

Peer Review Report

Review Report on Effects of same-sex marriage legalization for sexual minority men in Taiwan: Findings from a prospective study

Original Article, Int J Public Health

Reviewer: Warren Kealy-Bateman

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EVALUATION

Q 1 Please summarize the main findings of the study.

This is a valuable contribution to the literature.

The article examines the effects of same sex marriage in Taiwan in a cohort of cisgender gay and bisexual men. This is a prospective study with large numbers (almost a thousand participants over 18 months).

Key findings are: reductions in depressive symptoms and distal minority stress; increased disclosure to friends, family and parents.

These differences are true for both partnered and un-partnered men.

Q 2 Please highlight the limitations and strengths.

This is original research in an Asian population that demonstrates the important health benefits of public policy that is focused on equity for minority groups.

The limitations were well described by the author(s). This is a brief period of observation and variables such as "internalized homophobia" may be more enduring aspects of self. The state of flux and anticipation of legal change in Taiwan, with regard to SSM, confounds the view to some extent. Social flux can rarely be removed from the picture though and need to be tolerated and results understood in a context.

Q 3 Please provide your detailed review report to the authors. The editors prefer to receive your review structured in major and minor comments. Please consider in your review the methods (statistical methods valid and correctly applied (e.g. sample size, choice of test), is the study replicable based on the method description?), results, data interpretation and references. If there are any objective errors, or if the conclusions are not supported, you should detail your concerns.

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Key findings are: reductions in depressive symptoms and distal minority stress; increased disclosure to friends, family and parents.

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This is a very impressive piece of work that was a pleasure to read.

There are some fixes that need attention.

1. The Abstract. Each introduced acronym must first be explained and not assumed. In the current Abstract you introduce "same-sex marriage (SSM)" three lines after you first use the acronym SSM - in fact you use the acronym twice before defining it. Please fix this.
2. Similarly the acronym "LGB" must be defined when it is first used.
3. On page 6, the reference "Heron et al. (2018)" appears. It does not appear in the Reference list. Please fix.
4. On page 8, under the third part of the results section I found the final sentence confusing.... "The interaction terms of these variables were not significant, suggesting that the changes in these variables over time were similar for partnered and un-partnered minority men." I found it confusing because you have just reported three significant differences. I know what you are saying but I came to a halt trying to understand and it read poorly.

PLEASE COMMENT

Q 4 ➤ Is the title appropriate, concise, attractive?

Yes

Q 5 ➤ Are the keywords appropriate?

Yes

Q 6 ➤ Is the English language of sufficient quality?

Yes

Q 7 ➤ Is the quality of the figures and tables satisfactory?

Yes.

Q 8 ➤ Does the reference list cover the relevant literature adequately and in an unbiased manner?)

Yes

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Q 9 ➤ Originality



Q 10 ➤ Rigor



Q 11 ➤ Significance to the field



Q 12 ➤ Interest to a general audience



Q 13 ➤ Quality of the writing



Q 14 ➤ Overall scientific quality of the study



REVISION LEVEL

Q 15 ➤ Please make a recommendation based on your comments:

Minor revisions.

