

DISCRIMINATION, STRESS, VARIABILITY: WHAT AFFORDS BLACK GAY WOMEN PROTECTION?

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This present exploratory study examines whether age, net worth, education, and employment offer protection from contextualized stress for African American gay women. Using data from Project STRIDE (a longitudinal study regarding identity, stress, and health among diverse sexual minorities), participants' scores on three scales including Everyday Discrimination (EDS), Stigma, and Internalized Homophobia (IH) are summed in order to create a Contextualized Stress Score (CSS). A Pearson's product-moment correlation coefficient indicated agreement for test-retest reliability for lifetime CSS. The present study finds no statistically significant differences regarding the CSS across sociodemographic factors. However, this preliminary analysis adds to the limited but burgeoning scientific literature regarding African American gay women and psychosocial stress. Future research should explore within-group variability between contextualized stress and alternate variables such as gender expression or racial identity using a measurement scale capable of assessing the intersectionality of oppression.