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Addressing the Knowledge Gap: Exploring the Relationship between Healthcare Discrimination and Disability Status among Sexual and Gender Minorities

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Addressing the Knowledge Gap:

Exploring the relationship between healthcare discrimination and disability status among sexual and gender minorities



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Introduction

Sexual and gender minorities (SGMs) frequently report negative and discriminatory experiences when accessing healthcare. These accounts are echoed by the disability community. Both populations have historically endured trauma at the hands of the healthcare system, and there is limited, if any, literature examining the relationship between healthcare discrimination and disability status among SGMs (Streed et al., 2021). The purpose of this project is to examine the relationship between healthcare discrimination and disability status among SGMs.

Methodology

Health of Sexual and Gender Minorities Study

- IRB Approved
- Design: Cross-sectional Digital Survey
- Eligibility: SGM, 18+, residing in US
- Incentive: Raffle of 6 \$100 gift cards
- Recruitment: Reddit, 107 SGM subreddits

Measures

- SGM Identity
- Disability Status
- Everyday Discrimination Scale
 - Adapted for Healthcare Settings

SGM Basics

Sex Assigned at Birth

- Related to external genitalia
 - Male (AMAB)
 - Female (AFAB)
 - Intersex

Gender Identity

- Innate sense of gender
- Not pre-determined

Sexual Orientation

- Describes sexual attraction

For the purposes of this study:

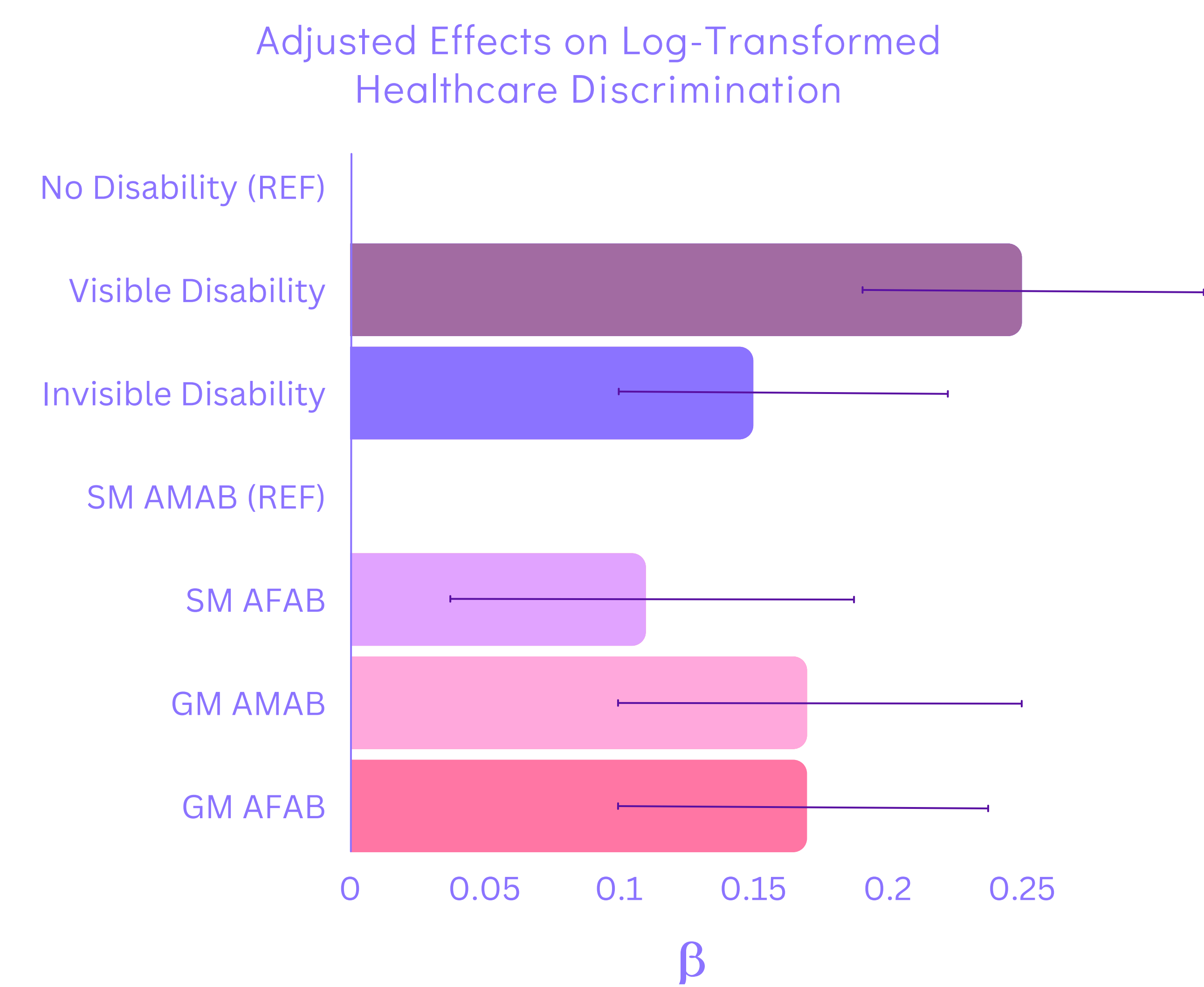
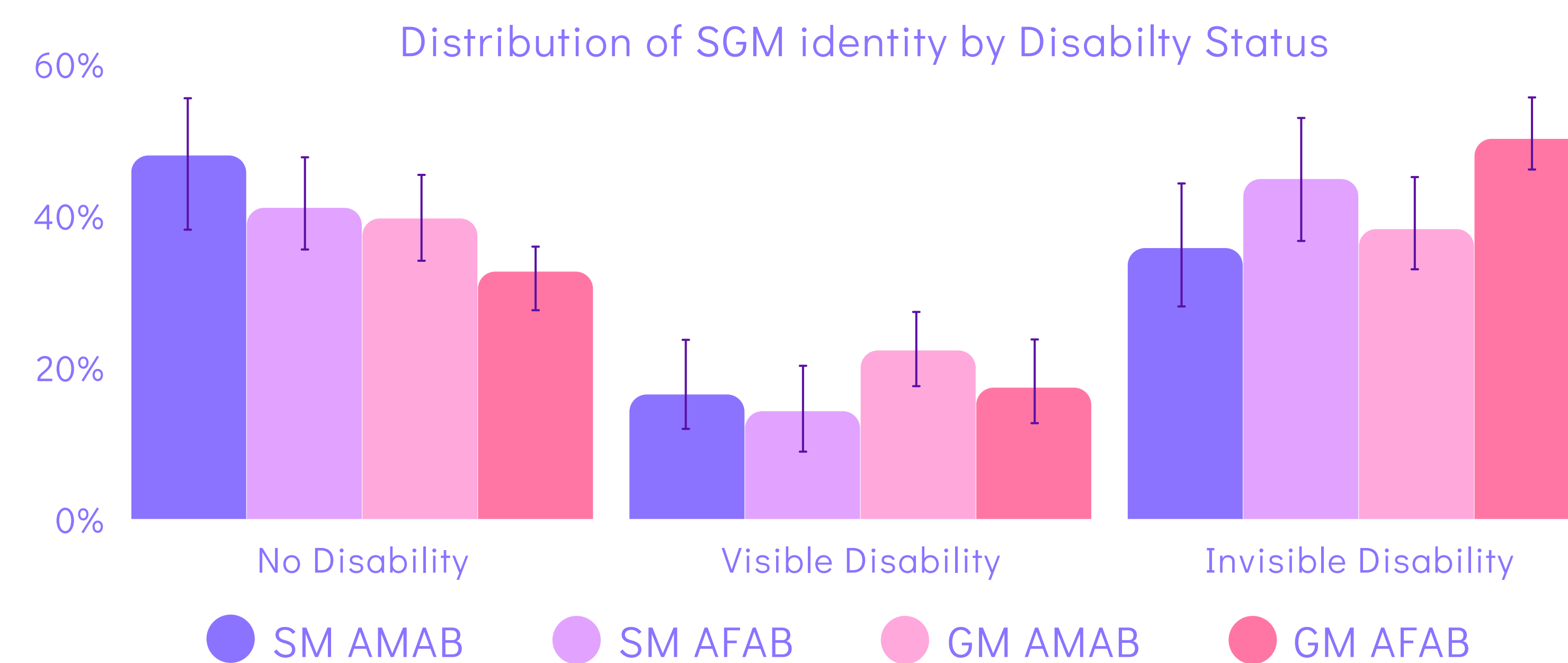
Gender Minority (GM)

- Gender identity did not align with sex assigned at birth
- Regardless of trans* self-identity or sexual orientation

Sexual Minority (SM)

- Not heterosexual
- Did not include gender minorities

Analysis



*multivariable linear regression on log-transformed healthcare discrimination score

Results

Sample

- N = 906
- Majority White
- Mean age 28.85 (SE: 0.30)
- 61% had at least 1 disability
- Sexual Minorities AMAB
 - More likely to report not having a disability
- Gender Minorities AFAB
 - More likely to report having an invisible disability

- SGM Identity & healthcare discrimination score varied by disability status (p=0.007, p<0.001)
- Sexual minorities AFAB and all gender minorities experienced more healthcare discrimination than sexual minorities AMAB
- Having a disability was associated with a significant increase in healthcare discrimination score

Conclusion

SGMs with a disability, particularly with a visible disability, are at significantly higher risk of healthcare discrimination compared to those without. Understanding these associations are vital for healthcare practitioners to promote health equity, prevent further harm, and effectively treat patients.

