

PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH OUTCOMES AMONGST SEXUAL MINORITIES WITH BREAST CANCER IN THE SURVIVORSHIP PHASE: A SCOPING REVIEW

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Introduction

- Breast cancer survivors (BCS) often experience psychological symptoms in their survivorship journey.
- Sexual minority BCS (SMBCS) may experience heightened symptoms due to sexual orientation-related discrimination.
- This review aims to quantitatively assess the psychological symptoms experienced by SMBCS.

Methods

- Following PRISMA guidelines, Embase, MEDLINE, CINAHL, and Web of Science were searched from inception to May 2023.
- Primary, quantitative studies in English that investigated psychological symptoms experienced by SMBCS were included.



Results

- 16 studies were included, 16/16 (100%) from the United States.
- The total sample size was 4802 participants, with a median of 203 and mean of 300 (range = 68-925).

Table 1. Symptoms assessed and significant differences observed in included studies.

	Studies Evaluated	Significant differences between SMBCS and control	Significant differences between registry and convenience-sampled SMBCS*
Anxiety	4/16	0	0
Depression	4/16	0	0
Overall psychological health	5/16	0	2/5 [†]
Negative coping strategies	6/16	3/6 ^{††}	1/6 [†]
Positive coping strategies	6/16	0	0
Benefit finding	4/16	0	1/4 [†]
Resilience	2/16	0	0
Fear of recurrence	3/16	0	0
Perceived stress	3/16	1/3 [†]	0
Body image	2/16	0	0

(*) Populations from a cancer registry compared to populations from convenience-sampling.; (†) SMBCS/convenience population scores were higher; (††) Control/registry population scores were higher.

Conclusion

- Despite facing additional stressors in their survivorship journey, SMBCS seem to practice more active coping strategies, and have an overall similar psychological health to HBCS.

Future Directions

- Incorporate cultural competency training to better understand and address the unique needs of SMBCS
- Conduct research in other geographical regions and on under-observed SMBCS populations (other than lesbian, gay, homosexual and bisexual).

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