

# Family, faith, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors (STBs) among LGBTQ youth in Utah.

EXPORT Add To My List Request Permissions

Database: APA PsycArticles First Posting

[McGraw, James S.](#) [Docherty, Meagan](#) [Chinn, Jay R.](#) [Mahoney, Annette](#)

## Citation

McGraw, J. S., Docherty, M., Chinn, J. R., & Mahoney, A. (2021). Family, faith, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors (STBs) among LGBTQ youth in Utah. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000517>

## Abstract

Utah ranks fifth in the nation for suicide and has experienced a rapid increase in youth deaths by suicide over the last decade. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) youth in Utah may be at heightened risk, given the major presence and stances of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints regarding LGBTQ identities and relationships. However, no research has yet examined the differences in or predictors of suicidal thoughts and behaviors (STBs; i.e., suicidal thoughts, plans, and attempts) among LGBTQ youth in Utah. Using a large representative sample of Utah middle and high schoolers (n = 73,982), we found that Latter-day Saint (LDS) and non-LDS LGBTQ groups reported greater levels of STBs than heterosexual/cisgender youth, with non-LDS LGBTQ youth reporting the highest levels of STBs, followed by LDS LGBTQ youth. Path-analyses demonstrated that LGBTQ participants' reports of higher family conflict and lower parental closeness were tied to higher depression, self-harm, and substance misuse, and these three factors were, in turn, associated with higher levels of STBs for LGBTQ youth in Utah. This path model did not differ significantly due to LDS versus non-LDS religious affiliation. Findings suggest that LGBTQ youth in Utah would be well served if clinicians and advocacy groups pay attention to the ways that religious affiliation and family dynamics might indirectly lead to STBs among adolescents. Public Significance Statement: This study found that both Latter-day Saint and non-Latter-day Saint LGBTQ youth are at higher risk for experiencing suicidal thoughts and behaviors than their heterosexual or cisgender peers. Additionally, for LGBTQ youth, higher levels of family conflict and lower levels of parental closeness were related to more depression, substance misuse, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, and suicide attempts. These findings demonstrate the potential familial and religious risks that LGBTQ youth may experience in Utah. (PsycInfo Database Record (c) 2021 APA, all rights reserved)

Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity

[Journal TOC](#)

[Get Access](#)

## Related Content

[Adolescent suicide ideation in Utah: The role of religion and family.](#) Dyer, W. Justin; Goodman, Michael A.; Hardy, Sam A., 2020

[Predictors of suicidal ideation and attempts among LGBTQ adolescents: The roles of help-seeking beliefs, peer victimization, depressive symptoms, and drug use.](#) Hatchel, Tyler; Ingram, Katherine M.; Mintz, Sasha; Hartley, Chelsey; Valido, Alberto; Espelage, Dorothy L.; Wyman, Peter, 2019

[Nonsuicidal self-injury thoughts and behavioural characteristics: Associations with suicidal thoughts and behaviours among community adolescents.](#) Robinson, Kealagh; Garisch, Jessica A.; Wilson, Marc S., 2021