



2SLGBTQ+
POVERTY IN CANADA
PAUVRETÉ DES PERSONNES
2SLGBTQ+ AU CANADA

Poverty and 2SLGBTQ+ Communities: Emerging Sustainability Issues

**2SLGBTQ+ Poverty in Canada: Improving Livelihood and Social
Wellbeing**

Date: June 20, 2024

Key Project Information: Funding & Team



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- Funded through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada, from 2022-2029
- Over 20 partner organizations, 26 academic researchers, 9 Community Advisory Board (CAB) members, 2 Postdoctoral Fellows, 2 staff (Project Manager & Financial Assistant), 8 students

Key Project Information: Goals & Objectives



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- **Goal:** Create high impact, evidence-based & policy-relevant knowledge on the nature, extent, determinants & consequences of poverty in 2SLGBTQ+ communities in Canada.
- **Relevant Objective:** Document the lived experiences of poverty among 2SLGBTQ+ communities to create a unique national-level dataset allowing for an intersectional examination of 2SLGBTQ+ poverty rates, poverty risk & associated root-causes and consequences

Key Project Information: Methods



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- **Quantitative:** National Survey
- **Qualitative:** 100 individual interviews & 13(+) focus groups with 2SLGBTQ+ people with lived experience of poverty
- **Mixed-Methods:** Integrate findings from the qualitative and quantitative components
- **Knowledge Mobilization:** Effective mobilization of knowledge featuring creation of Action Plan that highlights the findings



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The SDGs, Poverty, and 2SLGBTQ+ Communities

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The SDGs, Poverty, and 2SLGBTQ+ Communities

- United Nations (UN) Member States unanimously adopted 'The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' in 2015
- Key to this Agenda are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- The majority of the SDGs are related to poverty
- Although 2SLGBTQ+ have some recognition at the UN, they are not recognized by all member states
- In Canada, 2SLGBTQ+ people are recognized in human rights legislation, yet little is known about segments therein experiencing poverty



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 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**





5 Pillars & the SDGs

Pillar 1: People

- SDG 1 – No Poverty
- - SDG 2 – Zero Hunger
- - SDG 3 – Good Health & Well-Being
- - SDG 4 – Quality Education
- - SDG 5 – Gender Equality

Pillar 2: Planet

- SDG 6 – Clean Water & Sanitation
- - SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption & Production
- - SDG 13 – Climate Action
- - SDG 14 – Life Below Water
- - SDG 15 – Life on Land

Pillar 3: Prosperity

- SDG 8 – Decent Work & Economic Growth
- - SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure
- - SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
- - SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities & Communities

Pillar 4: Peace

- SDG 16 – Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Pillar 5: Partnership

- SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals



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2SLGBTQ+ Poverty in Canada as SDG

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Implications of Socio-Economic Status on 2SLGBTQ+ Communities

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2SLGBTQ+ Individuals Experience Economic Harm



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- Earnings systematically vary by sexual orientation and gender identity (Badgett et al. 2023)
- Same-sex female household experience higher incidences of poverty.
- Possibly fewer assets (including homes, Park and Sun, 2020), savings and wealth (Dujeancourt, 2023) to buffer from economic shocks
- Less familial and social network support.
- LGB individuals disproportionately work in industries heavily impacted by COVID (i.e. education, food services, retail; Gonzales and de Mola, 2021)
- job loss, food insecurity, and barriers to health care more prominent than for cisgender and heterosexual individuals (McKay et al., 2020)

2SLGBTQ+ Individuals Experience Mental Harm



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- A large literature, following (Meyer, 1995), associates health outcomes with minority stress
- Mental harm occurs because
 - internalized trans- and homophobia decreases self esteem increases stress
 - perceived stigma and related needs to remain vigilant to avoid harm increases stress
 - actual prejudiced events lead to mental harm increases stress
- Mental harm recorded in a variety of contexts
 - SOGI minorities are 10 - 20% more likely to report anxiety and depression (Ross et al., 2018)



Anxiety and Economic Insecurity

- "Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge?"
- Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by the not being able to stop or control worrying?"
 - 1 "Not at all" 2 "Several Days" 3 "More than half the days" and 4 "Nearly every day."
- Rescale 0-3, a sum of 3 or higher is indicative of symptoms of anxiety
- "In the last 7 days, how difficult has it been for your household to pay for usual household expenses, including but not limited to food, rent or mortgage, car payments, medical expenses, student loans, and so on? Select only one answer."
 - "A little difficult" "Somewhat difficult" or "Very difficult." (as opposed to "not at all")

Anxiety and Economic Insecurity in US



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- In US, 28% AMAB and 36% AFAB exhibit symptoms of Anxiety
 - 40% for gay, 49% for bisexual, and 46% for individuals AMAB who are not cisgender
 - 48% for lesbian, 60% for bisexual, 53% for not cisgender AFAB
- Risk of Anxiety appears largely unrelated to economic insecurity, experiencing difficulty meeting usual expenses
- Expense difficulty associated with anxiety overall. 4 – 5 pp larger for individuals who are LGB or not cisgender (AMAB)
 - 40% (AMAB) to 50% (AFAB) higher for gay and lesbian individuals
 - 25% (AMAB) to 33% (AFAB) higher for bisexual individuals

Anxiety and Depression, New Preliminary Estimates



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- 30% of respondents report anxiety
 - 44% for transgender individuals, lesbian and bisexual individuals
- 63% of respondents respond that it is “very true” that “it would be hard for you to find money to cover an unexpected expense, such as a medical bill repair that was \$500 or more”



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Food (In)Security Among 2SLGBTQ+ People in Canada

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Methods



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Data from the most recent version of the Canadian Community Health Survey.

Key variables: sex and gender, sexual orientation, and food security.

Descriptive statistics on food (in)security by sexual and gender identity as well as logistic regression models predicting severe food insecurity.

Food (In)Security



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Food Secure	No indication of difficulty with income-related food access.	89.9%
Marginally Food Insecure	Exactly one indication of difficulty with income-related food access.	3.4%
Moderately Food Insecure	Indication of compromise in quality and/or quantity of food consumed.	4.6%
Severely Food Insecure	Indication of reduced food intake and disrupted eating patterns.	2.1%

Heterosexual vs LGB+



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	Food Secure	Marginally Food Insecure	Moderately Food Insecure	Severely Food Insecure
Heterosexual	90.4%	3.4%	4.4%	1.9%
LGB+	80.3%	4.8%	8.9%	6.0%

LGB+ people have 2.85x the odds of experiencing severe food insecurity (when controlling for age).

Cisgender vs Trans*



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	Food Secure	Marginally Food Insecure	Moderately Food Insecure	Severely Food Insecure
Cisgender	90.0%	3.4%	4.6%	2.1%
Transgender and Gender Diverse	82.0%	2.9%	8.9%	6.1%

Trans* people have 2.29x the odds of experiencing severe food insecurity (when controlling for age).

Cis-Hetero vs 2SLGBTQ+



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	Food Secure	Marginally Food Insecure	Moderately Food Insecure	Severely Food Insecure
Cis-Heterosexual	90.4%	3.4%	4.4%	1.9%
2SLGBTQ+	80.4%	4.7%	8.9%	6.1%

2SLGBTQ+ people have 2.88x the odds of experiencing severe food insecurity (when controlling for age).

Lesbian/Gay vs Bisexual+



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	Food Secure	Marginally Food Insecure	Moderately Food Insecure	Severely Food Insecure
Lesbian and Gay	87.6%	4.0%	4.6%	3.8%
Bisexual+	74.9%	5.3%	12.2%	7.6%

Lesbian and gay people have 2.85x the odds of experiencing severe food insecurity (when controlling for age), while bisexual and other sexual identities have 3.49x the odds.

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Intersectional Challenges in 2SLGBTQ+ Poverty

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Overview



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- Intersectionality within 2SLGBTQ+ Communities
- Specific Challenges for 2SLGBTQ+ Populations
- Dispelling Myths, Addressing Gaps
- Implications of Internal/External Oppression
- 2SLGBTQ+ Poverty in Canada Study
- Study Methods & Knowledge Mobilization
- Contacts

Intersectionality within 2SLGBTQ+ Communities



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- 2SLGBTQ+ communities are not monolithic
- An intersection of social locations:
 - Age
 - (dis)Ability
 - Ethnicity
 - Race
 - Gender Identity and Expression
 - Sexual Orientation
 - Newcomer Status
 - Class

Specific Challenges for 2SLGBTQ+ Populations



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- Housing and Food Insecurity
- Stigmatization
- Discrimination
- Marginalization
- Poverty
- Intergenerational Trauma

Dispelling Myths, Addressing Gaps



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- Disproportionate attention on affluence
- Not enough attention to socio-economic problems

Implications of Internal/External Oppression



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Internal Implications:

- Sense of self and contributions to society are diminished when struggling with poverty
- Ability to participate in the 2SLGBTQ+ communities is limited given how commercialized these communities have become

External Implications:

- 2SLGBTQ+ populations rarely are considered when poverty is being examined
- Lack of policy, funding, programming, and services to address the unique needs of 2SLGBTQ+ people



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Socio-Political Implications of 2SLGBTQ+ Poverty

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Overview:

1. The “How” of 2SLGBTQ+ Human Rights (in Canada)
2. Critiques of 2SLGBTQ+ Human Rights
3. Homonationalism to Homohegemony
4. Rights, Poverty, Next Steps



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Rights Revolution:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948)
- Canadian Bill of Rights (1960)
- Canadian Human Rights Act (1977)
- “Sexual Orientation” added to Québec Human Rights Code (1977)
- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1982)
- Section 15 of the Charter (Equality Rights) in Force (1985)

Landmark Developments (2SLGBTQ+ Rights in Canada):

- Partial Decriminalization of Homosexuality (1969)
- Sexual Orientation added to Canadian Human Rights Act (1996).
- Same Sex marriage (2005)
- Gender Identity and Expression added to Canadian Human Rights Act (2017)

Human Rights Turn (in LGBTQ+ Rights Globally):

- Montreal Declaration (Intl. Conference on LGBT human rights) (2006)
- Yogyakarta Principles (Joining Human Rights and SOGI) (2007)

Critiques of Rights:

1. Critique of rights doctrine
2. Critique of rights discourse

Homonationalism: A form of sexual exceptionalism that requires the segregation and disqualification of sexual and racial others (Puar, 2007)

Pinkwashing: Promoting LGBTQ rights as evidence of liberal-democratic values to legitimize and distract from the ways states are violent toward racialized communities (Shulman, 2011)

Homohegemony: Greater pervasiveness and entrenchment of homosexual inclusion, ideologically and institutionally (Jackson, 2021)

“Under **homohegemony**, even conservative support for same sex marriage is now widespread (rather than exceptional) and socially conservative objections to LGBTQI2S rights are politically sidelined. The manifold exclusions Puar identified under homonationalism are still operative under homohegemony (of queers and other “others”), but they are sometimes less visible, more insidious. These exclusionary tendencies extend to the ways in which queer subjectivities and activisms are deradicalized as they are folded into the state within the narrow parameters of a liberal minority rights frame. Such a frame masquerades as meaningful inclusion but leaves heteronormativity (and even more so, cisnormativity) intact, particularly in civil society, and does not challenge the sex, gender, or sexuality binaries. Nor is capitalism challenged. The frame, furthermore, is decidedly non-intersectional” (Jackson, 2021: 471).



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In Summary:

1. Overemphasis on 2SLGBTQ+ Human Rights risks stagnation/ blind spots.
2. Human rights are formalistic, falling short of substantive equality.
3. Homohegemonic human rights make 2SLGBTQ+ poverty harder to see and address, asymmetrically impacting multiply marginalized groups.
4. There is a need to reimagine how rights, justice, and liberation fit together in relationship to 2SLGBTQ+ Poverty.