male-male intimate behavior in producing changes in affect among sexually prejudiced men. Several limitations in the current study merit consideration. First, it is noteworthy that two different self-report measures of sexual prejudice were used in our studies. Second, while demographic characteristics of the three samples were similar in regard to age, education level, and income, one sample was comprised of a larger minority representation. Third, this research relied on self-report data collected with explicit measures of sexual prejudice and anger.

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<p>22Clark, F. (2014).</p>	<p>Qualitative, exploratory.</p>	<p>To assess how discrimination against LGBT people affect their health.</p>	<p>Discussed what laws or protections that countries have for LGBT individuals. Healthcare providers in fear of providing services in countries where nonheterosexual acts are illegal.</p>	<p>Strengths: Exploration of other countries. Limitations: article suggest grassroots push for laws protecting LGBT individual, but gives no suggestions as to what this “push” should entail.</p>
<p>23 Rothman, E., Exner, D. &amp; Baughman, A. (2011). The Prevalence of Sexual Assault Against People Who Identify As Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual in the United States: A Systematic Review. Sagepub.com/journalsPermission.nav.DOI:10.1177/154483010390707</p>	<p>Quantitative</p>	<p>The study was a methodological review of case studies regarding instances of sexual assault of individuals who report as homosexual. The study analyzed cases of sexual assault over the lifespan.</p>	<p>The study drew on data retrieved from sampling processes. Reported sexual assault occurrences amongst LGB individuals were statistically analyzed and reported. Researchers hold that lesbian women are at an increased risk for victimization (sexual assault) than gay men.</p>	<p>The study provided a strong recourse for the statistical analysis of sexual assault among LGB individuals. The methodological review highlighted occurrences of sexual assault over the life course for LGB individuals and which groups are at increased risk for victimization. The study is limited to review of sexual assault experienced by lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals, transgendered individuals were excluded from the study (p.63). As a result, the findings are not generalizable to transgendered persons (p.63).</p>
<p>24Drakulich, K. M., &amp; Rose, K. (2013). Being Male or Living With a Female: Fear for Partners by Sex and Sexual Orientation. Journal Of Interpersonal Violence, 28(9), 1765-1797. doi:10.1177/0886260512469109</p>	<p>Quantitative, explanatory study.</p>	<p>The purpose of this study was to assess whether men have disproportionately more concern for their female partners than do women for their male partners.</p>	<p>Defined fear and discussed consequences of fear. Introduced types of fear. Examined similarities and differences in fears of homo and heterosexual partners, as well as differences among men and women.</p>	<p>Strengths: Most hypothesis supported in the findings. Accounted for the inclusion of other variables of influence. Limitations: The number of respondents in the same-sex partnerships is considerably smaller than the number of respondents in different sex partnerships. Self-reported measures may be underreported due to the sensitive nature of the questions.</p>
<p>25 Cahill, S. (2010). A burst of progress on HIV policy. The Gay &amp; Lesbian Review Worldwide, 17(2), 24.</p>	<p>Qualitative</p>	<p>Essay on accomplishments achieved during President Obama’s first year of presidency regarding HIV/AIDS education, intervention and prevention.</p>	<p>The first year of Obama-Pelosi-Reid has been one of incredible breakthroughs.</p>	<p>In the first year of the Obama presidency and the Pelosi-Reid Congress, we have repealed a quarter century’s worth of bad public policies on hiv/aids and launched initiatives with great potential to fight the epidemic more effectively.</p>
<p>27 Landers, S., &amp;Gruskin, S. (2010). Gender, Sex, and Sexuality--Same, Different, or Equal?. American Journal Of Public Health, 100(3), 397.</p>	<p>Qualitative, exploratory analysis.</p>	<p>The purpose was to review legislative policies that impacted LGBT individuals.</p>	<p>Defined gender, sex, and sexuality. Indicated need for social policies to implement change.</p>	<p>Strength is that they are joining to fight of advocacy for legislation that will improved the lives of those of the LBGT population.</p>
<p>28Timofejevs-Henriksson, P. (2011). The (Subtly) Questioned Love: A Love Exile in Sweden. Signs: Journal Of Women In Culture &amp; Society, 36(4), 806-811.</p>	<p>Qualitative, explanatory design.</p>	<p>The purpose of this was to compare and contrast domestic experiences of living in Sweden vs. Latvia</p>	<p>Author gave personal accounts of domestic experiences while living in each country as a homosexual.</p>	<p>Strength: First hand personal account. Historical explanations as reasons for continued discrimination. Challenges “heteronormism”.</p>
<p>29Lick, D., Tornello, S., Riskind, R., Schmidt, K., &amp; Patterson, C. (2012). Social Climate for Sexual Minorities Predicts Well-Being Among Heterosexual Offspring of Lesbian and Gay Parents. Sexuality Research &amp; Social Policy: Journal Of NSRC, 9(2), 99-112. doi:10.1007/s13178-012-0081-6</p>	<p>Qualitative Explanatory design.</p>	<p>The purpose was to assess the social climate of the offspring of those with Lesbian/ Gay Parents</p>	<p>Assessed mental health/ minority stress; social climate and well being.</p>	<p>Strengths: Measured social climate using objective criteria from participant’s zip codes rather than relying on self-report. May have reduced bias and provided more valid estimates of the associations between social climate and well-being. Also, findings were replicated in two samples that were collected at different time points. Limitations: Correlational nature of the date precluded causal inferences; possible that social climate does not directly affect well-being among family members. Also possible that variable unrelated to sexual orientation explains association between social climate and psychological adjustment.</p>

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30Vanderbeck, R. M., & Johnson, P. (2011). 'If a Charge was Brought Against a Sainly Religious Leader Whose Intention Was to Save Souls ... ': An Analysis of UK Parliamentary Debates over Incitement to Hatred on the Grounds of Sexual Orientation. <i>Parliamentary Affairs</i> , 64(4), 652-673.	Qualitative, exploratory analysis of Parliamentary debates.	To assess the parliamentary to examine how legislators shaped the construction of Hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation Act.	UK Parliament debate. Christian and Parliament influences. Protections for homosexuals cannot impede religious protections.	Strength: Debate influences policy that will affect LGBT individuals. Limitations: religious influences can impede on the protections of LGBT individuals.
31Frisell, T., Lichtenstein, P., Rohman, Q., &Langstrom, N. (2010). Psychiatric morbidity associated with same-sex sexual behavior: influence of minority stress and familial factors. <i>Psychological Medicine</i> , 40 (2), 315-324.	Qualitative/ self survey	To determine why is there an increase in psychiatric morbidity among non-heterosexual individuals.	results indicated that depression, generalized anxiety disorder, eating disorders, alcohol dependence and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder were increased in same sex relationships. However adjusting for possible discrimination and hate crime risk—and genetic and environmental factors lowered the risk of theses health concerns	There were noted strengths in the study however the limitation included a large population base investigation-- and the sample size did not allow for analysis of the importance of heritability and environment for familial confounding (332)

As further research is conducted in an effort to understand the adverse discrimination experienced by those of the LGBT population, research has suggested that state-level policies need to be implemented to offer further protections. Studies have concluded that state-level policies and educational opportunities are needed to reduce the occurrences of victimization of LGBT individuals, and to promote annihilation of LGBT prejudices. Hatzenbuehler (2009) concluded that states that did not extend protections to lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals had higher instances of hate crime victimization. Implementations of health policy protections are essential to protect the lives and well-being (lick, Tornello, Riskind, Schmidt, & Patterson, 2012; Makhubu, 2012; Lippert, 2010) of LGBT individuals.

### Limitations

The studies were limited due to the lack of data based on non-reporting of LGBT hate crimes. The community often does not report due to fear of retaliation and repercussion. Also, law enforcement officials are unaware of proper classification of hate crimes often resulting in low reporting numbers. Due these factors, the statistics are not representative of the actual prevalence of hate crimes against the LBGT community. In order to overcome this limitation, awareness of hate crimes against homosexuals needs to be discussed within local communities to decrease the divergence in hate crimes committed and those that are reported to law enforcement. An increase in reporting will provide key stakeholders with the necessary background and statistical information to improve policy protection.

### Conclusion and Summary

In summation, the study set out to identify the number of articles, explore, and analyze the professional literature relating to the prevalence of hate crimes against homosexuals. With only 28 articles uncovered related to this topic, there is a paucity of information centered on numerous issues. A systematic literature review of the peer reviewed publications (n=28) was conducted where the literature was limited to the specific keywords

“Hate Crimes, Homosexuals” and resulted in a mix of both quantitative and qualitative studies. Such limitations of the sample populations used included location, demographic areas, self-reporting, race, small sample sizes, and the reliability of participants’ report, particularly those with mental illnesses. Some studies relied only on zip codes of the sampling site, rather than where the victimization took place. A large portion of the surveys used men as the only source of data, limiting the information about female sexual assault victims. This may be attributed to individual study concern or resultant of the finding that enforcement are less likely to report the abuse. As it stands, the level of inquiry and the information of the demographic is not comprehensive or reliable enough to accurately assess this population’s needs. There is a need to further identify Causal factors of victimization, such as gender deviance (non-conformity) are reported in the findings. Additionally, disparity regarding the mental health function of LGBT individuals that are victims of hate crimes and the subsequent effect of those crimes were reported in the findings. The findings appear to support that “Hate Crimes” has a negative impact on the mental health of LGBT populations and quality of life. In addition, stressors such as violence decrease the mental functioning and impacts the quality of life of LBGT. Unfortunately, the children of this population needs further investigation. Additionally, the prejudice, anger, knowledge and mental a physical health status of perpetrators is not fully understood as the determinants of discrimination is hindered by definitions and policies. Not only are politicians involved but perceptions of jurors in hate crime cases needs further health educational resources. The research appeared to indicate a gap among health professionals and the role in the identification of *hate crimes* due to lack of screening and health education needed to provide resources for victims, it is hoped that new training and policy development can be implemented. Providing health educators and psychosocial professionals with the tools such as education needed to identify instances of domestic violence would precipitate effectual interventions and allow children to have a better chance at academic success and obtain positive efficacy. However, it appears to be evident that more longitudinal

research is necessary to fill in the knowledge gap and increase wellbeing. Health educators must lead the way to promote effective physical and mental health interventions associated with *hate crimes* against the LGBT community with both perpetrators and victims to ensure a quality of life for those most vulnerable in society protected by Federal law.

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