

## ABSTRACT

The past several years have witnessed a significant rise in policies attacking the civil rights and health of sexual and gender minority (SGM) people in the U.S. In the 2023 state legislative session alone, there were over 550 anti-SGM bills introduced across 43 state houses, making 2023 the year with the most anti-SGM legislation in U.S. history. These rapid changes in the policy landscape have had negative and cascading effects on SGM people. Emerging cross-sectional survey data indicate that these anti-SGM policies are associated with increased discrimination, harassment, and violence against SGM communities, leading to SGM youth and adults feeling less safe. There is an urgent need to understand how these anti-SGM policies are impacting the well-being of SGM people. The current study leverages the largest longitudinal prospective cohort study of sexual and gender minority adults from all 50 states across the U.S.—The Population Research in Identities and Disparities for Equality (PRIDE) Study—to investigate these questions. In this mixed methods study I aim to: 1) examine associations between state-level anti-SGM policies and SGM mental health outcomes including anxiety, depression, and posttraumatic stress disorder; and 2) conduct in-depth semi-structured interviews with a purposive sample of SGM adults living in states that have recently passed these anti-SGM policies to understand how these policies have impacted their lives. Using a concurrent triangulation mixed methods study design, I will leverage the unique strengths of the PRIDE Study to examine the relationship between anti-SGM policies and SGM mental health outcomes. The results of this study will inform a grant application that will seek to develop adaptations to evidence-based mental health interventions that account for SGM people’s structurally determined mental health problems.