

The Impact of LGBTQ Discrimination on Health Disparities

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A variety of research links racial discrimination to stress, health behaviors, and health outcomes. There are reasons to believe these same relationships may be evident for the LGBTQ population. If so, policy initiatives that protect this community from discrimination and mistreatment may reduce disparities in health behaviors as well as mental and physical health outcomes. To consider this, we will examine how state policies that protect LGBTQ rights (and those that allow LGBTQ discrimination) shape disparities in self-reported mental health, tobacco use, and alcohol use, as well as a variety of other health behaviors and outcomes. Particular effort will be made to address policy endogeneity; that is, disentangling such policies' causal effects on behavior from the impacts of population attitudes that drove policy adoption).

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