

Resiliency in Youth with LGBTQ Parents by Johanna Pena

Intro:

Research has shown that a challenge to the youth is not being raised by queer parents, but rather, the negativity they receive from the outside world who do not accept their parents (Kovalanka, Leslie & Radina, 2014). The question this research believes is the most important is how can children with LGBTQ parents overcome bullying that is caused by having parents who do not fall into the heteronormative mold that is widely accepted by society?

Research Question:

How can children with LGBTQ parents overcome bullying that is caused by having an LGBTQ parent?

Background and Literature Review:

- Studies have shown that young students with LGBTQ parents often face verbal, physical and sexual harassment at school as well as bullying (Peter, Taylor, Edkins, 2016). According to, Peter, et. al (2016), students with LGBTQ parents face these adversities more often than their peers who have heterosexual parents.
- Another study concluded that 40% of participants were bullied in direct result of their parents' sexual orientation (Kovalanka, Leslie & Radina, 2014). Other staggering conclusions were that many participants felt shame for keeping their parents' sexuality a secret from their peers, but also feeling fearful of someone finding out about their parents at the same time (Kovalanka, Leslie & Radina, 2014). Some participants had suicide attempts during their adolescence because of the bullying and guilt they had over not wanting anyone to find out about their parents (Kovalanka, Leslie & Radina, 2014).
- One longitudinal study concluded that even though children faced some sort of homophobic stigma, they were able to overcome these struggles if they had a strong family dynamic (Bos & Gartrell, 2010).
- One study highlighted many ways members of the community and educators could implement an open environment for youth who have LGBTQ parents.

Method

Design

- Participants will each fill out two surveys: One to measure family bonds and the other to measure overall well-being of participant
- It will follow a correlation design to show the relationship between one's family life and the overall well-being of children with LGBTQ parents

Participants

- This research will need participants who are from families with LGBTQ parents who are between the ages of 14-18 years old.

- Participants will be recruited through family and friends who are LGBTQ+ or allies of LGBTQ+ individuals..

Materials

- One survey will measure family bonds through a series of 10 questions such as “Did you feel safe in talking to your parents about personal issues?”
- The second survey will measure overall well-being of an individual through a series of 10 questions such as “Do you tend to bounce back quickly from challenging times?”

Procedure

- The surveys’ links will be emailed to participants.
- The survey itself will be created in a different software to ensure anonymity for each participant.
- Each participant will be sent a disclaimer stating their anonymity to ensure they understand that all of their responses will be kept private and cannot be traced back to them.

Expected Results

- To determine if strong family unions help the children overcome adversities faced due to their parents being a part of the LGBTQ community
- To determine if knowing other LGBTQ families can help children develop a sense of belonging

Significance

- Research of LGBTQ families is hardly ever done in the United States.
- Most research only studies lesbian parents, rather than transgender and gay parents.
- This research will help LGBTQ families and allies of the LGBTQ community.

References:

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