

2024 Observatory of Violent Deaths of LGBT+ Individuals in Brazil

Grupo Gay da Bahia, Salvador, Ba, 17/01/2025

BRAZIL LEADS GLOBAL RANKINGS FOR LGBT+ HOMICIDES AND SUICIDES IN 2024

In 2024, Brazil remained the country with the highest number of homicides and suicides of LGBT+ individuals worldwide. A total of 291 violent deaths were recorded—34 more cases than in 2023—representing an 8.83% increase compared to the previous year (257 deaths). This equates to one violent LGBT+ death every 30 hours. Of these, 273 were homicides, and 18 were suicides. The data was released by the Grupo Gay da Bahia (GGB), the oldest LGBT+ non-governmental organization in Latin America, which has been conducting this survey since 1980, for 45 years.

The GGB's research is based on information collected from media outlets, online research platforms, and correspondence sent to the organization. Unfortunately, despite annual demands for government action, authorities remain negligent: no official statistics exist on hate crimes against LGBT+ populations in Brazil. This makes the GGB's research essential for shedding light on these tragedies, even as it acknowledges the underreporting of such cases due to the lack of public funding for this type of research. These 291 violent LGBT+ deaths are just the tip of an iceberg of hate and bloodshed.

In addition to the 291 confirmed deaths, there are 32 cases under investigation, classified as "in limbo," pending further verification. If validated, the total number of violent deaths would rise to 323. This research, conducted without governmental financial support, relies on the dedication of volunteers gathering data from internet sites, blogs, social networks, and media outlets.

Despite this Herculean effort combining patience and investigative skill, many journalistic reports and police records omit critical information about victims' sexual orientation, gender identity, race, and the modus operandi of the perpetrators. Such omissions hinder a broader understanding of the violence faced by different segments of the LGBT+ community.

Globally, consolidated data on LGBT+ homicides by country or continent is scarce. The sole exception is a limited study on transgender individuals conducted by the NGO Transgender Europe, which recorded 321 murders across 39 countries in the past year. Of these, 94 occurred in Brazil, accounting for 29.2% of the global total. Mexico and the United States occupy second and third places, with 66 and 61 deaths, respectively. It is worth noting that the U.S. has 120 million more inhabitants than Brazil, further underscoring the GGB's longstanding claim that Brazil leads this tragic global ranking of violent deaths—not only among the transgender population but across the entire LGBT+ spectrum.

Brazil's continued prominence in this deadly toll highlights the urgent need for governmental, legislative, and social action to combat violence against over 10% of Brazil's LGBT+ population. Statistical invisibility and institutional neglect in implementing effective public policies perpetuate impunity and increase the

vulnerability of these individuals. This tragic cycle repeats annually, demanding immediate and decisive government action, starting with comprehensive statistical tracking of such hate crimes.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

LGBT+ Deaths in Brazil, 2024

Sexual Orientation	Absolute (Abs.)	Relative (%)
Gay	165	56.70%
Transgender Women/Transvestites	96	32.99%
Lesbian	11	3.78%
Bisexual	7	2.41%
Trans Men	6	2.06%
Heterosexual	6	2.06%
Total	291	100%

In 2024, the Grupo Gay da Bahia documented 291 violent deaths of LGBT+ individuals in Brazil, comprising 165 gay men, 96 transgender women and transvestites, 11 lesbians, 7 bisexual individuals, and 6 transgender men. Additionally, six heterosexual individuals were included in this tally due to circumstances where they were mistakenly perceived as LGBT+, attacked while defending LGBT+ individuals, or associated directly or indirectly with the community and its social spaces.

These figures, despite acknowledged underreporting, underscore the persistence of violence against this community and highlight the urgent need for effective public policies to combat hate crimes. The numbers reflect an 8.83% increase compared to 2023.

Professor Luiz Mott, founder of GGB, noted that data collection and analysis methods improved compared to 2023, allowing for a more detailed examination of victim profiles: “These numbers again reveal the higher incidence of homicides involving gay men compared to transgender individuals and women.”

Brutal Cases

Among the most brutal cases documented is the murder of Admilson Julião Martins (Maia), a 53-year-old gay man in Caruaru (PE), who was beheaded, had his heart removed and replaced with a stone, and whose body was left in a vacant lot. This crime shocked the nation with its extreme cruelty.

Age of LGBT+ Victims of Violent Deaths, 2024

Age Range	Absolute (Abs.)	Relative (%)
5-18	16	5.50%

19-25	43	14.78%
26-35	66	22.68%
36-45	52	17.87%
46-55	30	10.31%
56-65	24	8.25%
66 and older	3	1.03%
Not Specified	57	19.59%
Total	291	100%

A striking 60.8% of victims were in their prime (19-45 years old) when they were murdered or committed suicide. The youngest victim was only 5 years old, and the oldest was 75.

One of the most shocking cases involved a 5-year-old boy, LFN, who was killed with stones by a 14-year-old adolescent simply because he called her a "dyke." This heinous act occurred in Lácio/Marília, SP, on February 11, 2024, highlighting how toxic LGBTphobia is deeply rooted even among youth.

Other tragic cases include a 12-year-old boy beaten to death by his stepfather in Monte Mor/Campinas and a 13-year-old boy who died after severe bullying by classmates at a school in Praia Grande, SP. Additionally, a 14-year-old black boy in Osasco faced bullying at an elite school where he was a scholarship student.

The average age of transgender women and transvestites murdered in 2024 was 24.64 years, underscoring the tragic reality that most of these individuals, primarily sex workers, lose their lives before reaching 35.

Racial Identity of LGBT+ Victims of Violent Deaths, 2024

Race	Absolute (Abs.)	Relative (%)
White	115	39.52%
Black/Brown	79	27.15%
Not Specified	97	33.33%
Total	291	100%

Consistent with previous observatories, racial identity remains one of the least reported variables in media and police records about LGBT+ victims. Only 34% of cases specify the victim's race. This disparity is particularly striking: 76% of transgender women and transvestites had their race recorded, compared to only 17% of gay men. None of the reported cases for lesbians and bisexual individuals included racial information.

The breakdown shows white individuals as the largest reported racial group (39.52%), followed by Black and Brown individuals (27.15%). However, when combining the latter two categories into a single "Black" designation, they account for 21.39% of victims, surpassing whites. Such disparities highlight systemic racial and sexual prejudices, as illustrated by insults like "Besides being gay, you're Black," which often preceded violent attacks.

Regional Distribution of Violent Deaths

Region	Absolute (Abs.)	Relative (%)
Northeast	99	34.02%
Southeast	99	34.02%
Central-West	44	15.12%
North	34	11.68%
South	15	5.15%
Total	291	100%

In 2024, the Northeast and Southeast regions jointly accounted for 68.04% of violent deaths of LGBT+ individuals, recording 99 deaths each. These figures mark a shift from prior years, where the Northeast traditionally held the highest count. The North region, historically noted for its violence, recorded fewer deaths, falling to fourth place. Meanwhile, the South registered the fewest deaths, at only 15 cases.