

Ethnic Differences in Family Support for Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Individuals

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BACKGROUND

- Family support promotes self-acceptance and mental health in SGM individuals (Ryan et al., 2010; Shilo & Savaya, 2011)
 - A lack of family support may be a common experience for SGM youth (Milton & Knuston, 2023; Mills-Koonce et al., 2018)
- Black and Latino parents may be more rejecting of SGM adolescents than White parents (Hailey et al., 2020; Przeworski and Piedra, 2020; Taylor et al., 2013)
- Racial differences in family support may stem from religious differences between races (Richter et al., 2017; Ryan et al., 2009, 2010)
 - Religiosity is higher within African American and Latine communities than within White communities (Chatters et al., 2008; Pew Research Center, 2015)
 - SGM POC have stated that the conservative values of the church can negatively influence a families' views on SGM people and contribute to homophobia (Hailey et al., 2020; Przeworski & Piedra, 2020)

Hypotheses

- POC SGM will report lower levels of family support and higher levels of family rejection compared to White SGM
- Racial differences in family support and rejection will be accounted for by racial differences in religiosity...
 - Overall religiousness and LGBT unaffirmingness would be higher for Black and Latine than White SGM
 - Overall religiousness and LGBT unaffirmingness will be negatively associated with family support and positively associated with family rejection
 - After controlling for religiosity, there would no longer be differences in family support or rejection between groups

Racial differences were found in levels of family support, but there is no evidence to show those differences are due to religious beliefs

METHODS

Participants (N=354 SGM-AFAB)

- 47.5% Black, 32.5% White, 20.1% Latine
- 23.2% Gay/Lesbian, 48.6% Bi+; 21.8% Queer; 2% Straight; 4.5% Other
- 69.5% cisgender women, 23.5% GNC, 6.8% transgender
- 65% of caregivers identified as Christian

Measures

- Family Support (MSPSS):** 4-item (e.g., "I get the emotional help and support I need from my family"; 1= very strongly disagree to 5= very strongly agree) (Zimet et al., 1988)
- Family Rejection (SOD):** 2 item (e.g., "How accepting is your [parent], or the [person] who raised you, of your sexual orientation?"; 1= accepting to 4= rejecting)
- Religiosity (of caregivers):**
 - Overall religiousness** (e.g., "Overall, how religious would you say that your caregiver(s) currently are?"; 1= not at all to 5= extremely religious)
 - LGBTQ Unaffirmingness** (e.g., "How openly LGBTQ affirming are the religious communities that your caregivers(s) are currently involved in?"; 1= extremely affirming to 5= extremely unaffirming)

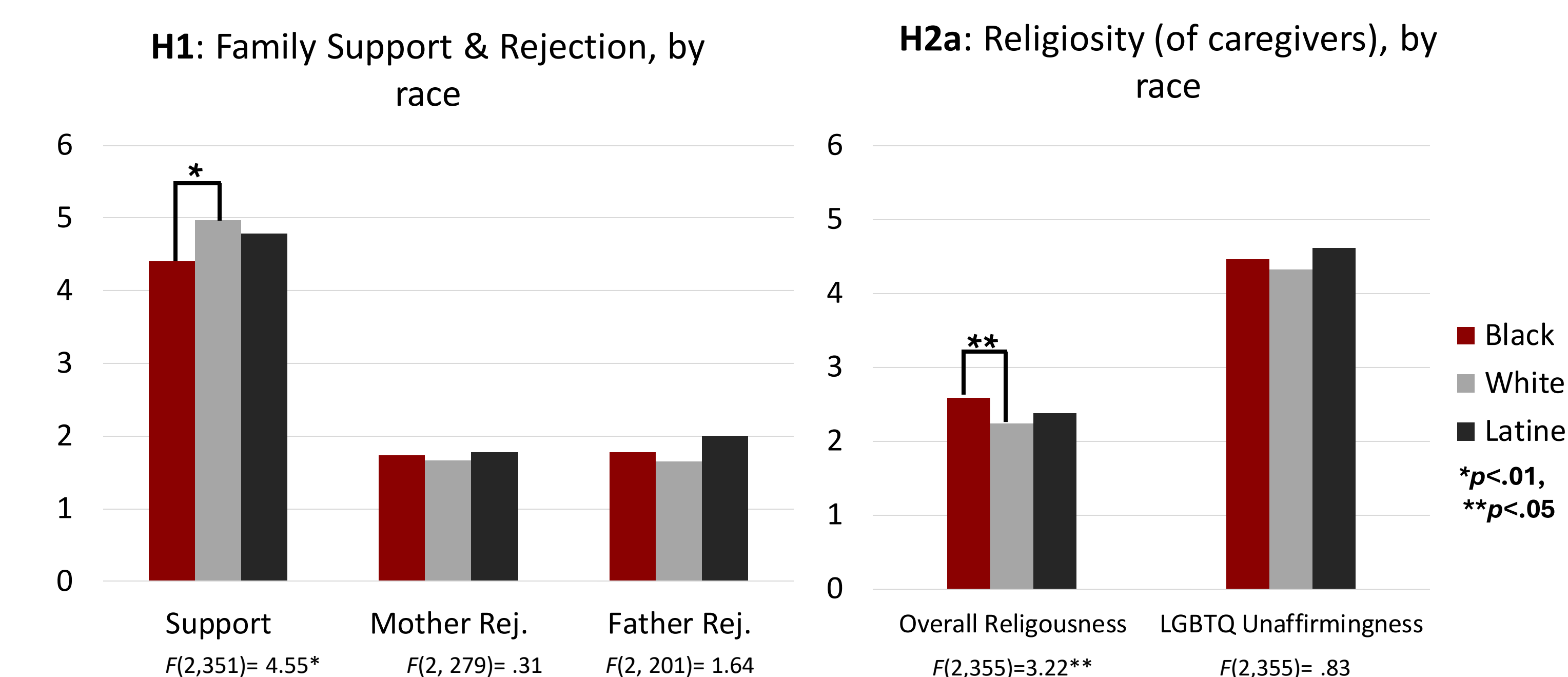
RESULTS

Analytic Plan:

H1- One-Way ANOVA: Test for racial differences in family support and rejection.

H2-

- 2a - One-Way ANOVA:** Test for racial differences in religiosity
- 2b- Bivariate Correlation:** Examine the associations among the family support, rejection, and religiosity variables
- 2c- One-Way ANCOVA:** Test for racial differences in family support and rejection, while controlling for religiosity



❖ **H2b (Bivariate Correlation):** There was a positive correlation between overall religiousness and mother rejection, $r(282)=.268, p<.001$ as well as father rejection $r(204)=.227, p=.001$

❖ **H2c (One-Way ANCOVA):** The racial differences in family support were not explained by religiosity

DISCUSSION

- As predicted, family support was lower among Black than White SGM, however family rejection did not differ by race
 - This indicates that Black SGM perceive less general life support, but not less support for their LGBT identity
 - Systematic inequalities, rather than anti-SGM stigma, may drive the lower family support among Black SGM
- Contrary to hypothesis, religiosity did not explain the differing levels of rejection between races
 - While more religious caregivers tended to be more rejecting, religion itself wasn't the reason for the differences in support and rejection
- Future research: Examine the non-religious cultural factors that may account for ethnic differences in family support and rejection