

t4t? Recent sex with trans individuals as a metric of trans inclusion in Alberta's gbMSM community

Background

- Willingness to date trans people has been suggested as a metric for trans inclusion (Blair & Hoskin, 2019)
- In a Canadian sample, 87.5% of the participants indicated that they would not date a trans person
- 55.2% of bi/queer/two-spirit people and 23.9% of gay and lesbian people indicated they would be willing to date a trans person
- For some queer trans men, being seen as gay is of greater importance than being seen as a man, because being recognized as gay implies being a man and suggests community inclusion (Mellman, 2017)
- Sexual encounters between cis gay and bi men who have sex with men (gbMSM) and trans men can often feel validating to trans men (Fox Tree-McGrath et al., 2018)
- Power imbalances in relationships between cis gbMSM and trans men can increase their HIV risk factors (Sevelius, 2009)
- Community connection has been found to counteract minority stress in racialized gbMSM (gbMSM; McConnell et al., 2018)

Study Aim

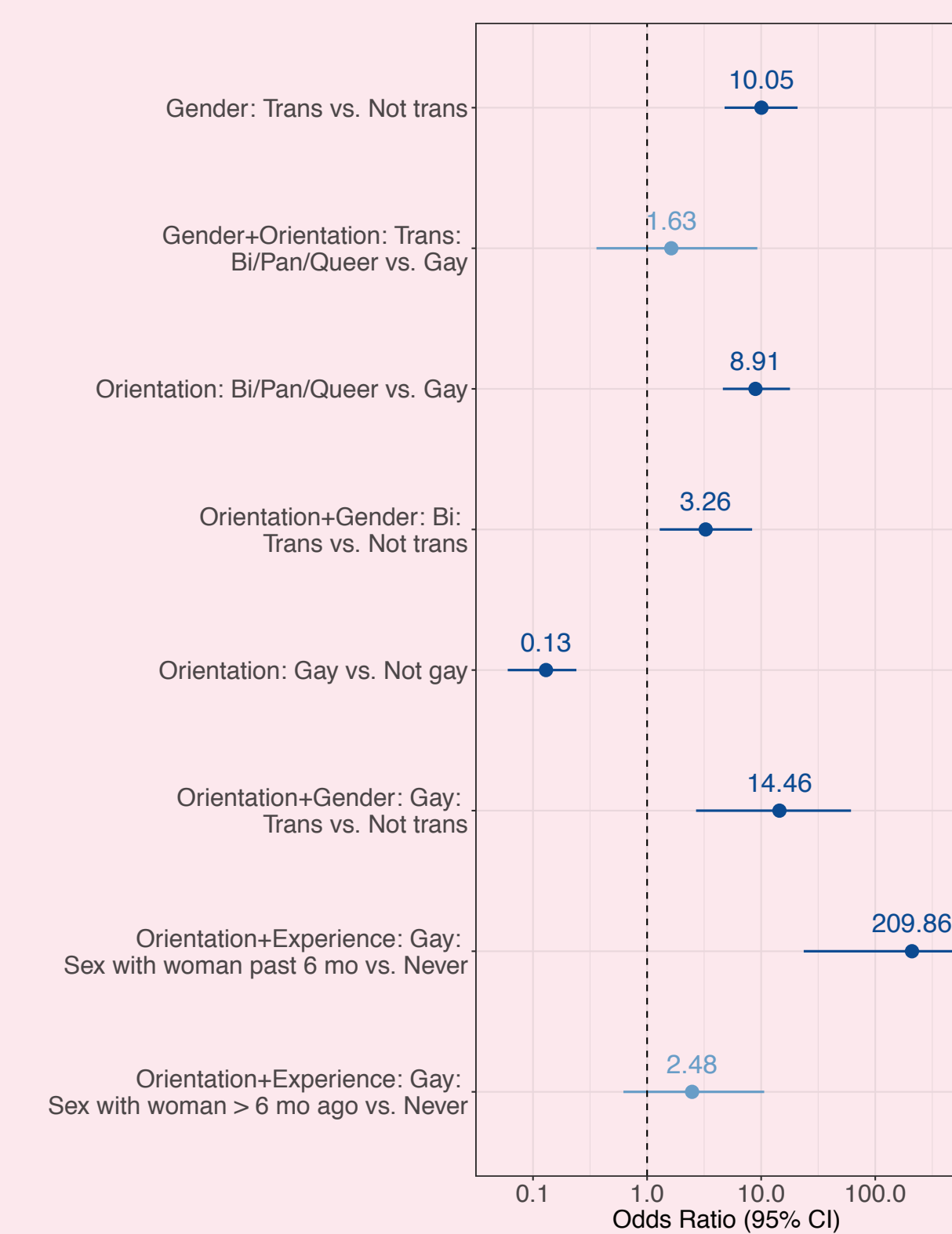
- Assess the inclusion of trans folks in the Alberta gbMSM community by examining the likelihood of community members to have had sex with a trans or non-binary person in the last six months
- Determine which demographic factors predict sexual encounters with trans and non-binary people

Methods

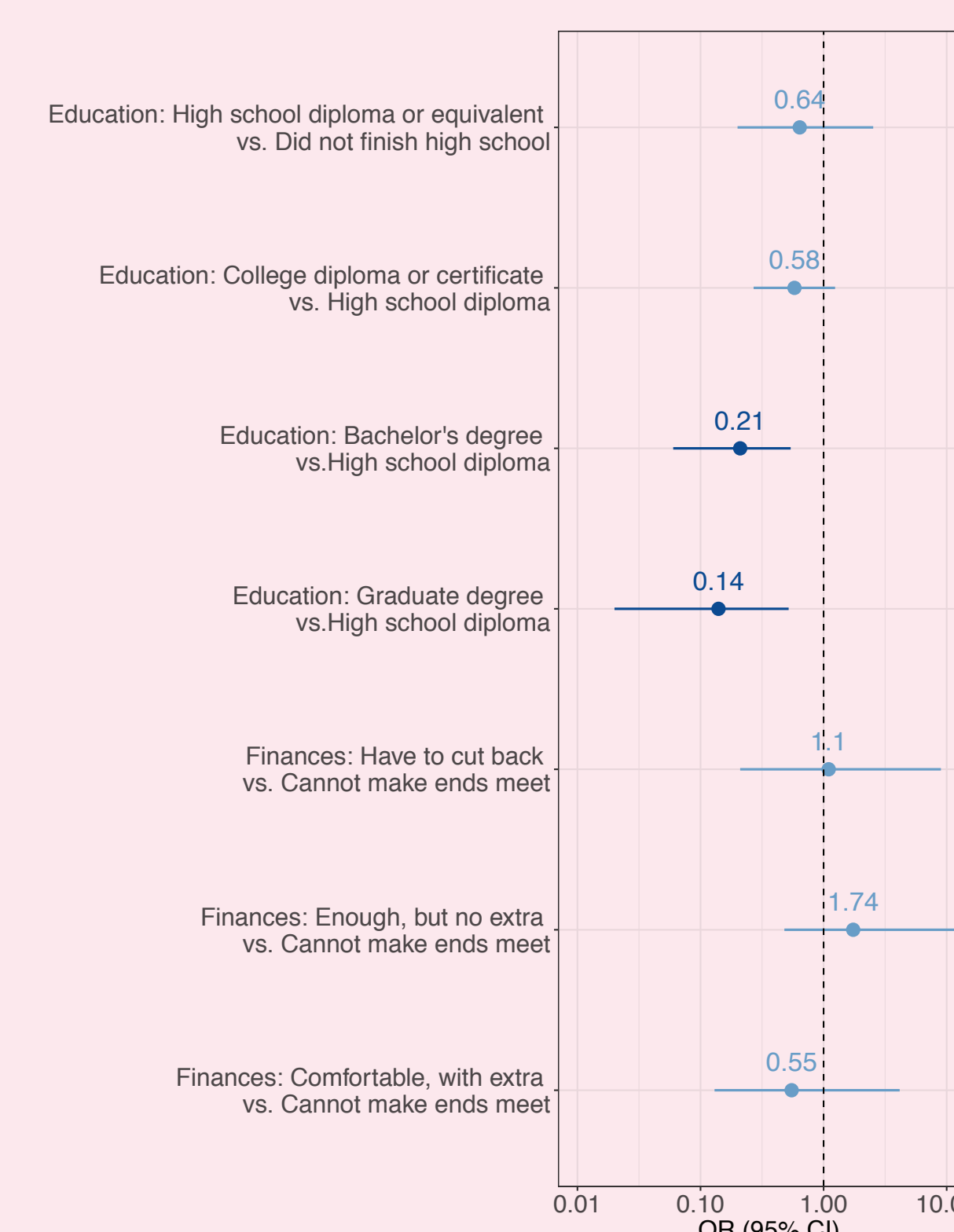
- The data for this study were derived from the 2018 Sex Now survey, and only respondents who indicated that they lived in Alberta were included in analyses ($n = 582$)
- Respondents were categorized according to whether or not they have had sex with a trans man, trans women, or non-binary person (combined) in the last six months ($n = 43$), or not ($n = 514$)
- Odds ratios ($\alpha = .05$) were computed to compare likelihood of having had sex with a trans person in the last six months for several different demographic factors: gender identity, sexual orientation, racial or ethnic identity, immigration status, HIV status, education level, financial state, participation in sex work, sexual and experience with women
- A two-sided Student's t-test ($\alpha = .05$) was computed to compare ages of respondents who had had sex with a trans person in the last six months with respondents who had not
- χ^2 test of association was used for follow-up tests related to education level

Results

- Trans respondents ($n = 47$) were 10.05x more likely than cis* respondents ($n = 525$) to have had sex with a trans or non-binary person in the past six months ($p < .01$)
- Respondents who were bisexual, pansexual, or queer (excluding gay respondents; $n = 123$) were 8.9x more likely than gay respondents ($n = 445$) to have had sex with a trans or non-binary person in the past six months ($p < .01$)
- Within the group of bisexual, pansexual, or queer (excluding gay) respondents, those that identified as trans ($n = 31$) were 3.26x more likely than cis* participants ($n = 78$) to have had sex with a trans or non-binary person in the past six months ($p = .01$)
- Gay respondents ($n = 445$) were 77x LESS likely than respondents who were not gay ($n = 133$) to have slept with a trans or non-binary person in the past six months ($p < .01$)
- Within the group of gay respondents, gay and trans respondents ($n = 10$) were 14.5x more likely than gay and cis* respondents ($n = 430$) to have had sex with a trans or non-binary person in the last six months ($p < .01$)
- Gay men who have had sex with a woman in the past six months ($n = 5$) were 209.9x more likely to have had sex with a trans or non-binary person in the past six months as well when compared to gay men who have never had sex with a woman ($n = 280$) ($p < .01$)
- But gay men who had had sex with a woman longer than six months ago ($n = 143$) were not more likely to have had sex with a trans or non-binary person when compared to gay men who have never had sex with a woman ($p = .19$)
- Gay men who have had sex with a woman in the past six months were not more likely than those who hadn't to have had sex with a trans woman in the past six months ($n = 0$)

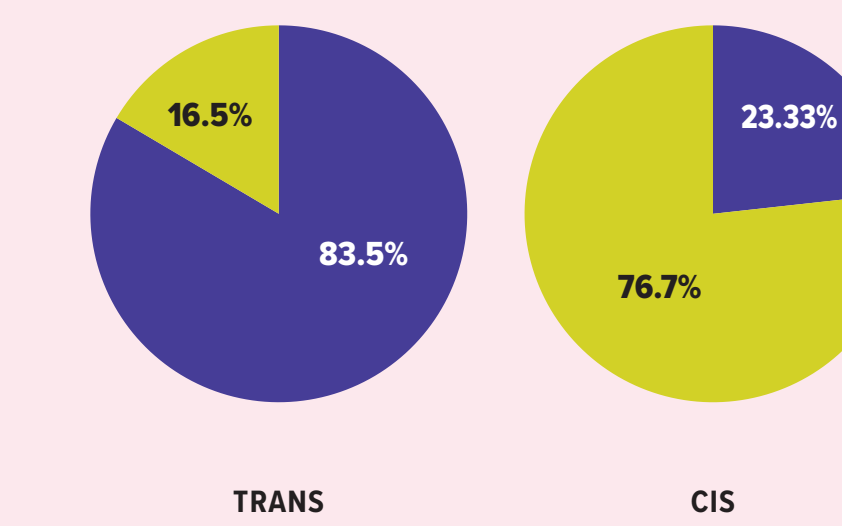


- Respondents with a bachelor's degree ($n = 161$) were 4.8x less likely to have sex with a trans person in the past six months when compared to respondents with a high school diploma ($n = 131$; $p < .01$)
- Respondents with a graduate degree ($n = 98$) were 71x less likely to have had sex with a trans person in the past six months when compared to respondents with a high school diploma
- There were no differences in likelihood of having sex with a trans person according to financial stability



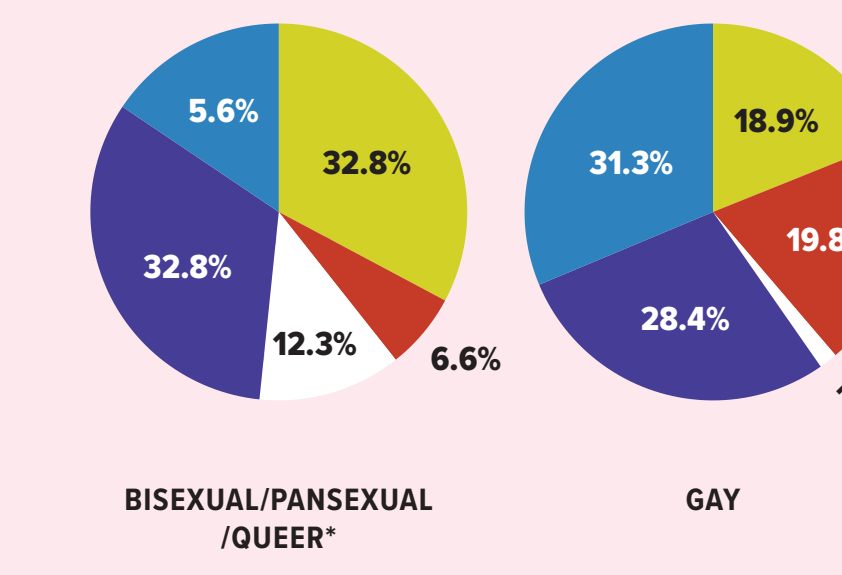
Trans respondents were 16.4x more likely than cis* respondents to be bisexual, pansexual or queer ($p < .01$)

Legend: Bi/Pan/Queer* (blue), Gay (green)

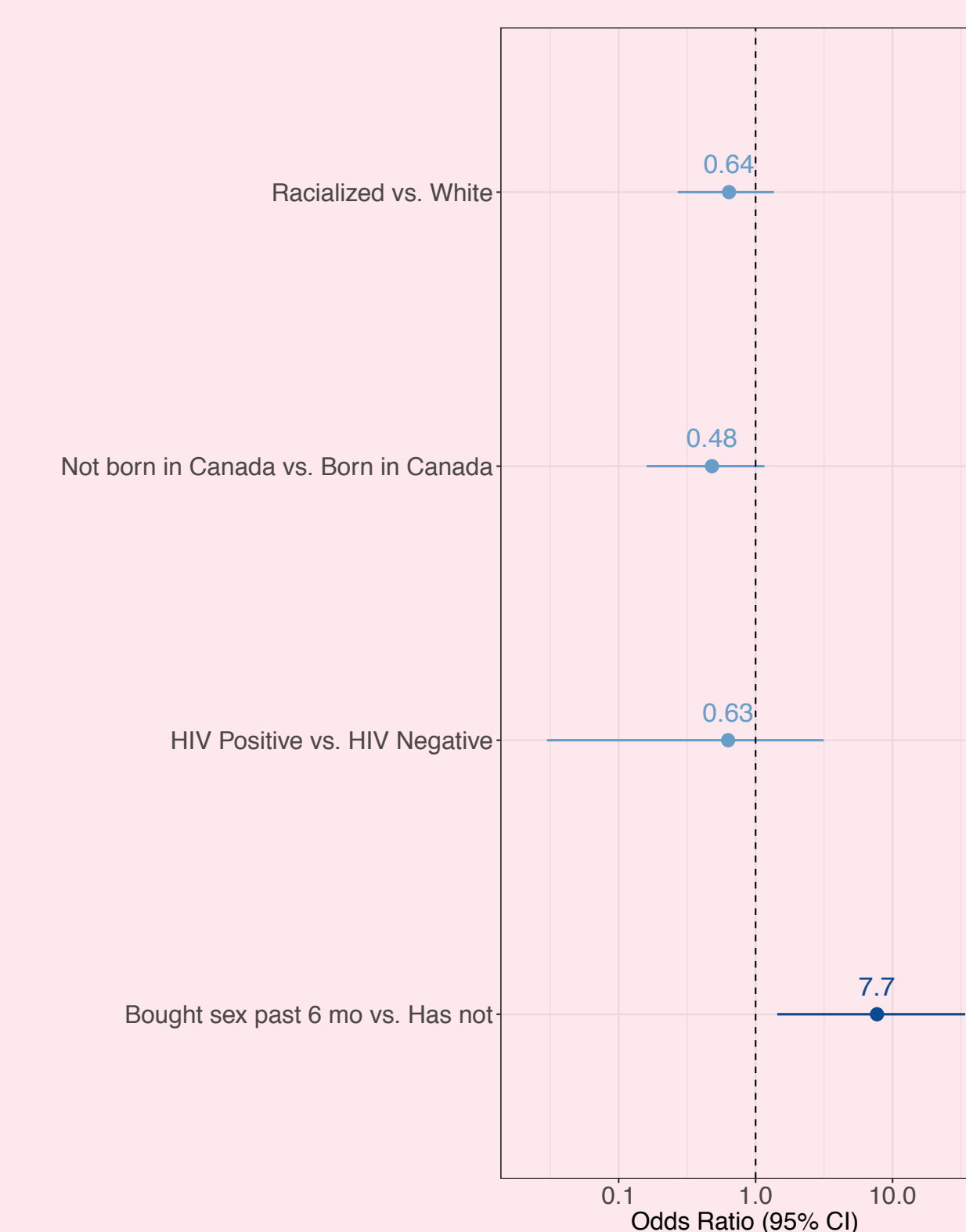


Education distribution between bisexual, pansexual, and queer (excluding gay) respondents significantly differed from that of gay respondents ($\chi^2(4) = 55.73, p < .01$)

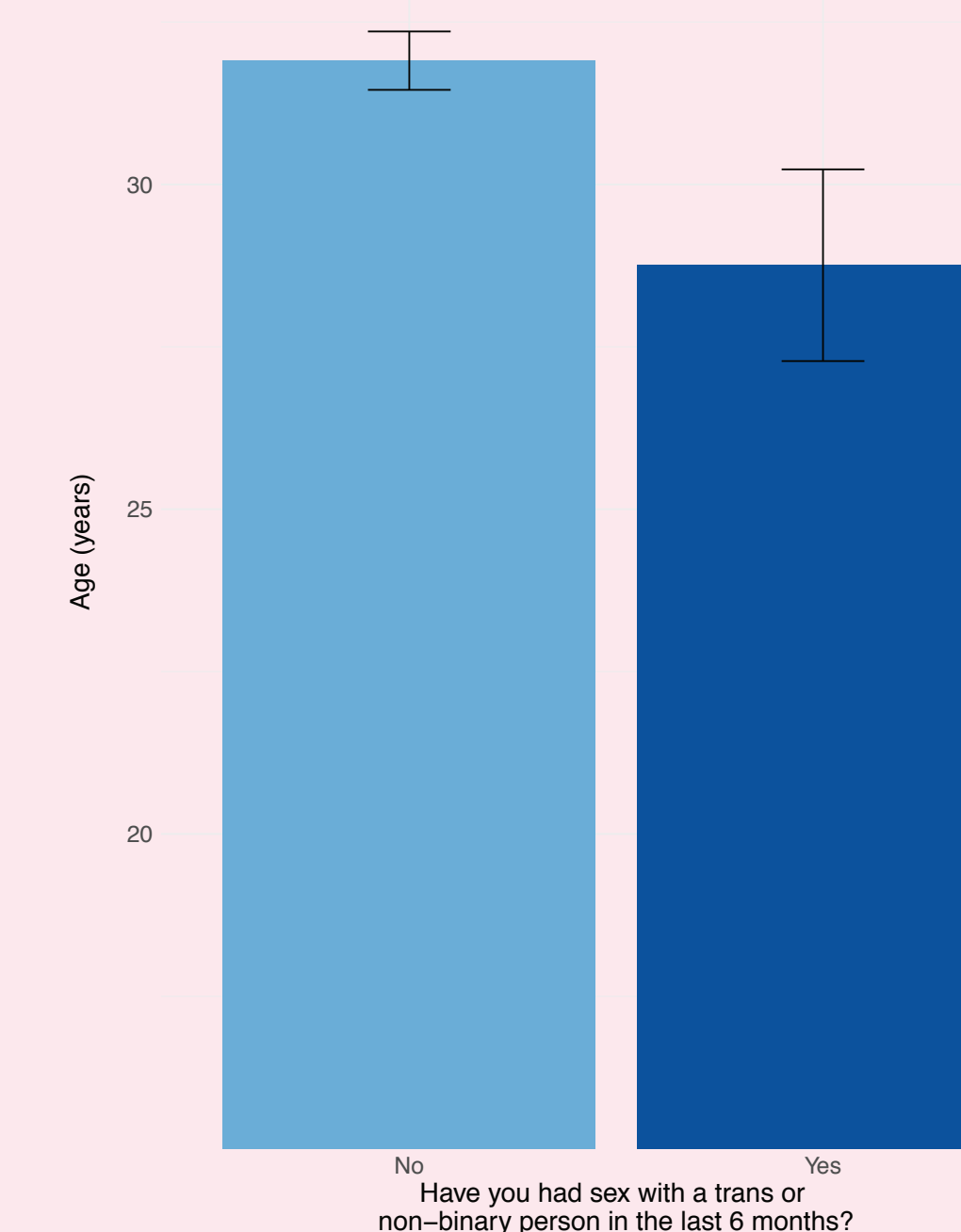
Legend: Did not finish high school (yellow), High school, or equivalent (red), College certificate or diploma (purple), Bachelor's degree (blue), Graduate degree (green)



- Respondents who had bought sex in the past six months ($n = 8$) were 7.7x more likely to have had sex with a trans or non-binary person in the past six months compared to respondents who hadn't bought sex in the past six months ($n = 548$; $p = .02$)
- There were no differences in likelihood of having sex with a trans or non-binary person according to racialization, HIV status, or immigration status



- Respondents who have had sex with a trans or non-binary person in the past six months ($M = 28.76$ years) were significantly younger than respondents who hadn't ($M = 31.90$ years; $t(4774) = 2.04, p = .047$)



Conclusions

- Results confirm common finding that a majority of transmasculine people identify as bisexual, pansexual, or queer (e.g., Dargie et al., 2014)
- Cis gay men are less likely to have slept with a trans person than bisexual men, likely due to a preoccupation with trans men's genitals, a form of cissexist sexualization that invalidates trans people's gender identities (Serano, 2007)
- Blair and Hoskin found people interested in dating trans people were older, more educated, and were more likely to be from outside of Canada (2019), contrary to our findings
- In alignment with Blair and Hoskin's finding that trans people (88.9%) were 10x more likely than cis people (13.1%) to be open to dating a trans person, we found that trans respondents were more likely than cis respondents to have had sex with a trans person recently
- Generally, we did not find that multiple marginalizations predicted sexual interactions with trans people, with non-significant differences according to racial identity, financial stability, HIV status, recent sex work, or immigration status
- If sexual interactions are a metric of trans inclusion in gbMSM community, Alberta has work to do: Only 3.4% of gay men in the sample have had sex with a trans or non-binary person in the last six months, versus 21.1% of non-gay respondents
- Programming in the gbMSM community should work on building bridges between trans and cis communities to improve trans inclusion in gbMSM spaces and increase cis gbMSM's comfort with trans and non-binary people

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