

## **Lifetime prevalence of suicidal symptoms and affective disorders among homosexually active men in a national household survey**

*S.D. Cochran, UCLA School of Public Health  
V.M. Mays, University of California, Los Angeles*

Objectives: Describe the lifetime risk for affective disorders among men who report recent same-gender sex partners. Recognize the risk for suicide attempts among younger homosexually active men.

Abstract Text Objectives: This study examined lifetime prevalence of suicide symptoms and affective disorders among men reporting a history of same-gender sex partners.

Methods: In the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III), men age 17 to 39 years were assessed for lifetime history of affective disorders and sexual behavior patterns. The study classified this subset of men into three groups: those reporting same-gender sex partners, only female sex partners, and no sex partners. Groups were compared for histories of suicide symptoms and affective disorders.

Results: We observed 2.2% (95% CI: 1.3%-3.1%) of men reporting any same gender sex partners. These men evidenced greater lifetime prevalence of suicide symptoms than men reporting only female partners. However, homosexually/bisexually experienced men were no more likely than exclusively heterosexual men to meet criteria for lifetime diagnosis of an affective disorder.

Conclusion: These data provide further evidence of increased risk for suicide symptoms among homosexually experienced men. Results also support findings from previous convenience-based samples that homosexuality itself is not associated with greater lifetime risk for affective disorders, at least for men.

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