

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender

Suicide is the 5th leading cause of death on Guam.

Individuals with gender preferences experience difficulties in identifying themselves using the terms Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT). In social environments, GLBT youth find it difficult to be accepted because of their sexual minority status and fear of being rejected by the community.

FACTS:

What does it mean to be a GLBT Youth:

Gay: A term associated with either homosexual females or males, but is more specifically associated with males.

Lesbian: A female homosexual

Bisexual: Someone who is attracted physically and emotionally to people regardless of the gender.

Transgender: A term that covers cross dressers & drag queens/kings and individuals who complete the process of sex change.

Based on sexual orientation it is hard for one to:

- Find a decent job
- Seek assistance from the local community or specific agencies
- Be accepted in society by parents, family, friends, and others
- Seek Spiritual Guidance
- Avoid sexual, emotional, and physical violence or abuse

The above information maybe based on culture, tradition, heritage, and place of origin. GLBT discovers that it is difficult to be an individual in society due to lack of support from family members, peers, and those of the community.

SUICIDE RISK FACTORS FOR GLBT Youth

- Previous Suicide Attempts
- Suicidal Behavior among peers and friends
- Identity conflict or identity confusion
- Lack of personal support
- Social inequity: limited social and legal protection, hostile school or work environments
- Low Self-Esteem & harassment
- Physical, emotional, & sexual abuse
- Mental Illness: terminal illness HIV/AIDS, Cancer, bipolar, etc...

Racial/Ethnic Backgrounds:

When assessing the breakdown by ethnicity, it is always important to consider the total population. Majority of the ethnic population is made up of Chamorros and other Micronesian islanders. Although Chamorros have a high significant rate of related deaths to suicide Filipinos have a lesser extent to the contribution of suicide.

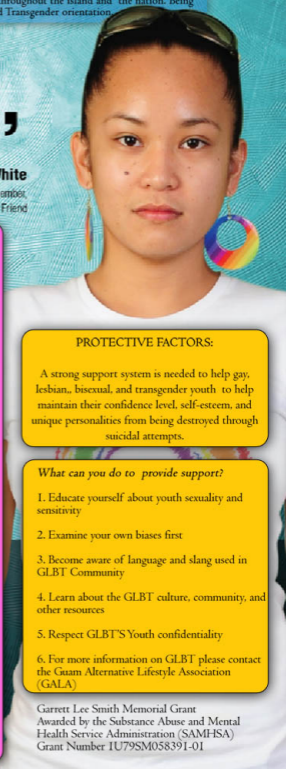
Male Micronesians have a higher rate of completing suicide than female Micronesians.
(Source: A Profile of Suicide on Guam, January 2009)

In some cultures being a part of GLBT is not accepted. It is even more difficult for them to explain about the choices they have made. GLBT'S express that equality is all they want throughout the island and the nation. Being accepted is a major factor played in those of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender orientation.

“ **There's nothing
we can't handle.
It will get better.** ”

Rese White

GLBT Community, Guahan Project Member,
Photographer, Friend



LOCAL AGENCIES:

24 Hour Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Crisis Hotline
(671) 647-8833

24 Hour Guam Alternative Lifestyle Association (GALA)
(671) 488-5291
<http://galaguam.org>

24 Hour I Pinangon, University of Guam Campus Suicide
Prevention Program
(671) 735-2888/9

24 Hour Life Works Guam: Suicide Prevention Program and
Rainbows for all Children on Guam
(671) 632-0257

24 Hour Sanctuary, Incorporated of Guam Crisis Hotline
(671) 475-7100

Local Emergency 911

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE:

24 Hour National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800- 273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)

24 Hour Teen Suicide Hotline
(1-800-552-8336)

24 Hour Youth Crisis Hotline
(1-800-843-5200)

24 Hour GLBT Youth Suicide Hotline
1 866-4U-TREVOR (8-873867)



PROTECTIVE FACTORS:

A strong support system is needed to help gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth to help maintain their confidence level, self-esteem, and unique personalities from being destroyed through suicidal attempts.

What can you do to provide support?

1. Educate yourself about youth sexuality and sensitivity
2. Examine your own biases first
3. Become aware of language and slang used in GLBT Community
4. Learn about the GLBT culture, community, and other resources
5. Respect GLBT'S Youth confidentiality
6. For more information on GLBT please contact the Guam Alternative Lifestyle Association (GALA)

Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Grant
Awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Service Administration (SAMHSA)
Grant Number IU79SM058391-01