



Characterizing Violence and Discrimination Patterns Across Gender and Sexual Identities in Puerto Rico's LGBTQ+ Individuals

Jan M. Ruiz Núñez, B.S., Tania Vega, M.S., Vanessa Pagán Rodríguez, B.A., & Caleb Esteban, Ph.D.

Ponce Health Sciences University, Puerto Rico



BACKGROUND: LGBTQ+ individuals in Puerto Rico experience disproportionate **violence** and **discrimination**, driven by structural vulnerabilities such as limited legal protections, austerity, and sociocultural stigma. Understanding these patterns is essential for **advancing equitable health interventions**.

POPULATION

161 cisgender, 22 transgender



183 LGBTQ+ adults (ages 18-68) living in Puerto Rico. Participants identified as **female** (38.7%), **male** (49.5%), and **transgender/non-binary** (11.8%).



Most identified as **bisexual** (61.3%) or **gay/lesbian** (25.1%).

Education: High school to postgraduate

Income: Low Income to High Income

Residence: All participants living in Puerto Rico.

METHODS



Source: Queer Biopsychosocial Health Laboratory Dataset



Recruitment through community networks and social media



Measures: lifetime violence + discrimination



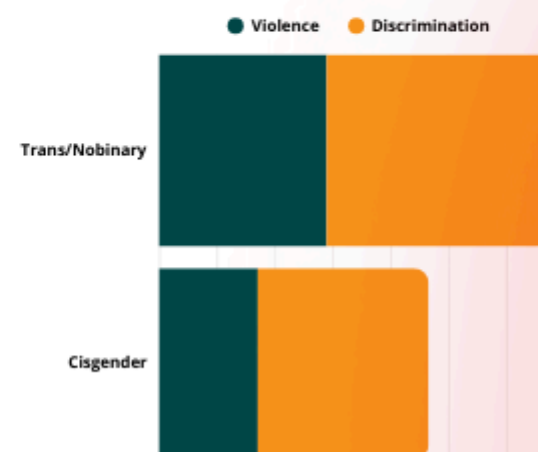
Data Analysis: Descriptive statistics, Chi-square tests

Identity variables evaluated: **gender identity, sexual orientation, education, income**

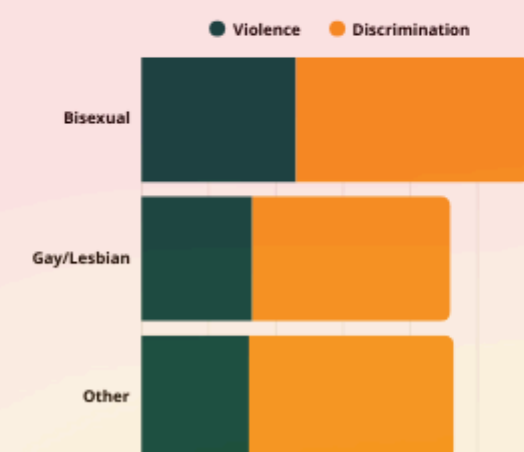
MAIN FINDINGS

Overall: 39.1% experienced lifetime **violence** | 63.5% reported **discrimination**

By Gender Identity:



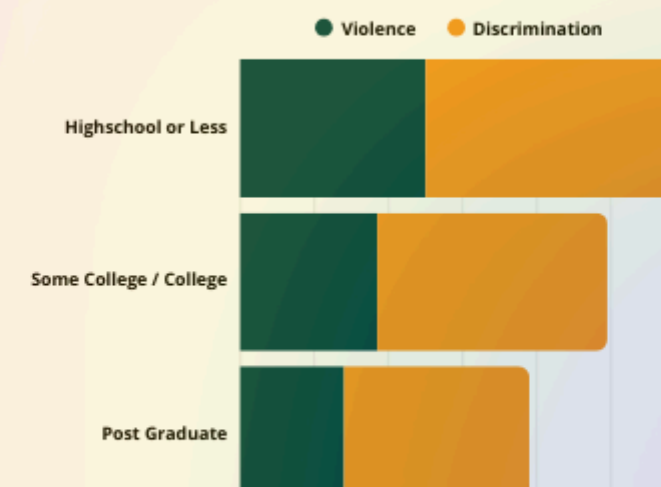
By Sexual Orientation:



By Income Level:



By Education Level:



CONCLUSION

Transgender, non-binary, bisexual, low-income, and low-education LGBTQ+ adults in Puerto Rico face disproportionately **high violence and discrimination**. These results highlight the urgent need for **inclusive policies, equitable healthcare access, and structural protections** to reduce **LGBTQ+ health disparities**.

Contact information:



jruiz22@stu.psm.edu

cesteban@psm.edu

References:

Scan the QR Code for more information.

