

# The burden of crime victimization among the LGBTQ+ population in Aotearoa/New Zealand

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TE KĀHUI RANGAHAU MANA TAURITE

## Disclaimer

These results are not official statistics. They have been created for research purposes from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) which is carefully managed by Stats NZ. For more information about the IDI please visit <https://www.stats.govt.nz/integrated-data/>.

# Acknowledgments

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# Motivation

- ▶ Flores (2021) ranks NZ as the tenth most inclusive country on LGBTQ+ equality
- ▶ Carpenter et al. (2024) “find patterns of earnings differentials in NZ that are strikingly similar to those documented in other developed countries”
- ▶ Aim of this study: victimization prevalence of LGBTQ+ individuals compared to non-LGBTQ+ individuals
  - ▶ Oversea literature: Bender & Lauritsen (2021) reveal “substantially higher rates of violence directed at LGB individuals”
  - ▶ Limited evidence for New Zealand (MoJ, 2023)

## Our contribution

- ▶ *Aim: providing novel insights into the causes and consequences of victimization for a priority population*
- ▶ New Zealand Crime & Victims Survey (NZCVS) linked to the IDI
- ▶ Holistic approach: LGBTQ+ community (sexual and gender minority)
- ▶ Looking at multiple dimensions:
  - ▶ Type of victimization (e.g., physical offence, personal offence, interpersonal offence)
  - ▶ Role of location (Auckland/Wellington vs Rest)
  - ▶ Perceived reason for victimization (e.g., sex, sexuality, ethnicity)
  - ▶ Consequences (e.g., taking time off, physically injured)

## Our findings

1. Substantially higher victimization rates for LGBTQ+ members:
  - ▶ Any offence in past 12 months: 45.5% vs 31.2% ( $\Delta = 0.143pp$ )
2. Controlling for socio-demographic characteristics lowers  $\Delta$  somewhat:
  - ▶ Any offence in past 12 months:  $\hat{\beta} = 0.111$  (0.014)
3. Variation by location:  $\Delta$  lower in Auckland/Wellington
4. LGBTQ+: Sex & sexuality as a perceived reason
5. LGBTQ+: More likely to take time off or to be physically injured

# Data

- ▶ NZCVS has 5 cycles 2018-2022 (~ 35k individuals)
- ▶ > 90% agreed to be linked to the IDI (~ 32k individuals)
- ▶ IDI datasets used:
  - ▶ *[nzcvs\_clean].[core]* → socio-demographic characteristics at the interview date
  - ▶ *[nzcvs\_clean].[incident]* → detailed information on experienced offence in past 12 months
  - ▶ *[data].[apc\_constants]* → Further individual-level information (e.g., birth date, oversea born)

- ▶ Types victimization (following MoJ definition):
  - ▶ *Any* → all offence types
  - ▶ *Physical offence* → includes robbery and non-sexual assault
  - ▶ *Personal offence* → includes personal theft, property damage, assault incl. sexual, robbery, fraud and deception, cybercrime, harassment and threatening behaviour
  - ▶ *Interpersonal offence* → includes sexual and other assault, harassment and threatening behaviour, robbery, and damage of personal or household property if victim knows the offender
  - ▶ *Highly victimized* → reporting more than one victimization in the past 12 months



- ▶ Sexual orientation and gender identity:
  - ▶ *Sexual orientation* → heterosexual/straight, gay/lesbian, bisexual, other
  - ▶ *Gender identity* → male, female, gender diverse
  - ▶ *Transgender* → if gender identity and biological sex differ
- ▶ LGBTQ+ if sexual orientation is gay/lesbian, bisexual, other, or if gender divers or if transgender

# Sample

- ▶ Total sample:  $N = 28\,692$
- ▶ LGBTQ+:  $N = 1\,206$  (4.2%)
- ▶ Sexual orientation:
  - ▶ Gay or lesbian:  $N = 402$  (1.4%)
  - ▶ Bisexual:  $N = 486$  (1.7%)
  - ▶ Other:  $N = 141$  (0.5%)
- ▶ Gender minority (gender diverse or transgender):  $N = 237$  (0.8%)

## Descriptive statistics

### Victimization rate (past 12 months)

	All	Personal	Interpersonal	Physical	Highly victimized
Age: 30+	0.303	0.154	0.065	0.025	0.103
Age: <30	0.395	0.207	0.142	0.060	0.164
Location: rest	0.307	0.164	0.082	0.029	0.110
Location: AKL/WLG	0.335	0.161	0.071	0.032	0.116
Total	0.318	0.163	0.078	0.031	0.113
<i>N</i>			28 692		

# Descriptive statistics

Victimization rate by LGBTQ+ status (past 12 months)

	All	Personal	Interpersonal	Physical	Highly victimized
non-LGBTQ+	0.312	0.157	0.029	0.132	0.108
LGBTQ+	0.455	0.294	0.067	0.174	0.224
$\Delta$	+0.143	+0.136	+0.118	+0.038	+0.116
Population	0.318	0.163	0.078	0.031	0.113
<i>N</i>	28 692				

## Descriptive statistics

### Socio-demographic characteristics by LGBTQ+ status

	non-LGBTQ+	LGBTQ+
Age: <30	0.156	0.361
Location: AKL/WLG	0.395	0.493
<i>N</i>	27 486	1 206

# Empirical strategy

## Regression specification

Linear probability model:

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 LGBTQ_i^+ + \beta_j \mathbf{X} \quad (1)$$

where  $LGBTQ_i^+$  takes the value of 1 if being a sexual or gender minority and 0 else.  $\mathbf{X}$  is the vector of control variables including biological sex, ethnicity, age, partnership status, AKL/WLG dummy, household income, high deprivation (8+), interview year, born oversea. Separate estimations also by sexual orientation (excluding others) and gender identity.

# Results

## Likelihood being victimized

### Victimization rate by LGBTQ+ status (past 12 months)

	All	Personal	Interpersonal	Physical	Highly victimized
$\hat{\beta}_1$	0.111*** (0.014)	0.116*** (0.011)	0.094*** (0.008)	0.028*** (0.010)	0.093*** (0.005)
raw $\Delta$	+0.143	+0.136	+0.118	+0.038	+0.116
Population	0.318	0.163	0.078	0.031	0.113
<i>N</i>	28 692				

# Results

AKL/WLG effect

Linear probability model adjustment:

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 LGBTQ_i^+ + \beta_2 AKL/WLG_i + \beta_3 AKL/WLG_i \times LGBTQ_i^+ + \beta_j \mathbf{X}$$

(2)



# Results

## Likelihood being victimized by location

### Victimization rate by LGBTQ+ status (past 12 months)

	All	Personal	Interpersonal	Physical	Highly victimized
$\hat{\beta}_1$	0.142*** (0.019)	0.138*** (0.015)	0.110*** (0.011)	0.034*** (0.007)	0.117*** (0.013)
$\hat{\beta}_1 + \hat{\beta}_3$	0.078*** (0.020)	0.093*** (0.016)	0.078*** (0.011)	0.021*** (0.007)	0.067*** (0.013)
raw $\Delta$	+0.143	+0.136	+0.118	+0.038	+0.116
Population	0.318	0.163	0.078	0.031	0.113
<i>N</i>			28 692		

# Results

## Perceived cause for incidence

### Perceived cause for victimization

	Ethnicity	Sexuality	Sex	Discrimination
$\hat{\beta}_1$	0.017 (0.010)	0.120*** (0.009)	0.109*** (0.012)	0.132*** (0.014)
<i>N</i>	9 135	9 135	9 135	9 135

# Results

## Further results

### Further effects of victimization

	Perceived serious	Reported police	Takes time off	Physically injured
$\hat{\beta}_1$	-0.018 (0.018)	-0.028 (0.022)	0.034*** (0.012)	0.042*** (0.011)
<i>N</i>	9 135	9 135	9 135	9 135

# Conclusion

## Summary of findings

1. Substantially higher victimization rates for LGBTQ+ members:
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