Self-Injury in young Bisexual people: a Longitudinal investigation (SIBL)

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Project abstract:
Research suggests that self-injury is more prevalent among adolescents and young adults, particularly those who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Historically, there has been an absence of research comparing the mental health of individual identities within the LGB community. In recent years it has been found that bisexual individuals are at a higher risk of poor mental health compared to heterosexual and lesbian/gay individuals, including self-injury. Based on previous findings with LGB people, this study will look at whether there is any link between certain psychological processes and urges to self-injure for young bisexual people. Specifically, the study will investigate: self-esteem (how you feel about yourself), ‘thwarted belonging’ (feelings of not belonging), rumination (a kind of unhelpful overthinking) and biphobia (unfair/discriminatory treatment to bisexual people). Past research and theory suggests that these are all factors that are associated with the mental health of LGB people. Therefore, these factors will be investigated to see if they help to account for the risk of self-injury in young bisexual people.

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Manchester Data Management Outline

- Ethics
- No – only institution involved
- Acquire new data
- University of Manchester Research Data Storage Service (below)

University of Manchester Research Data Storage will be used for the storage of study data during the lifetime of the project.

- < 1 TB
- Yes

The research will use the ‘Market’ test message system to send text message reminders to participants. The information governance department have confirmed that this has been reviewed and is approved for use by the University. Only phone numbers will be a Phone numbers will be removed from the once participants have completed or withdrawn from the study.

- 5 - 10 years
- Special categories and criminal convictions
- Personal information, including signed consent forms

Study related data (questionnaire responses) and personal data (contact details) will be kept in separate electronic databases (password-protected) but linked via a participant identification number (PIN). This link will be needed in order to identify a participant should they wish a prize draw or request to receive a summary of the study findings. If a participant does not want to be entered into the prize draws or receive a summary of the findings, their PIN will be destroyed once they complete or withdraw from the study. Thus, breaking the link between study data and personal (identifiable) data. Personal (identifiable) data would then be destroyed.

For participants who wish to be entered into the prize draws, contact details will be kept in a secure, password-protected electronic database. These contact details will be destroyed once the participant has taken place (by January 2021). For participants who wish to receive a summary of the findings, contact details will be kept in a secure, password-protected electronic database. It will not be possible at this stage to link a participant to their responses during the study. Contact details will be destroyed once participants have been sent the requested summary of findings, following the end of the study (by October 2021).

Complained electronic consent forms will be retained for 5 years following the completion of the study for audit purposes. It will not be possible at this stage to link those to responses or data generated during the study. Consent forms will be destroyed following the 5 year period.

A subset of participants will be invited to take part in a qualitative interview, which will be undertaken via telephone or video call platform like Zoom. These interviews will be audio recorded. Audio recordings will be immediately transmitted to the secure University of Manchester drive following interviews, and the original audio file wiped for the recording device. Audio files will be used to produce a written anonymous transcript. At this stage the original audio recording will be deleted.

Transcription will be done on a University of Manchester computer and transcripts will be stored on a University secure drive for at least ten years.

All data will be stored on secure, password-protected University Research Data Storage and destroyed upon completion of the project. Consent forms will be kept for 5 years but it will not be possible to link these to participant study data. Personal data will not be shared outside of the research team.

- No
- No
- Not applicable
- No

The Principal Investigator, Dr Peter Taylor

2020-04-29

Project details

Research suggests that self-injury is more prevalent among adolescents and young adults, particularly those who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Historically, there has been an absence of research comparing the mental health of individual identities within the LGB community. In recent years it has been found that bisexual individuals are at a higher risk of poor mental health compared to heterosexual and lesbian/gay individuals, including self-harm.

Based on previous findings with LGB people, this study will look at whether there is any link between self-injury and urges to self-injure for young bisexual people. Specifically, the study will investigate: self-esteem (how you feel about yourself), ‘thwarted belonging’ (feelings of not belonging), rumination (a kind of unhelpful overthinking) and biphobia (unfair/discriminatory treatment to bisexual people). Past research and theory suggests that these are all factors that are associated with the mental health of LGB people. Therefore, these factors will be investigated to see if they help to account for the risk of self-injury in young bisexual people.

The research project will follow The University of Manchester’s Research Data Management Policy found here: http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=33802

Responsibilities and Resources

The Principal Investigator Dr Peter Taylor will be responsible for ensuring the data management plan is followed and reviewed when necessary.

No additional resources are required outside of the research team.

Data Collection

The research will collect quantitative data in the form of participant’s responses to questionnaires. This data will be stored as datasets on Stata version 14. Qualitative interview data will be collected as audio recordings, and used to generate written anonymous transcripts, which will be saved in a Microsoft Word format.

Data will be collected through online surveys. The survey system complies with University regulations, is secure and password-protected. Participants will not be required to enter any personally identifiable information. A unique ID code will instead be used to distinguish between participants. Data will be cached by the survey. This will be downloaded by the research team upon a participant’s completion of or withdrawal from the study, at which point their data on the survey will be destroyed. No trace of this data remains on the survey system following deletion.

The link to the survey will be sent to each participant via email/text message. A subset of participants will be invited to take part in a qualitative interview, which will be undertaken via telephone or video call platform like Zoom. These interviews will be audio recorded. Audio recordings will be immediately transmitted to the secure University of Manchester drive following interviews, and the original audio file wiped for the recording device. Audio files will be used to produce a written anonymous transcript. At this stage the original audio recording will be deleted.

Transcription will be done on a University of Manchester computer and transcripts will be stored on a University secure drive for at least ten years.
Documentation and Metadata

There are no plans to share the data generated from this research with others outside of the research team.

Ethics and Legal Compliance

Ethical approval will be sought from the University of Manchester UREC review prior to the research taking place. The will include the plan for data management and storage. Any change in the data management plan would require amendment to the ethics application, which would need to be approved before any changes were implemented.

No copyright or IPR issues are expected to arise in this research.

Storage and backup

Electronic data will be stored via University Research Data Storage. This drive will be password protected and backed-up.

During the study, electronic data will be stored via University of Manchester Research Data Storage. This drive will be password protected and backed-up. Personal data will be stored in encrypted, password protected formats.

Participants will complete surveys through University of Manchester approved online survey platforms using an personal ID number and password, that only they will be aware of. Therefore, anyone else clicking the link would not be able to complete the survey for them. All data entered would only be identifiable to the research team, who will be able to link the number to the participant.

Audio recordings will be immediately transferred to the secure, password protected University of Manchester drive following interviews, and the original audio file wiped for the recording device. Audio files will be used to produce a written anonymous transcript. At this stage the original audio recording will be deleted. Transcription will be done on a University of Manchester computer and transcripts will be stored on a University secure drive for at least ten years.

Selection and Preservation

Anonymised electronic datasets and transcripts will be stored for at least 10 years following the completion of the project on a University of Manchester Research Data Storage. Consent forms will be stored in an encrypted, password-protected format for 5 years following the end of the study. It will not be possible to link consent forms to other data generated during the course of the research.

Anonymised electronic datasets and transcripts will be stored for at least 10 years following the completion of the project on a University of Manchester Research Data Storage.

Data Sharing

There are no plans to share the data to individuals outside of the research team.

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