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SOCIAL REJECTION AND OSTRACISM IN THE GAY, BISEXUAL AND PANSEXUAL MALE COMMUNITIES

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Introduction

When someone holds an identity which is stigmatized, such as identifying as LGBT, they are part of an ostracized group. One could argue that membership in this marginalized community still offers people a sense of belonging and acceptance. However, being discriminated against by other members of the already marginalized community can be devastating. An alarming trend within the LGBT community is the brazen exclusion of certain minorities with the larger LGBT community.

PROCEDURES

For this research project we used a threefold approach: surveys, interviews and observations.

Surveys were created and shared through social-media, word of mouth, and advertising materials.

When taking the survey they had the option to select being interviewed instead.

Observations were made by multiple observers at gay friendly locations such as restaurants, pride events, and drag shows.

Interviews were only conducted in Arizona.

MEASURES:

The following are questions exactly as presented to survey participants: What do you self identify as your gay subculture group? Has any other gay man told you they won't date you because of how you look? In general, others keep me out-of-the-loop on information that is important to my close relationships? I feel as though I belong in the Gay Community? I would date a Bi-Sexual man? I would date a Pan-sexual Man? I would date a Female-to-Male Transgendered individual?

DEMOGRAPHICS

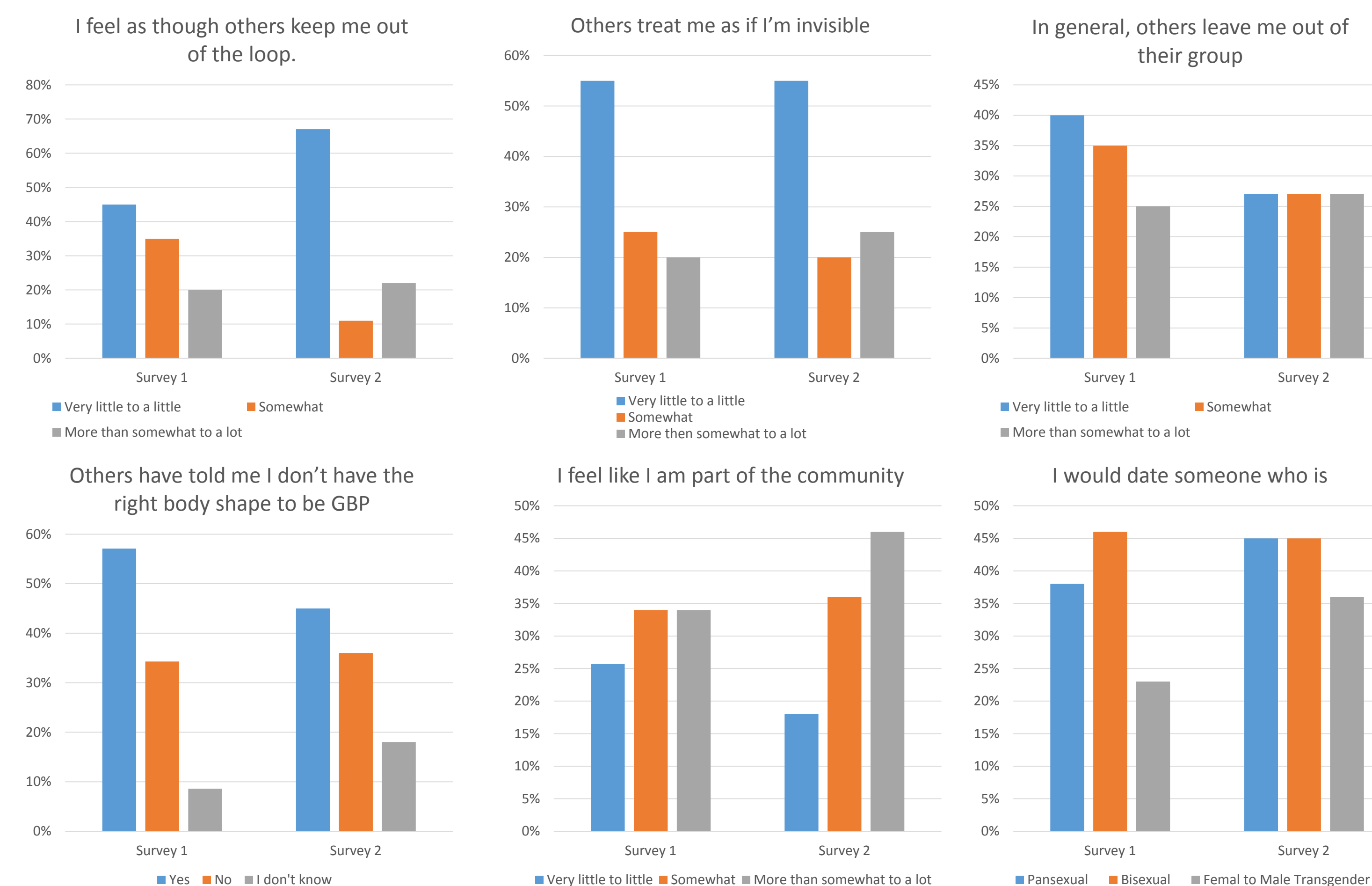
For surveys one and two participants were included if the respondent did not identify as female or strictly heterosexual. For survey three (comparison group) participants were only included if they were strictly heterosexual and identified as male.

Survey 1 (N=35): Average age was 47.41, 91.4% Gay, 2.9% Bisexual, 5.7% Questioning, 88.6% were Caucasian, 42.9% of respondents identified as a bear.

Survey 2 (N=11): Average age 26.9, 81.8% Gay 9.1% Fluid 9.1% Queer, 81.8% Caucasian, and they were evenly spread all over the sub-category spectrum.

Survey 3 (Heterosexual Control Group)(N=10): Average age 30.7, 100% Caucasian, self identified as 18% Skinny, 36% Average, 9% Muscular, 27% Chubby, and 9% Large

Results



Observations

We did dual observations in Indianapolis, Chicago, Louisville, Cincinnati, and Phoenix. Observation locations included identified gay friendly stores, restaurants, drag shows, PRIDE events, and bars.

Observations were made by 2 or more individuals.

Observations were done through note taking on cellphones so that people weren't aware.

We also observed LGBTQI Media including blogs and magazines.

From our observations we came up with what we call the "Idealized G.B.P. Male"

Young, Fit, Masculine, Usually Caucasian



In the cities of Indianapolis, Louisville and Cincinnati the closer that an individual came to the "Idealized G.B.P. Man" the more they appeared entitled.

This could include: cutting in line for drinks and bartenders would stop serving the line of customers and go to them, cutting in line to the bathroom, acting like people should move out of their way so that they could get to where they were going, acting like people should capitulate to their wants, wanting all eyes and attention on them. In the cities of Phoenix and Chicago (Specifically Boystown) these observations did not seem to hold true. Everyone was treated more equally and if one tried to cut in line several times people were called out on it.

The noticeable difference in Phoenix and Chicago compared to the other three cities is that Chicago has the very distinct enclave of Boystown, and Phoenix has the area west of Camelback North of Downtown Phoenix that has an enclave of gay friendly locations.

Discussion

There is evidence to say that there is ostracism and social rejection within the gay and bisexual community.

While some people may experience social rejection and ostracism not everyone in the community does.

The level of ostracism and social rejection experienced by people seems to increase the further the person deviates from the idealized gay man.

Respondents were more likely to be open to dating someone who is not strictly gay then they are to date someone who does not identify as cis-gendered male.

The gay and bisexual male community has many things in common with the heterosexual community when it comes to how the group treats others.

- There is appearance bias
- There is racism
- There is ageism
- There is body shaming
- Amongst certain body types and persons there is a sense of entitlement

The Gay and Bisexual male community have some differences from the heterosexual community too.

- Stereotyped by the outside world
- Has many self assigned subcultures
- A perceived sense of community due to being ostracized as a whole
- The community has been attacked time and again leading to that increased sense of community
- Limited number of respondents
- Bears (who deviate, by definition, from the idealized gay man) accounted for 42.9% of respondents of the first survey
- Not a random sample, it was done by the non-probability snowballing sampling method

This is a subject that needs more research. In the future more people will need to be selected. A greater variety of respondents should also be found.

References

Lebeau, R. T., & Jellison, W. A. (2009). Why Get Involved? Exploring Gay and Bisexual Men's Experience of the Gay Community. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 56(1), 56-76.

Image used from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anton_Hysen