

## **Intragroup status, perceived discrimination, and psychological well-being among Japanese sexual minorities**

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Although research on the psychological well-being of sexual minorities in Japan is not extensive, past studies indicate that sexual minorities in Japan suffer from problems in psychological well-being as a result of societal stigma. No studies have examined this issue in the context of culture, intragroup relationships, or social identity. While previous work has commented on the role of culture in identity formation among this population, none have examined how these factors relate to psychological well-being. Using an online survey of self-identified Japanese sexual minorities (N=222), I investigated the model fit of Begeny & Huo's intragroup status and health (ISAH) model. The model, which posits that intragroup status has both direct benefits and indirect impacts on minority mental health, attempts to explain the mediating role of identity in increased perceptions of discrimination. Analyses revealed that the ISAH model is overall applicable for use with Japanese sexual minorities. Further analyses revealed key differences between subgroups of the sample, as well as key differences between the current sample and the American sample of sexual minorities in Begeny & Huo's 2017 study. Most notably, identity-importance and identity-salience, which played specific roles in the American sample, were interchangeable among Japanese participants. Cultural and theoretical explanations for these findings are offered.