Characteristics of Bias Homicides Against the LGBTQIA+ Community

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A majority of anti-LGBTQIA+ victims (53%) were killed in public settings. About 1/3 of anti-LGBTQIA+ victims were killed by firearms. Less than 1/4 of homicides resulted in official hate crime charges. About 29% of anti-LGBTQIA+ victims were killed by strangers. About 43% of bias homicide victims in the BHDB were targeted because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Most of these attacks (89%) involved one victim.

**DATA SNAPSHOT**

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**Background:** Five people were killed and at least 17 injured on November 19, 2022 just before midnight at Club Q, an LGBTQIA+ club in Colorado Springs, CO. The shooting ended after a 22-year-old gunman wielding an AR-15 style rifle was disarmed by club patrons. Federal, state, and local law enforcement officials continue to investigate the mass shooting. The alleged shooter has been charged with murder and hate crimes.

**About the Data**

The Bias Homicide Database (BHDB) includes felonious killings committed by identified offenders in which evidence (observable indicators) exists that victims were targeted in part or wholly based on one or more real or perceived status or identity characteristics.

Data presented here include 151 bias homicides between 1990 and 2020 targeting 207 anti-LGBTQIA+ victims.

The BHDB is housed in the Terrorism Research Center (TRC) at the University of Arkansas.

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