

11-2022

Characteristics of Bias Homicides Against the LGBTQIA+ Community

Jeff Gruenewald
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Katie Ratcliff
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/tercpr>



Part of the [Social Control, Law, Crime, and Deviance Commons](#), and the [Terrorism Studies Commons](#)

Citation

Gruenewald, J., & Ratcliff, K. (2022). Characteristics of Bias Homicides Against the LGBTQIA+ Community. *Research Projects*. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/tercpr/27>

This Brief is brought to you for free and open access by the Terrorism Research Center at ScholarWorks@UARK. It has been accepted for inclusion in Research Projects by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UARK. For more information, please contact scholar@uark.edu, uarepos@uark.edu.

DATA SNAPSHOT

Characteristics of Bias Homicides Against the LGBTQIA+ Community

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.



Approximately **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.



A majority of anti-LGBTQIA+ victims (53%) were killed in public settings.



About 29% of anti-LGBTQIA+ victims were killed by strangers.



Less than 1/4 of homicides resulted in official hate crime charges.



About 1/3 of anti-LGBTQIA+ victims were killed by firearms.

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.



Cite This Report

Terrorism Research Center. (2022). Characteristics of bias homicides against the LGBTQIA+ community. <https://terrorismresearch.uark.edu/trc/data-snapshot-characteristics-of-bias-homicides-against-the-lgbtqia-community>.