

Sexual orientation-based victimization and suicidality: How race matters

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INTRODUCTION

- Sexual minority individuals are at increased risk for suicidality and perceived burdensomeness (PB).
- Victimization based on sexual orientation is associated with suicidal ideation and is mediated by PB
- Present study examined the relation between victimization and suicide risk, suicide attempt history, suicidal ideation in the past 12 months, PB, thwarted belongingness, and capability for suicide, and whether racial/ethnic identity impacted these relations

METHODS

- 131 sexual minority undergraduate students recruited via SONA
 - 60.3% White, 28.2% Black, 11.5% Other
 - 64.9% Female
 - 43.5% Bisexual
- **Measures:** Gay-Bashing Scale, Suicide Behaviors Questionnaire-Revised, Interpersonal Needs Questionnaire, Acquired Capability for Suicide Scale
- Data analyzed using a MANOVA and Fisher r-to-z transformation.

RESULTS

- Sexual orientation-based victimization was independently associated with suicide risk ($F = 1.86, p = .03$) suicide attempt history ($F = 3.27, p < .001$), 12-month ideation ($F = 1.93, p = .02$), and perceive burdensomeness ($F = 1.82, p = .03$).
- No association between victimization and thwarted belongingness or capability for suicide.
- The relation was stronger for those identifying as a race/ethnicity other than Black or White for attempt history, 12-month ideation, and PB.



Victimization was associated with suicide risk, attempt history, 12-month ideation, and perceived burdensomeness (PB). The relation between victimization and 12-month ideation, attempt history, and PB was stronger for those identifying with a race/ethnicity other than White or Black.



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Victimization and Attempt History		
White vs. Black	$z = -0.08$	$p = .9362$
Black vs. Other	$z = -1.88$	$p = .0601$
Other vs. White	$z = 2.08$	$p = .0375^*$

Victimization and 12-month Ideation		
White vs. Black	$z = -0.28$	$p = .7795$
Black vs. Other	$z = 2.79$	$p = .0053^*$
Other vs. White	$z = 3.19$	$p = .0014^*$

Victimization and PB		
White vs. Black	$z = -0.66$	$p = .5093$
Black vs. Other	$z = -2.09$	$p = .0366^*$
Other vs. White	$z = -2.68$	$p = .0074^*$

DISCUSSION

- Victimization may have more of an impact on suicide attempts, 12-month ideation, and PB for those identifying as a race/ethnicity other than Black or White.
- These individuals may encounter multiple forms of marginalization including racial discrimination, rejection, non-affirmation, and stigmatization.
- The cumulative experience of these identity-related stressors may contribute to risk for suicidal thoughts
- **Limitations**
 - Smaller sample size ($N=13$) for those identifying as a race/ethnicity other than White or Black