

Translated Research Article in Plain Language

-  What is the name of the study?
Application of an intersectional framework to understanding the association of disability and sexual orientation with suicidal ideation among Oregon Teens
-  Who are the authors of the study?
César Higgins Tejera, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.,¹ Willi Horner-Johnson, Ph.D.,¹ and Elena M. Andresen, Ph.D.²
-  What was the goal of this study?
The goal of this study was to look at how disability and sexual orientation together relate to suicidal ideation.

Key Words:

Sexual orientation: describes being sexually or romantically drawn to persons of the same, or different, sex or gender

LGB persons: lesbian, gay, or bisexual people

Suicidal ideation: wanting to take your own life or thinking about suicide

What did we find?

Heterosexual (also known as straight) teenagers without a disability had the lowest risk of suicidal ideation. The people at the highest risk of suicidal ideation were LGB teens with disabilities. This was higher than both LGB teens without a disability and heterosexual teenagers with a disability.

What did we learn?

Being both LGB and disabled increases the risk of suicidal ideation beyond either identity by itself. When together, disability and minority sexual orientation may make it more likely that teens will be treated badly by others. Bad experiences could increase the risk of suicide.

Why is this important?

There are ways to make places where teens live, learn and interact with others better for LGB teens and disabled teens. For example, public health efforts and school-based interventions could help lower the risk of suicidal ideation. These could especially help teens who have both of those identities.

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