



Prejudice Towards the LGBTQ+ Community:

Gay Individuals are Rated More Positively Than Bisexual and Transgender Individuals



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INTRODUCTION

Anti-LGBTQ+ bias is reported to be declining rapidly¹; however, bisexual and transgender people still face high rates of stereotyping², bias³, and discrimination⁴

Bisexual, transgender, and other groups are often omitted from LGBTQ+ research^{5,6}

- e.g., <1% of articles in one LGBTQ+ journal focused on bisexuals⁷, though >50% of the community is bisexual⁸
- Thus, little is known about biases towards bisexual and transgender people

Research question

- *How do attitudes towards gay/lesbian, bisexual, and transgender men and women differ?*

METHODS

N = 571 cisgender, heterosexual Berkeley students

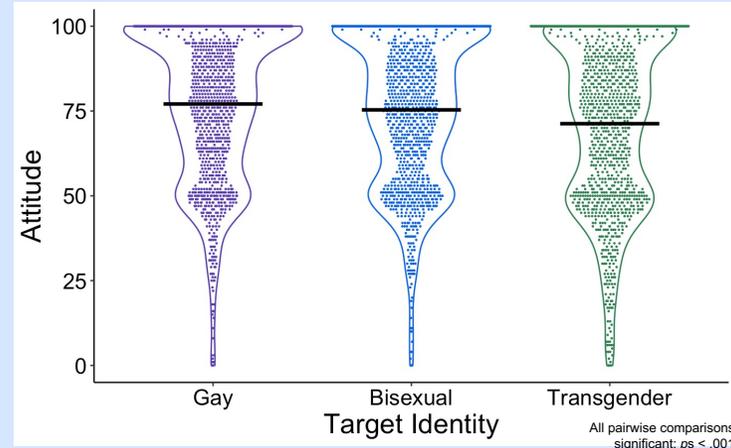
- 74% women; 26% men
- 80% socially liberal, 13% moderate

Feeling thermometers

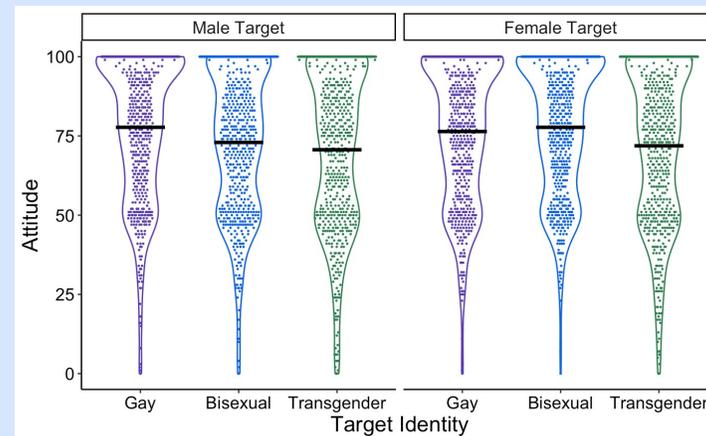
- Scale: 0 (Very cold) to 100 (Very warm)
- Target identity
 - Gay Men & Lesbian Women
 - Bisexual Men & Women
 - Transgender Men & Women

RESULTS

Ratings of gay/lesbian targets were most positive, followed by bisexual targets; transgender targets were rated most negatively.



Ratings of male targets were consistent with the overall results. However, ratings of female targets differed from the results above: bisexual and lesbian women were rated similarly.



DISCUSSION

Attitudes towards gay/lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people are not the same, nor are attitudes towards bisexual men and women

Implications

- Sentiments that anti-LGBTQ+ bias has decreased substantially¹ may be overstated, and not apply to all LGBTQ+ groups
- Highlights importance of research investigating unique anti-LGBTQ+ biases; disaggregating data

Future directions

- Investigate possible mechanisms for differences in attitudes
 - Prototypicality, media exposure, essentialism
- Replicate in nationally representative (older, less liberal) sample
- Investigate marginalized groups' well-being related experiences to omission and bias
- Interventions to combat omissions, investigate consequences for bias

References

- ¹ Charlesworth & Banaji, 2019
- ² Mize & Manago, 2018
- ³ Dodge, Herbenick, Friedman, et al., 2015
- ⁴ Ronan, 2021
- ⁵ Monro, Hines, & Osborne, 2017
- ⁶ Kaestle & Ivory, 2012
- ⁷ Pollitt, Brimhall, Brewster, & Ross., 2018
- ⁸ Gallup, 2021

