

HEALTH

# Legal gay marriage tied to fewer suicide tries

By Lindsay Tanner  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Teen suicide attempts in the U.S. decline after same-sex marriage became legal and the big impact was among gay, lesbian and bisexual kids, a study found.

The research found declines in states that passed laws allowing gay to marry before the Supreme Court made it legal nationwide. The results don't prove there's a connection, but researchers said policymakers should be aware of the measure's potential benefits for youth mental health.

Suicide is the second lead-

ing cause of death for all U.S. teens. Suicidal behavior is much more common among gay, lesbian and bisexual kids and adults; about 29 percent of these teens in the study reported attempting suicide, compared with just 6 percent of straight teens.

Laws that have the greatest impact on gay adults may make gay kids feel "more hopeful for the future," said lead author Julia Raifman, a researcher at Johns Hopkins' Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The measures also could reduce the more tolerance and less bullying, making these teens feel less stigmatized. Those effects could also ben-

efit straight teens but more research is needed to determine how the laws might influence teen behavior, Raifman said.

The study was published Monday in JAMA Pediatrics. The researchers analyzed data on more than 700,000 public high school students who participated in government surveys on risky youth behavior from 1999 through 2015, the year the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage.

About 230,000 students reported being gay, lesbian or bisexual. The surveys didn't ask about transgender status. They included questions about suicide attempts,

smoking and alcohol or drug use.

In 32 states that enacted same-sex marriage laws during the study, suicide attempts dropped 7 percent among all students and 14 percent among gay kids after the laws were passed. There was no change in suicide attempts in states without those laws.

The study only included suicide attempts, not deaths. The new work makes an important contribution to identifying how laws limiting gay rights may affect psychological and physical health, said Columbia University public health researcher Mark Hatzenbuehler.

## Airlines

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wait on the tarmac — were less promising.

While the percentage of on-time flights increased slightly in 2016 from the year before, it did not match an all-time peak. And tarmac delays actually increased from 2015 to last year with 120 "lengthy" stretches — nearly double the 70 recorded in 2015.

Last year, 84 domestic flights sat on the tarmac for more than three hours, and 36 international flights stayed on the tarmac for more than four hours, the DOT said. The longest tarmac delay recorded in 2016: A Norwegian Air flight from New York to Oslo, Norway, on Jan. 23. It sat at New York's JFK airport for 422 minutes before taking off.

News that the number of canceled flights dropped in comparison to previous years was no surprise to federal officials, who released an update in late 2016 predicting airlines would hit a record low.

Only 1.7 percent of flights were canceled last year, with November ending setting an all-time record low with only 0.29 percent of flights canceled.

Cancellations were down at PBI, where the percentage of canceled flights dropped from 1.37 percent in 2015 to 1.24 percent last



Passengers gather last month at a Palm Beach International Airport baggage claim. Mishandled-gateway incidents are at a five-year low. **RICHAUD GIBAUD/COURTESY THE PALM BEACH POST**

year, just slightly above the national average. Weather delays and late planes caused by airline issues were down at PBI.

The DOT attributes the drop in the cancellation rate in large part to American Airlines, which has the second-most domestic flights, and which dropped its canceled-flight rate from 1.6 percent to 1.2 percent.

The three airlines with the lowest cancellation rates were Hawaiian, Delta and Alaska.

The causes of cancellations varied, but more than half were caused by weather,

the DOT said.

The number of mishandled bags also plummeted from previous years, hitting an annual low rate of 2.7 per 1,000 passengers. That's the lowest number since 2012, when just over three bags per 1,000 passengers were mishandled. The DOT defines a mishandled bag as one that has been lost, damaged, delayed or stolen.

The airline with the lowest mishandled bag rate last year was Virgin America, maintaining hold of the top spot among large U.S. carriers for the second year in a

row. JetBlue sits in the second spot, also for the second year in a row, with 1.61 reports of mishandled bags per 1,000 passengers.

Travelers denied boarding for flights — or involuntarily "bumped" — hit the lowest level since 1995, the earliest available DOT records, with a rate of 0.62 per 10,000 passengers. Among the airlines reporting lower bump rates last year: Frontier, ExpressJet, United, American and Delta. Hawaiian had the best record for not bumping passengers.

kweeb@palmbeachpost.com



## WELLINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held on the below listed Resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF WELLINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL, APPROVING A MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT (PATTERN NUMBER 17 - 09 / 2017) TO BE USED FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY KNOWN AS WELLINGTON GREEN, LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF STATE ROAD 7 AND TOWN OF WILMINGTON, AS MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED HEREIN, AMENDING THE WELLINGTON GREEN MASTER PLAN TO ALLOW A CONDITIONAL USE HOTEL BY WARD 7 AND TO AMEND CERTAIN CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL, PROVIDING A CORRECTS CLAUSE, PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Said public hearing will be held as follows:

**PLANNING, ZONING AND ADJUSTMENT BOARD:**

Location: Village Hall  
12300 Forest Hill Blvd., Wellington, Florida.

Date: March 8, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as may be found to be in the public interest. The hearing of the request may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

Notice is hereby given that members of the Wellington Council may attend and participate in the board proceedings.

**WELLINGTON VILLAGE COUNCIL:**

Location: Village Hall, 12300 Forest Hill Boulevard, Wellington, Florida.

Date: March 28, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as may be found to be in the public interest. The hearing of the request may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

All interested parties are invited to attend and be heard with respect to the proposed resolution. Copies of all documents pertaining to the proposed resolution are available in the Planning and Zoning Division of the village hall and may be examined by the public weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and on Wednesday from 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning Division  
12300 Forest Hill Boulevard  
Wellington, Florida 33414  
(561) 791-4000

Appendix: If a person desires to appear at a public hearing with respect to any matter considered at such hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings and for each person may need to appear at a public hearing and make a statement which the applicant is to be heard. All requests must be filed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Wellington Land Development Regulations.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this hearing, because of a disability or physical impairment, should contact the Wellington Manager's Office at (561) 791-4000 or email for assistance prior to the hearing.

Dated: February 14, 2017

Attest: The Palm Beach Post February 21, 2017

## NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

To be held Tuesday, March 14, 2017  
Regarding Town of Palm Beach Shores, Florida  
Proposed Charter Amendments

The Town of Palm Beach Shores, Florida, hereby gives notice, pursuant to Section 100.042, Florida Statutes, that a referendum election shall be held on March 14, 2017, in conjunction with the municipal election.

The form of the ballot questions regarding the proposed Charter Amendments in this referendum election shall be as follows:

**QUESTION 1 PROPOSED BY ORDINANCE Q-1-12:**

"SHALL THE CHARTER AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR STATE LAW CONFORMANCE, AND GENERAL CLEANUP."

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 2 PROPOSED BY ORDINANCE Q-1-13:**

"SHALL THE CHARTER AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR MAYOR AUTHORITY, OFFICER REVIEWING AND PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD SERVICE PREREQUISITES"

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 3 PROPOSED BY ORDINANCE Q-1-12:**

"SHALL THE CHARTER OF PALM BEACH SHORES BE AMENDED TO ELIMINATE THE OFFICE OF TOWN TAX COLLECTOR, MAKE THE TOWN MANAGER A NON-OFFICER EMPLOYEE, CLARIFY AND DETAIL THE MAYOR'S OFFICIAL AUTHORITY, PROVIDE SPECIFIC MAYOR AUTHORITY TO FILL A VACANCY IN AN APPOINTED POSITION AND PRESCRIBE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD SERVICE"

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION 4 PROPOSED BY ORDINANCE Q-1-12:**

"SHALL THE CHARTER AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR REMUNERATION FOR THE MAYOR AND/OR COMMISSIONERS BY ORDINANCE"

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

All qualified electors of the Town of Palm Beach Shores, Florida, shall be qualified to vote in such election.

Erynne Browning, Town Clerk  
Town of Palm Beach Shores, Florida

PUBLISHED DATE: February 7, 2017  
February 21, 2017

## Trafficking

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populations help make it a popular target for the crime, some authorities say.

"Any place where there are young adults," said Becky Dymond, the founder of Heptabud House, a safe house in Palm Beach County for women who have been victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation.

"Traffickers, they'll go to bus stops, hallway houses, sober houses, strip clubs, bars," said Today, Catholic Charities is expected to announce the receipt of a grant and the start of a partnership with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to combat human trafficking.

The Boynton Beach incident took place in the early morning hours of Feb. 9. The men entered a home on Northwest Fourth Street, two of them with guns drawn. One pointed a revolver at the 19-year-old's stomach, grabbed her by the back of her head and forced her to leave the house, police say.

An ad for the woman later appeared on the backpage.com website advertising sexual relationships. An under-

cover detective arranged to meet her at a Boynton Beach motel, offering to pay \$200, before the men were arrested. One of the men allegedly told officers they had gone to the Boynton Beach home to "pimp" the woman.

Officials say violent acts such as this one are less common than scenarios where persuasion and kindness are used by a would-be trafficker to gain their target's trust. "Perhaps that person, they are really down on their luck or it could be a number of vulnerabilities," said Tanya Meade, president of the Human Trafficking Coalition of the Palm Beaches.

"At the end of the day, somebody uses else's vulnerability to make a profit," Dymond estimates about 2,000 women in Palm Beach County are being commercially sexually exploited, not including those who are trafficked online. Women and men in drug recovery are particularly vulnerable to being manipulated by traffickers, she said.

"All they have to do is go 'hey, you can have as much coke as you want,'" Dymond said. "That's one of the tools they use to manipulate and

## SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS?

Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888.

maintain control."

Anti-trafficking organizations already are targeting at least one tool the Boynton Beach suspects are alleged to have used.

This month, an unnamed Florida woman who says she was the victim of trafficking through backpage and an anti-human trafficking organization filed a lawsuit in federal court in Orlando against the owners of backpage.com.

"The online exploitation of teen girls is the biggest human rights violation of our time," said Carol Robles-Roman, the president and CEO of Legal Momentum, a New York-based women's rights organization that helped prepare the lawsuit. "Backpage.com knowingly facilitated this evil and must be held accountable to the harmed girls and to the organizations that provide them services so they can heal and recover."

mfgham@palmbeachpost.com  
Twitter: @JuliusWhigham

This past month, the site closed its adult advertisement section, citing government pressure, according to multiple published reports.

Statistics show the majority of reported human trafficking cases involve women, but it can also happen to men and boys, officials say.

"There is no such thing as a typical victim," Meade said. "They can be young people. They can be older. They can be male. It happens really across the socioeconomic spectrum."

In many cases, calls to the trafficking hotline are made by a community member who observed something out of the ordinary, she said. According to the Palatka Project, signs of human trafficking include a person being unable to leave as he or she wishes, lacking control over his or her finances, and lacking control over his or her identification.

"The biggest thing we always encourage people to do is just educate themselves about the issue," Meade said. "If they see something that doesn't look right or feel right, call the hotline."

mfgham@palmbeachpost.com  
Twitter: @JuliusWhigham

## Heat

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Sunday's surface breezes had help in stoking the winter weather.

Dan Kotkowski, a senior meteorologist with Accu-weather, said a pronounced ridge in the jet stream sent dry, warm air high in the atmosphere streaming into Florida from the north and northeast.

The reason the ridge is so large is because of the powerful Pacific storm that slammed California over the weekend with winds as high as 70 mph. Five deaths are attributed to the storm, which also forced evacua-

tions as mudslides and flooding were feared.

"The jet stream is unusual in that it's very, very weak for February," Kotkowski said. "That ridge is so big because of the super storm that came into the west."

But the overall temperatures this winter have been on the warm side. In West Palm Beach, the average high since Jan. 1 is 78.6 degrees, about 5 degrees above normal. The Southeast Regional Climate Center ranks this year as the 10th warmest in records that date back 120 years.

While not as warm as Sunday, temperatures in South Florida and through-

out much of the central part of the country are forecast to be above normal into next week. Monday's high in West Palm Beach reached 81 degrees — four degrees above normal.

"A dominant high-pressure ridge has created record warmth from Florida to the Great Lakes in the past few days," said Weather Channel meteorologist Mike Bettes, who noted that temperatures in West Palm Beach dropped 9 degrees between 4 and 5 p.m. Sunday as the front went through.

Sunday's sunny, warm weather preceded what forecasters believe could be stormy days ahead.

A low-pressure system

over Texas is expected to move east with a front that could bring thunderstorms to South Florida from Wednesday night into Thursday morning.

The Storm Prediction Center has parts of Central Florida and all of South Florida marked as a region where thunderstorms could pop up.

Kotkowski said there's also the chance for more than an inch of rain Wednesday into Thursday.

"There could be some very strong thunderstorms ahead of this," he said. "If not severe storms, then some very strong rainfall."

kmler@palmbeachpost.com  
Twitter: @KmlerWeather