

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

Liqun Zhuge (AUT)

Alexander Plum

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## 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

- ▶ This research was supported by a contract from the Ministry of Justice
- ▶ We received feedback from:
  - ▶ Tabby Besley (Managing Director, InsideOUT)
  - ▶ A/Prof Brian Feinstein (Rosalind Franklin University, US)
- ▶ Conversation piece: New data on violence against LGBTQ+ people makes ‘grim reading’ – and undermines NZ’s inclusive reputation

# Background

- ▶ NZ has a reputation for being forward-thinking and progressive
  - ▶ The Marriage (Definition of Marriage) Amendment Act (2013)
  - ▶ The Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Act (2022)
  - ▶ The Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act (2021)
- ▶ Ranked the tenth most inclusive society by international legal standard
- ▶ Concern: prejudice spills over into criminal act / hate crime
- ▶ Surge in reported hate crimes against transgender people (42% ↑ between 2022 and 2023)

# Background

- ▶ Aim of this study: victimization prevalence of LGBTQ+ individuals compared to general population
- ▶ Overseas literature: Bender & Lauritsen (2021) reveal “substantially higher rates of violence directed at LGB individuals”
- ▶ Limited evidence for New Zealand (MoJ, 2023)

## Our contribution

- ▶ Aim: *shed light on crime victimisation rates among the LGBTQ+ population in New Zealand*
- ▶ New Zealand Crime & Victims Survey (NZCVS) ↔ IDI
- ▶ Holistic approach: LGBTQ+ community (sexual and gender minority)
- ▶ Looking at multiple dimensions:
  - ▶ Type of victimization (e.g., physical offence, personal offence, interpersonal offence)
  - ▶ Perceived reason for victimization (e.g., sex, sexuality, discrimination)
  - ▶ Consequences (e.g., taking time off, physically injured)

# Data

- ▶ NZCVS has 5 cycles 2018-2022 (~ 35k individuals)
- ▶ > 90% agreed to be linked to the IDI (~ 32k individuals)
- ▶ 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 →  $N = 1\,206$  (4.2%)

# Our findings

## Part 1

1. Higher rates of crime victimisation for LGBTQ+ individuals : 45.5% vs 31.8% report being a victim of a crime in the past 12 months (gap of 14.3 percentage points)
2. Members of the LGBTQ+ community were also much more likely to be a victim of crime more than once: 22% vs 11% experienced more than one victimisation in the previous year.
3. Two groups stood out in particular: bisexual individuals and transgender/gender-diverse people. physical injuries



# Our findings

## Part 2

4. LGBTQ+ individuals have sociodemographic characteristics that tend to be associated with higher crime victimisation risk (e.g., younger, lower average income) → applying linear probability models has only minimal impact (gap of 11.1 percentage points)
5. LGBTQ+ individuals are more likely to report that the perceived reason for crime victimisation is their sexual orientation or their sex compared to non-LGBTQ+ individuals
6. LGBTQ+ individuals are more likely to experience negative effects, such as having to take time off work or sustaining physical injuries

# Conclusion

- ▶ Living up to our inclusive reputation
- ▶ Policies that are better tailored to prevent crime and support victims → building greater awareness and knowledge in the sexual and family violence sectors to prevent and support affected rainbow communities
- ▶ Monitor situation → is the gap widening or closing?

Thank you for your attention

Feedback to: [alexander.plum@aut.ac.nz](mailto:alexander.plum@aut.ac.nz)