

Which Men Who Have Sex with Men?: Bisexual MSM may be at Greater Risk for Negative Health Outcomes.

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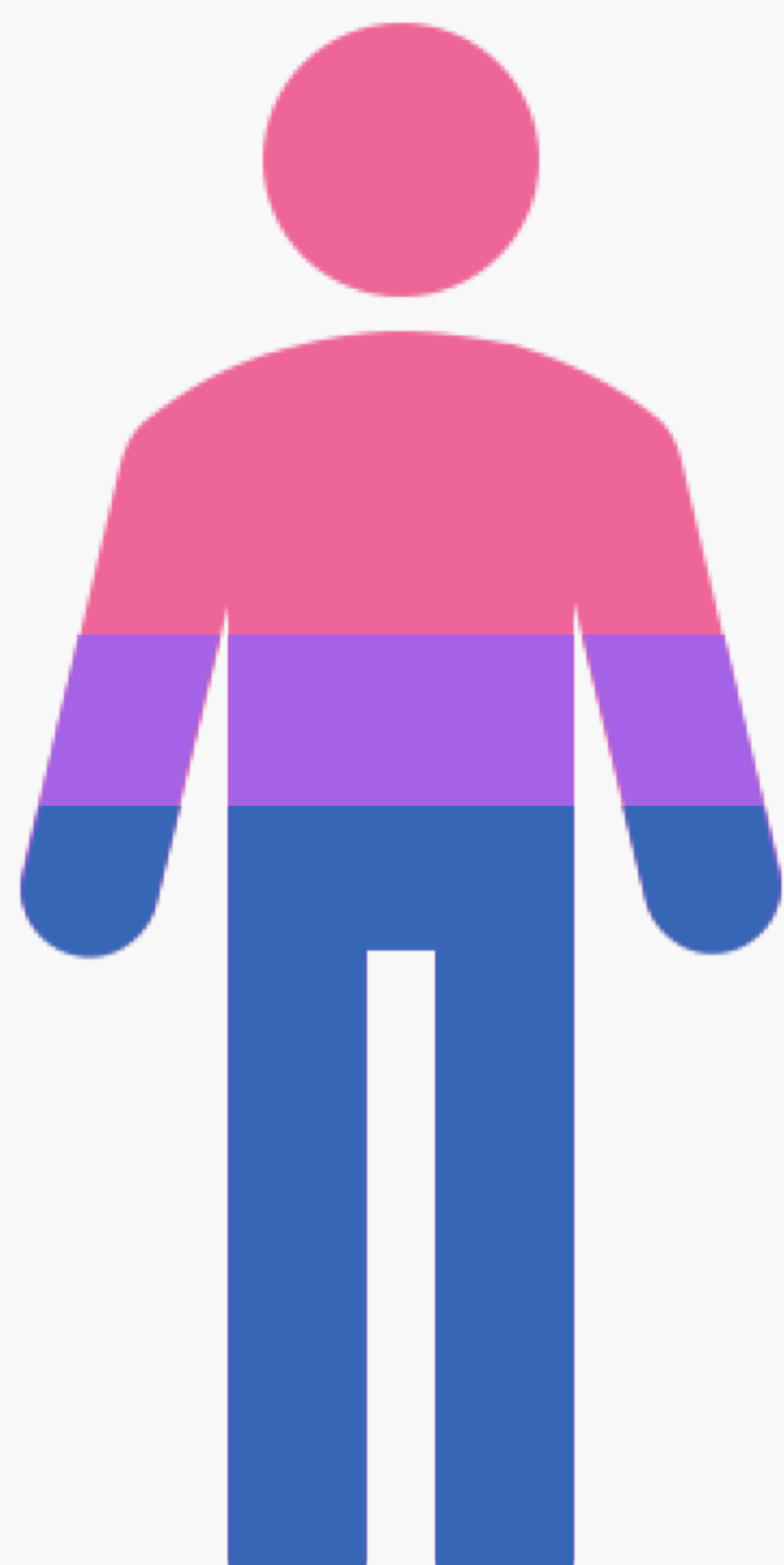
Members of minority groups, like men who have sex with men (MSM) experience stigma and discrimination, predominantly from outside their own communities.

However, for sexual minority men, community membership can confer benefits associated with improved wellbeing.

However, NOT ALL MSM have access to the same community benefits...

Bisexual men may experience bi-phobic stigma and unique health disparities related to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

We examined differences between gay, bisexual, and queer identifying men in terms of HIV risk and protective behaviours



1,897 Sexually active HIV-negative, cisgender MSM aged 16+ (gay=1,584, queer=121, bisexual=122) were recruited as part of the Engage Study^a.

Bisexual men were significantly MORE likely to engage in higher risk CAS^b (aOR = 10.70, p<.001, 95%CI:3.75,30.54^c). Among bisexual men, 72% reported higher risk CAS, compared to 61% of gay men or 56% of queer men.

Bisexual men were significantly less likely to have received P6M HIV testing (aOR=0.58, p<.001, 95%CI:0.44,0.75) or P6M STI testing (aOR=0.48, p<.001, 95%CI: 0.36,0.63).^d

Although they represent a small portion of MSM, bisexual MSM in Canada's three largest cities were most underserved in HIV and STI testing, despite being more likely to have higher risk CAS.

This may be due to high levels of internalized stigma and low levels of sexual orientation disclosure among bisexual MSM; which are both associated with higher HIV risk (Feinstein & Dodge, 2019).

Bisexual MSM in Canada may benefit from targeted HIV/STI testing interventions to improve their sexual health outcomes.

^a. The Engage Study is a multi-site national study that recruited gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men in Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal. The data presented were collected between Feb 2017 and Aug 2019 using respondent driven sampling.

^b. "Higher Risk CAS" was defined as Condomless Anal Sex where no PrEP was used and partner status was unknown or with a partner who was living with HIV with an unknown or detectable viral load.

^c. All analyses were RDS adjusted and controlled for age, education, financial strain, and city cluster.

^d. 33% and 38% of bisexual men reported P6M STI and HIV testing respectively, compared to 56% and 60% of gay men and 59% and 65% of queer men

Further information

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