



Luskin
Social Welfare

LGBTQ Youth of Color Outcomes and Inequities

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Sexual health-related outcomes

- LGBTQ youth of color are more likely to be living with HIV or to be at greater risk of infection (e.g., Balaji et al., 2013; Celentano et al., 2005).
- They are also more likely to lack adequate access to information about HIV/AIDS (Mustanski, Lyons, & Garcia, 2011; Voisin, Bird, Shiu, & Krieger, 2013) and are less likely to know their HIV status or follow up with appropriate medical care compared to White (e.g., Magnus et al., 2010).
- The CDC (2016) suggests new infections among young men who have sex with men (MSM) may in fact be largely driven by new infections among racial/ethnic minority young MSM.

Mental health-related outcomes

- Mixed findings from comparative samples: some suggest LGBTQ youth of color experience greater mental health problems and some fewer relative to white counterparts, and others found no differences (see Toomey et al., 2016 for a content analysis of this and related literature).
- Mono-racial samples: provide evidence of poor mental health among LGBTQ youth of color (e.g., among Black MSM, Fields et al., 2015).

Substance use

- Differences between LGBTQ youth of color and white youth reported in substance use in some samples, suggesting, for example, more bleak sexual health consequences of drinking among Black LGBTQ youth (Burns et al., 2015).

WHAT IS MISSING FROM THE LITERATURE ON OUTCOMES FOR LGBTQ YOUTH OF COLOR?

Conceptual issues: Adopting an intersectionality framework to address inequalities affecting LGBTQ Youth of color

- Avoid focusing on social identities alone
 - If so, be clear how your interpretation differs from common interpretations emphasizing how oppressive forces overlap to create unique conditions
- Important to capture oppressions associated with social identities
 - Racism, heterosexism, etc
- Oppressive forces and social identities are experienced contextually
 - Consider how measurement + design might best capture the contextual nature of how oppressions and identities are experienced by LGBTQ youth of color
- Oppressive forces and social identities are experienced relationally
 - Consider how measurement + design might best capture the relational nature of how oppressions and identities are experienced by LGBTQ youth of color

1. Not all oppressions are the same

- Anti-blackness and anti-indigeneity
- Caution when we shift away from centering anti-blackness, or at the very least racism
 - This means that anti-blackness, whether in the form of colorism in Latinx and Asian American communities or else, is a relevant and useful perspective to adopt.
- State-sponsored status and legality are also critical to examine if one is to focus on intersecting oppressions affecting those with ties to other nation states either directly or indirectly.

2. Lack of intersectional measures. Why is this important?

- Intersectionality is limited if our tools fail to capture intersectionality phenomenon
 - Consider how measurement can best capture intersectional phenomena
 - Examples include:
 - Jionni Lewis and colleagues' measures capturing (1) gendered racism and (2) gendered racial identity (adapted from Sellers et al MIBI scale) among Black women
 - Sarno and colleagues' measures capturing (1) perceived racism in the LGB community, (2) conflict in allegiance to one's ethnic-racial and sexual minority identity
 - In a recent study of predominantly LGB emerging adults of color, VanDaalen and Santos (2017) found that Asian American participants *perceived higher levels of racism in the LGB community* than Latinx participants.

3. Intersectional issues across multiple systems

- Intersectionality-inspired bioecological models need to consider intersectional issues across multiple systems
 - Microsystem: perceived racism in LGBTQ communities, perceived heterosexism in heterosexual communities LGBTQ youth of color belong to, conflicts or even patterns in LGBTQ youth of color identity disclosure and identity integration across multiple identities they possess
 - Mesosystem: e.g., lack of access to culturally sensitive health providers
 - Macrosystem: neighborhood structural characteristics, state laws and policies that make SGM-specific care more or less feasible, more or less accessible

4. Representation

- Representation itself is not a solution to all our problems, but representation matters.

5. Divest

- Write grants that channel resources towards community groups that are doing critical work to address inequities affecting LGBTQ youth of color.

6. Intersecting resilience frameworks

- Connecting intersecting dimensions of resilience - how is Black liberation tied to the neurodiversity movement for LGBTQ Black youth who may live with disabilities?
- How is community organizing/collective action/coalition building tied to the wellbeing of LGBTQ youth of color?
- How are current movements shaped by those in the intersections of multiple oppressive forces (e.g., BLM, etc)? Why is it important to center intersecting oppressive forces in contemporary movements?
- How does spirituality matter for the wellbeing of LGBTQ youth of color? (see Stevens et al., 2013)

Thank You
