

**Prevalence of Anxiety Disorders  
in Gay and Lesbian Youth Suicide  
Could Help Prevent Suicide -  
Douglas Study**

**Montreal, January 20, 2010 – Researchers from the Douglas Mental Health University Institute have found that young gay and lesbian suicide victims are twelve times more likely to suffer from anxiety disorders and more likely to consult mental health professionals than heterosexual youths.**

Further more, Johanne Renaud, MD, MSc, medical director of the youth Section of the depressive disorders Program at the Douglas and her coauthors write:

“Within the month preceding their deaths, these youth were more likely to have consulted a health professional, a psychiatrist, as well as having been hospitalized,” Mental health professionals could see this condition as a risk factor for suicide, and, consequently, have the opportunity to act in prevention. This study, published this month in the Canadian Journal of Psychiatry, is the only Canadian study on sexual orientation and gender identity as risk factors for suicide.

All of the victims in their sample, regardless of sexual orientation, exhibited a similar general psychopathology associated with suicide. This study examined 55 youth who killed themselves and 55 living control subjects. People close to the victims were interviewed in a psychological autopsy. Questions were asked about sexual orientation, gender issues, psychopathological diagnoses, and service use.

**The authors**

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<http://publications.cpa-apc.org/browse/documents/2>

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