

# Social Epidemiology of LGB Mental Health

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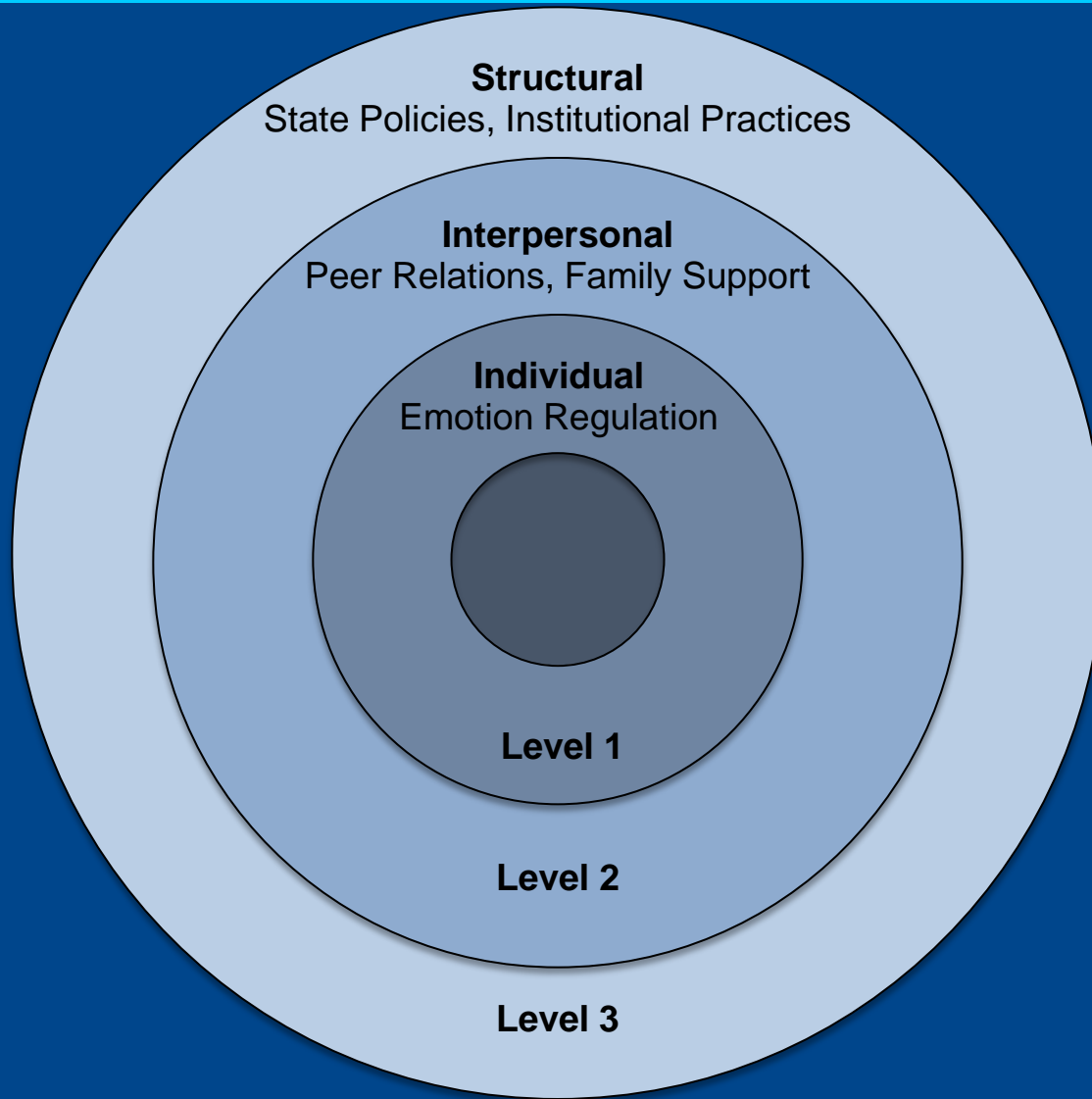
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# Multi-Level Determinants of LGB Mental Health



# Social Policies as Structural Determinants of LGB Mental Health

## State-Level Policies and Psychiatric Morbidity In Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Populations

Mark L. Hatzenbuehler, MS, MPhil, Katherine M. Keyes, MPH, and Deborah S. Hasin, PhD

December 2009, Vol 99, No. 12 | American Journal of Public Health

## The Impact of Institutional Discrimination on Psychiatric Disorders in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Populations: A Prospective Study

Mark L. Hatzenbuehler, MS, MPhil, Katie A. McLaughlin, PhD, Katherine M. Keyes, MPH, and Deborah S. Hasin, PhD

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Original article

### Inclusive Anti-bullying Policies and Reduced Risk of Suicide Attempts in Lesbian and Gay Youth

Mark L. Hatzenbuehler, Ph.D.<sup>a,\*</sup>, and Katherine M. Keyes, Ph.D.<sup>b</sup>

Approach #1:  
Are Mental Health Problems Higher among LGBs Living  
in Areas without Protective Policies?



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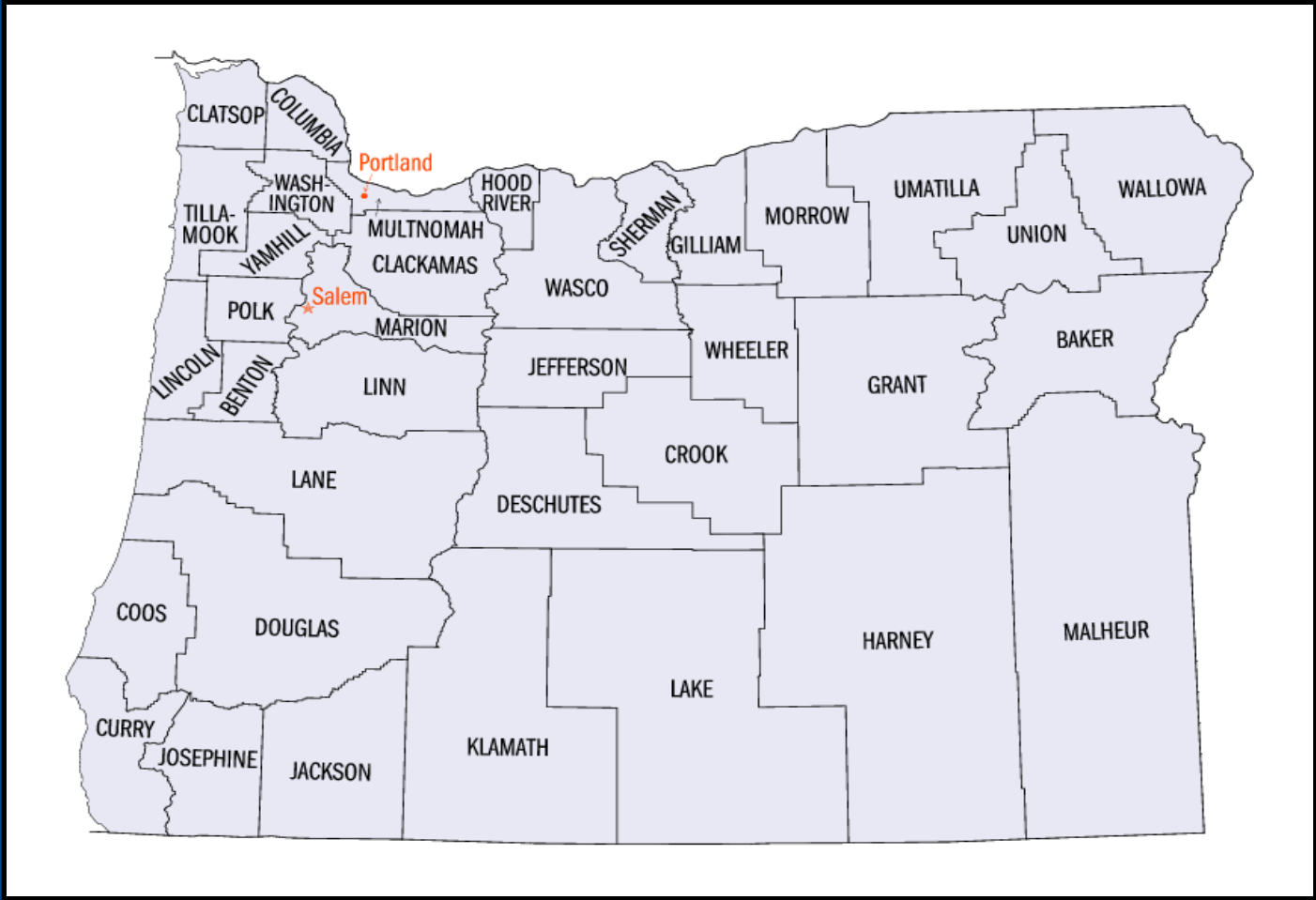
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**Inclusive Anti-bullying Policies and Reduced Risk of Suicide Attempts  
in Lesbian and Gay Youth**

Mark L. Hatzenbuehler, Ph.D.<sup>a,\*</sup>, and Katherine M. Keyes, Ph.D.<sup>b</sup>

# Oregon Counties

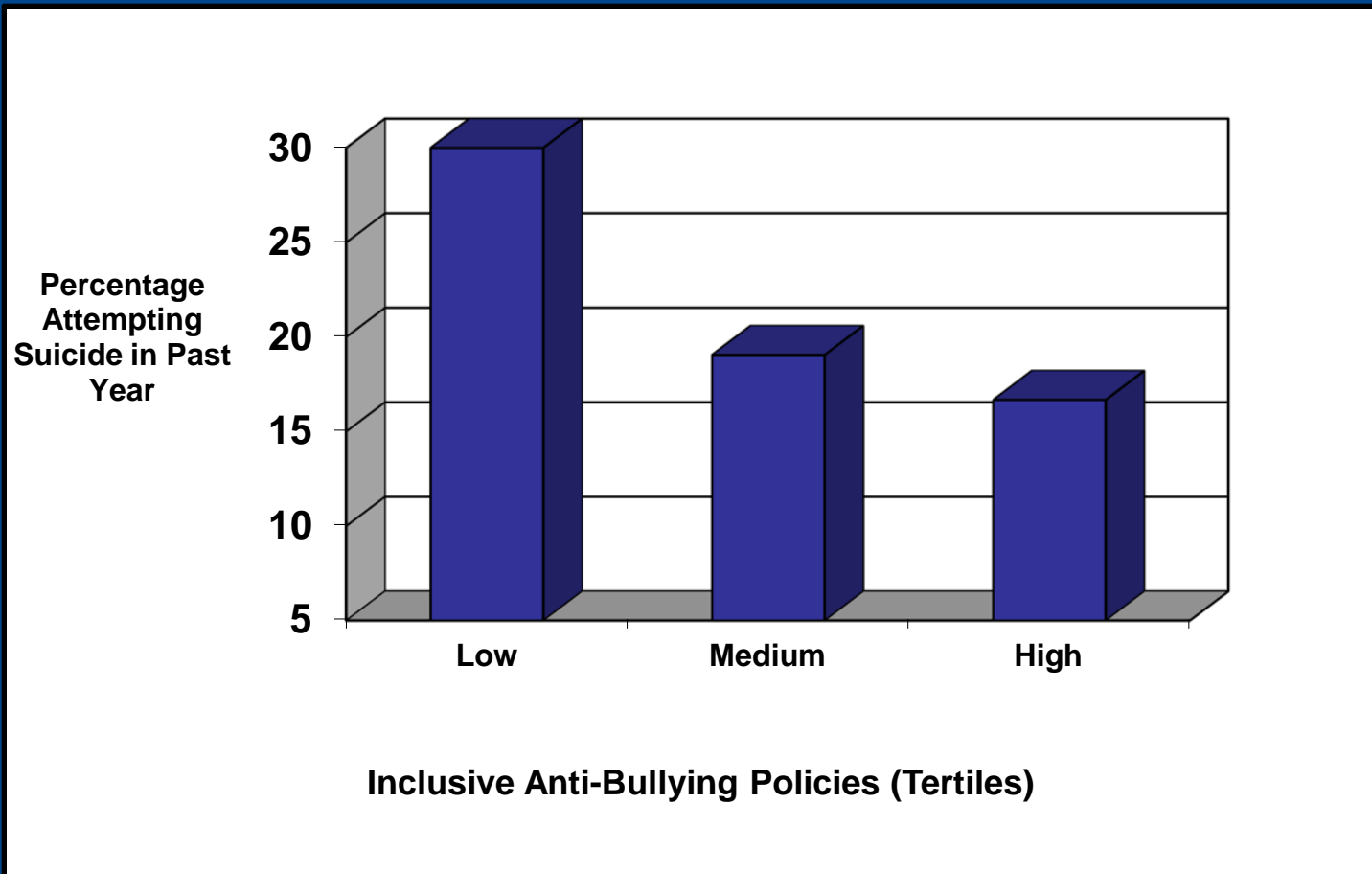


Proportion of school districts with anti-bullying policies that were inclusive of sexual orientation in 34 Oregon counties

## Oregon Healthy Teens (OHT) Study

- Linked ecologic data on inclusive anti-bullying policies at the county level to individual health outcomes among lesbian and gay youth living in these counties
- Health and sexual orientation data from OHT study
  - Annual surveys to over 1/3 of Oregon's 11th grade public school students
  - Modeled on Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance studies from CDC
  - N=31,852 11th grade students (2006-2008)
  - N=301 lesbian and gay respondents
  - Outcome measure: any suicide attempt in the past year (Brener et al., 1995; 2002)

## Highest Risk of Suicide Attempts in Counties with Lowest Proportion of School Districts with Inclusive Anti-Bullying Policies (Lesbian and Gay Youth)



# Antibullying Policies Remain Associated with Suicide Attempts Independent of Individual-Level Risk Factors (Generalized Estimating Equation Models)

	Lesbian and gay youths (N = 301)	95% CI
	OR	
<b>Model 1: unadjusted model</b>		
Inclusive anti-bullying policy	.16	(.04–.64)
<b>Model 2: adjusted model</b>		
Inclusive anti-bullying policy	.18	(.03–.92)
Sex	1.95	(1.01–3.79)
Race/ethnicity	2.55	(1.21–5.38)
Peer harassment	7.72	(3.12–19.13)



## Approach #2:

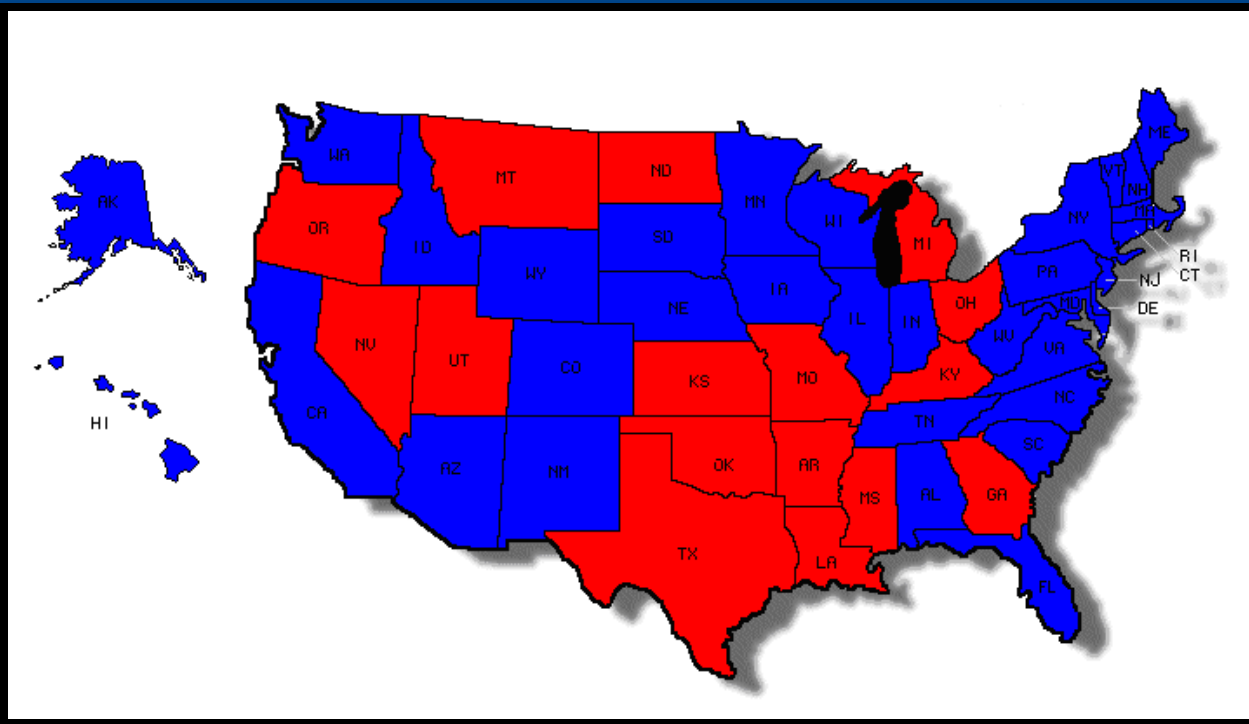
Do Mental Health Problems Increase Following the Enactment of Exclusionary Social Policies?

# **The Impact of Institutional Discrimination on Psychiatric Disorders in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Populations: A Prospective Study**

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# Constitutional Amendments Banning Same-Sex Marriage (2004)



- Red = States passing constitutional amendments
- Blue = States not passing constitutional amendments

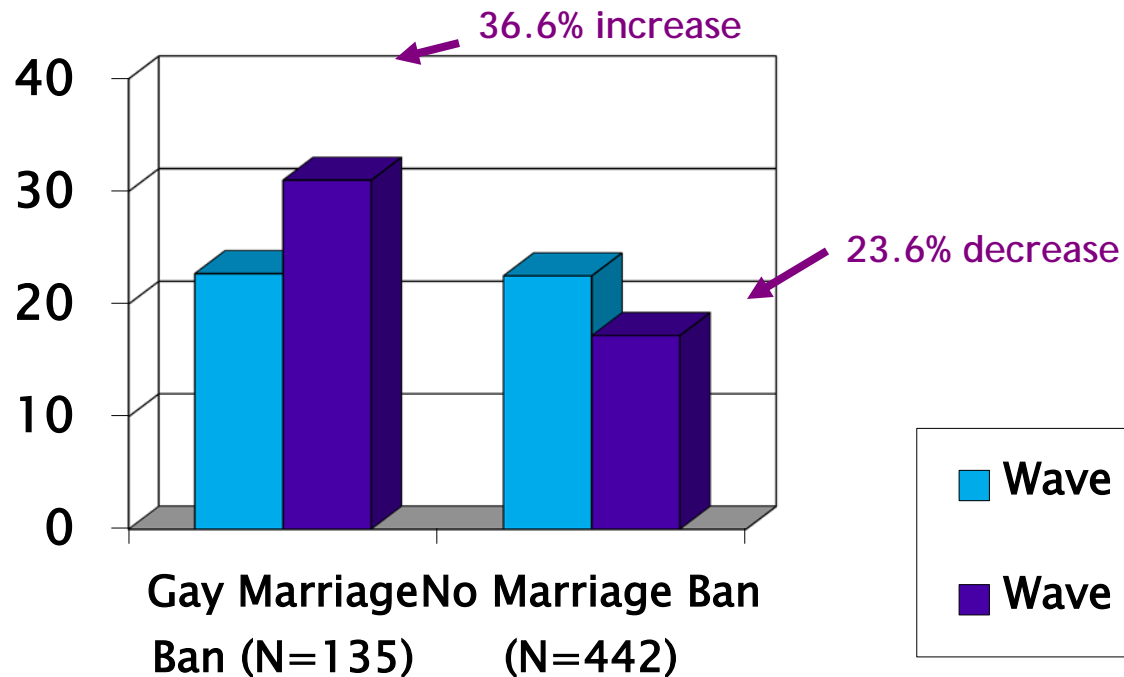
NESARC (2001-2005)

# National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC)



- Wave 1 (N=43,093)
- Wave 2 (N=34,653)
- Household and group residents
- Face-to-face interviews
- Response rate: 81%
- Oversampling of Blacks, Hispanics, young adults (18-24 yrs)
- DSM-IV diagnoses
- Sexual orientation (1.67% LGB-identified [1.86% men, 1.52% women])

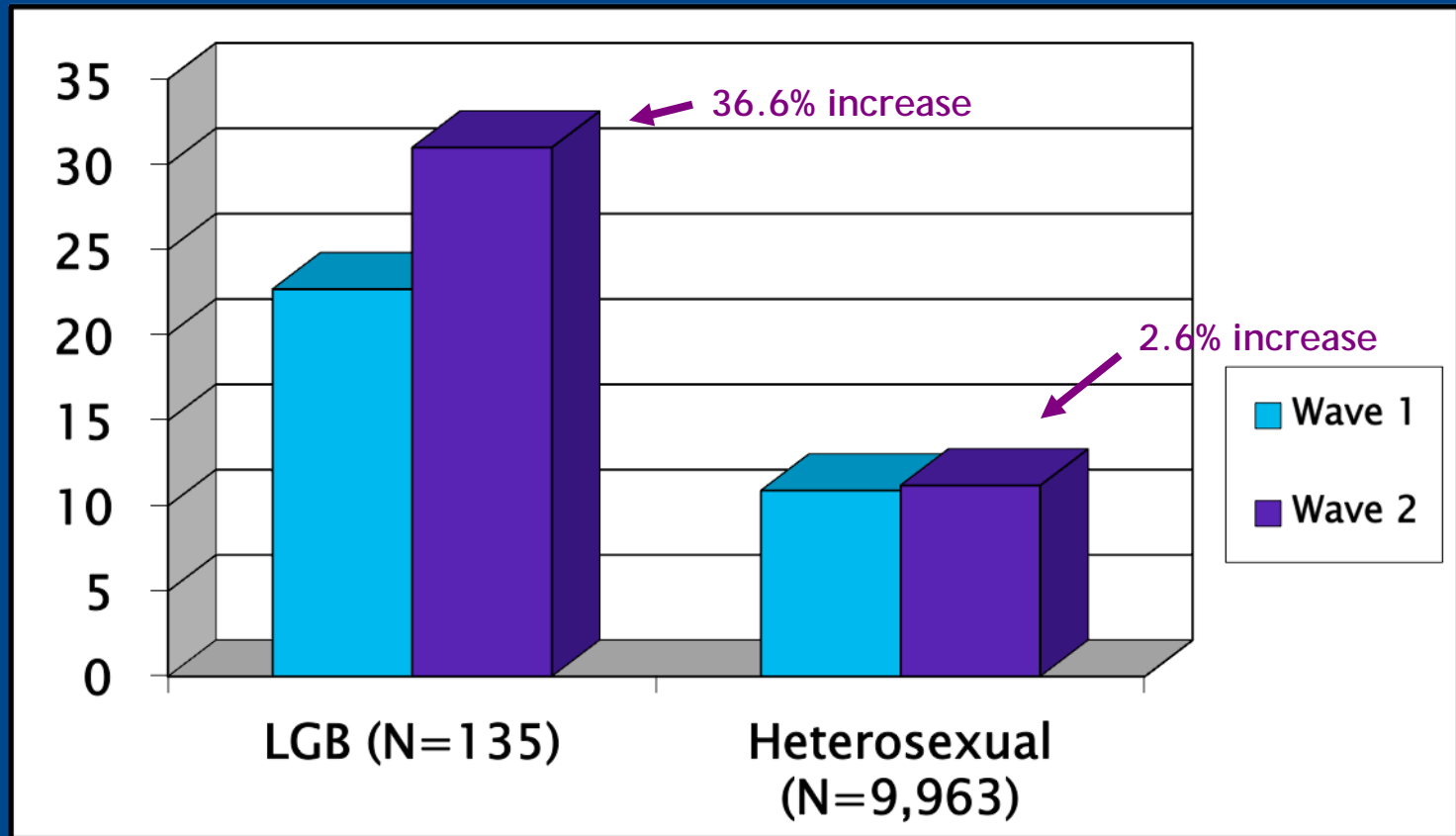
# LGB Adults Living in States that Banned Same-Sex Marriage Experience Increase in Mood Disorders



AOR = 1.67 (95% C.I. 1.01, 2.77)

AOR = 0.69 (95% C.I., 0.47, 1.01)

## Effect of Marriage Bans are Specific to LGB Adults



AOR = 1.67 (95% C.I. 1.01,2.77)

AOR = 1.03 (95% C.I. 0.93,1.15)

## Intervention Implications

- Social-structural factors:
  - Represent targets for structural interventions
    - School policies (antibullying, Gay-Straight Alliances)
    - State policies (marriage, employment nondiscrimination)
  - Serve as moderators of intervention effectiveness
    - HIV interventions to improve African Americans' condom use practices were only effective in communities with low levels of anti-Black prejudice (Reid, Dovidio, Ballester, & Johnson, in press)
    - Similar process may occur with LGBT populations

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- Center for Population Research In LGBT Health

## Collaborators

- Jack Dovidio, Susan Nolen-Hoeksema (Yale)
- Deborah Hasin, Katherine Keyes, Bruce Link, Jo Phelan (Columbia)
- Kate McLaughlin (Harvard)
- Steve Safren, Ken Mayer, Judy Bradford, Conall O' Cleirigh (Fenway)