

Anti-Discrimination Policies and the Experiences for Transgender People within the United States

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PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

- Examine the impact state level anti-discrimination has on individual measures of:
 - Transphobic Discrimination and Violence
 - Social Relationships
 - Distress and health

BACKGROUND

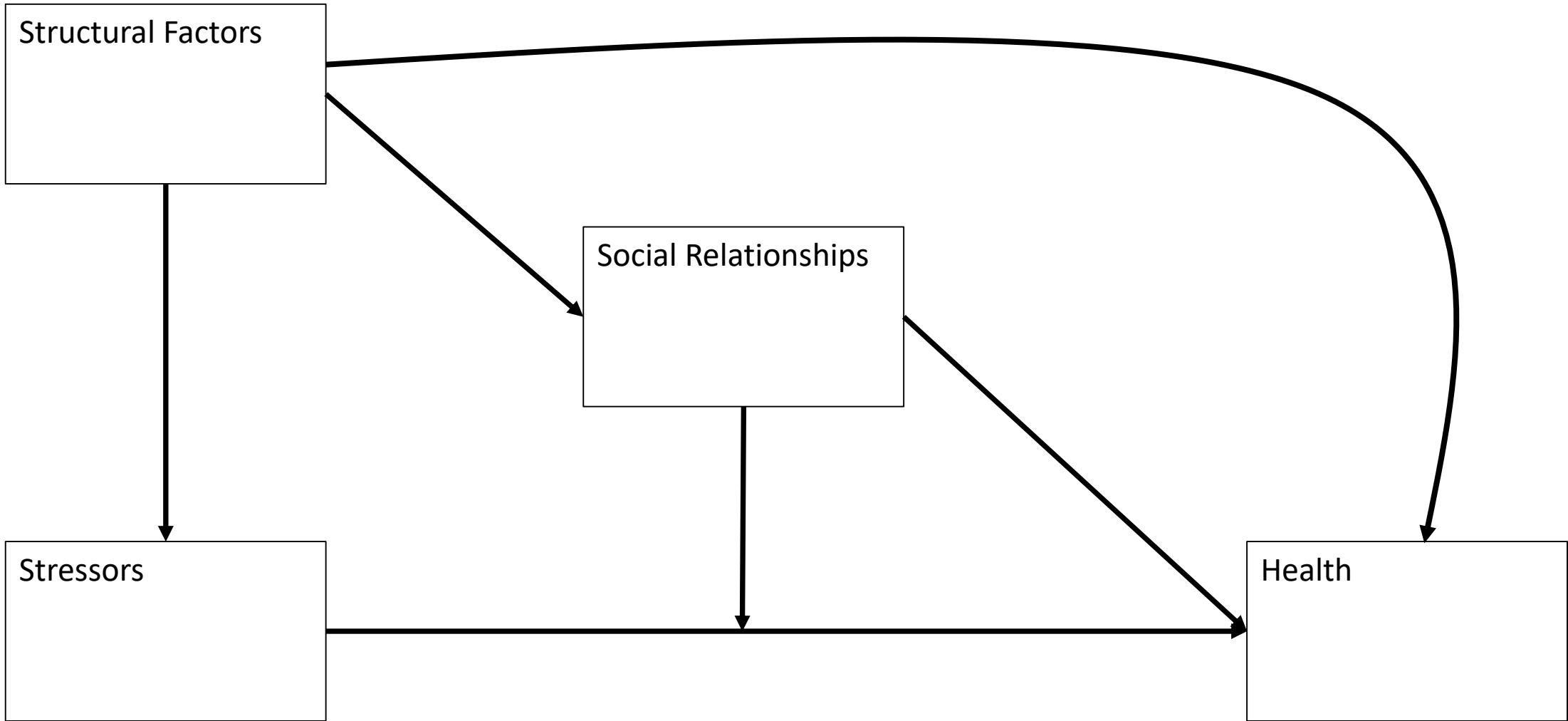
- State-level anti-discrimination legislation is associated with a lower likelihood of mental health issues among LGB adults¹
- Living in areas with high levels of LGBT hate crimes was associated with high levels of suicidality among adolescents²
- **Transgender veterans Living in states with employment anti-discrimination legislation were less likely to report mood disorders³**
- LGB people living in states with anti-discrimination legislation and more positive LGB climate reported better self-rated health and health care access⁴

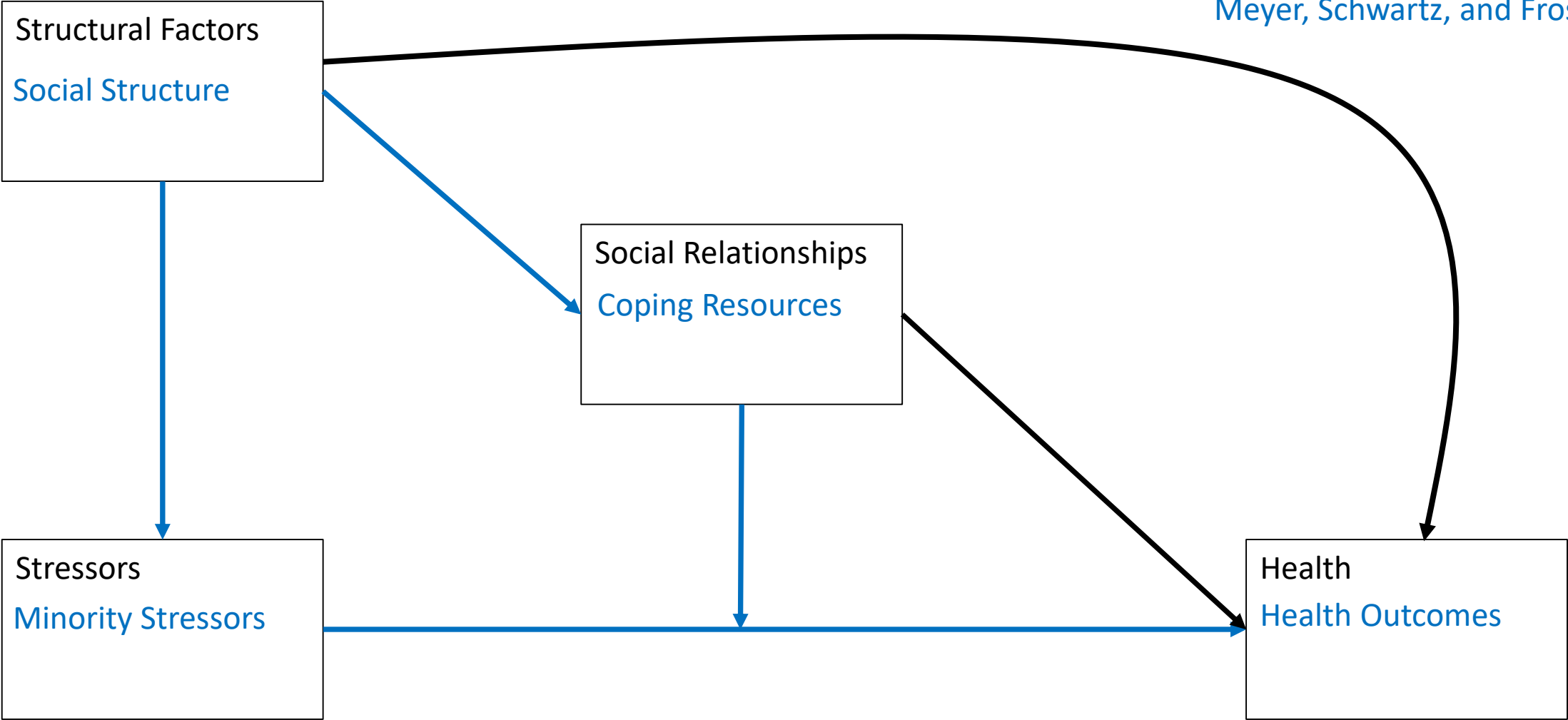
1 Hatzenbuehler, M. L., Keyes, K. M., & Hasin, D. S. (2009). State-level policies and psychiatric morbidity in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations. *American Journal of Public Health, 99*(12), 2275–2281. <http://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2008.153510>

2 Duncan, D. T., & Hatzenbuehler, M. L. (2014). Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender hate crimes and suicidality among a population-based sample of sexual-minority adolescents in Boston. *American Journal of Public Health, 104*(2), 272–278. <http://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2013.301424>

3 Blosnich, J. R., Marsiglio, M. C., Gao, S., Gordon, A. J., Shipherd, J. C., Kauth, M., ... Fine, M. J. (2016). Mental Health of Transgender Veterans in US States With and Without Discrimination and Hate Crime Legal Protection. *American Journal Of Public Health, 106*(3), 534–540. <http://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2015.302981>

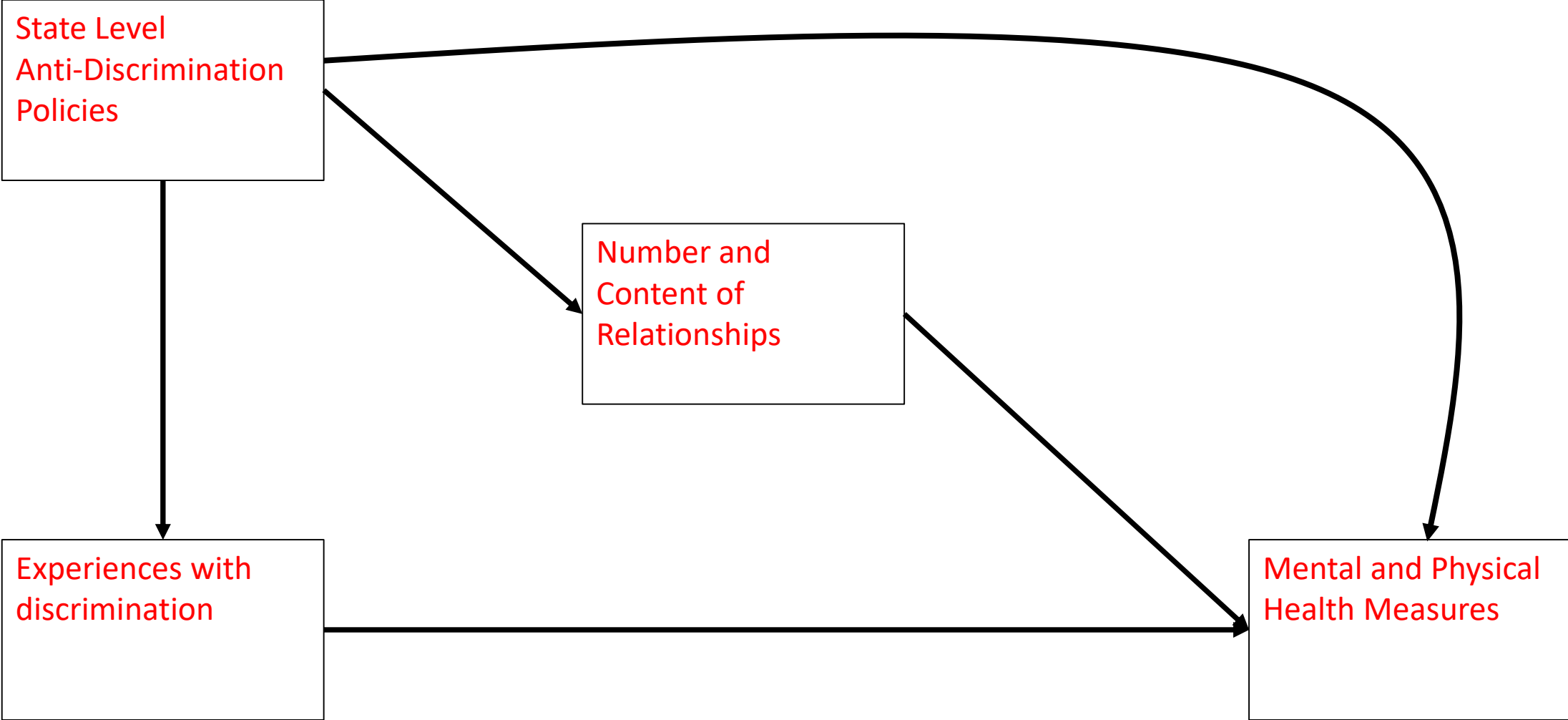
4 Solazzo, A., Brown, T. N., & Gorman, B. K. (2018). State-level climate, anti-discrimination law, and sexual minority health status: An ecological study. *Social Science & Medicine (1982), 196*, 158–165. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2017.11.033>





House, J. S., Umberson, D., & Landis, K. R. (1988). Structures and Processes of Social Support. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 14(1), 293–318.

Meyer, I. H., Schwartz, S., & Frost, D. M. (2008). Social patterning of stress and coping: does disadvantaged social statuses confer more stress and fewer coping resources? *Social Science & Medicine*, 67(3), 368–79. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2008.03.012>



State Level Anti-Discrimination Policies

- State Average Municipal Equality Index
- Has trans employment/housing anti-discrimination legislation
- Has trans public accommodation anti-discrimination legislation
- Has trans hate crimes legislation

Number and Content of Relationships

- Total Number of people in their life
- Proportion know they're trans

Mental and Physical Health Measures

- Kessler 6 – Serious Psychological Distress Scale
- Self-Report General Health Status

Experiences with discrimination

- Denied equal treatment or service because of being trans in the past year
- Verbally harassed because of being trans in the past year
- Physically attacked because of being trans in the past year

Demographics (not reported in this presentation)

- Age
- Race/Ethnicity
- Education
- Income
- Gender identity
- Gender nonconformity
- US Census Region

Methods

- 2015 US Transgender Survey -- 27,050 respondents from fifty states
- Using R with the following packages
 - tidyverse
 - survey
 - Poliscidata
- Hierarchical regression analysis using General Linear Model (svyglm)
- “surveyweight” – weights to reflect the race/ethnicity, age, and educational attainment of the US population based on the 2014 American Community Survey.

Results: Individual Level Variables and Health

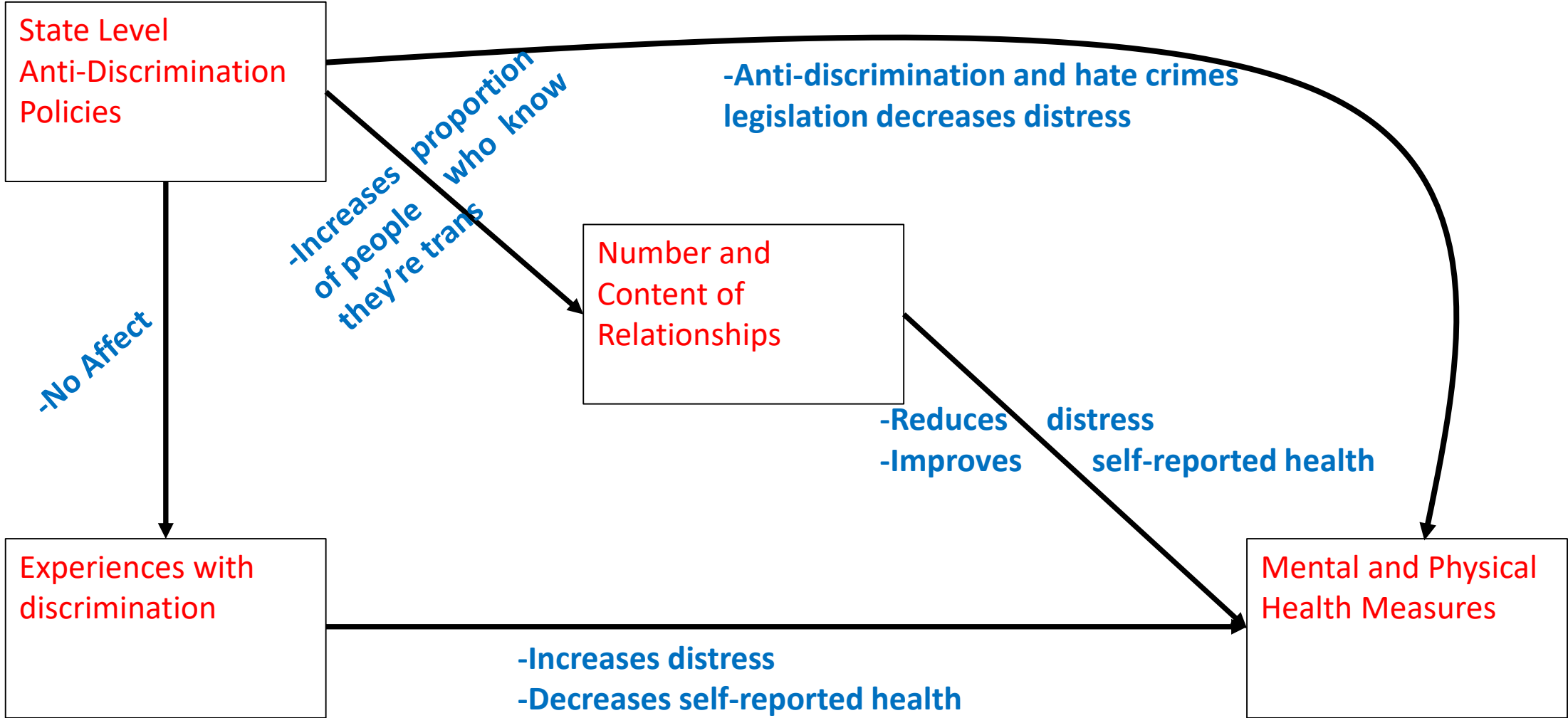
| | Kessler 6 – Serious Psychological Distress | | | Self-Report General Health Status | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Coef ^{SE} | | | Coef ^{SE} | | |
| Number of people in life | -.19 .04 *** | | -.17 .04 *** | .06 .01 *** | | .06 .01 *** |
| Prop know they're trans | -2.95 .22 *** | | -3.65 .21 *** | .30 .40 *** | | .37 .04 *** |
| Denied Equal TRT | | 1.06 .14 *** | 1.24 .14 *** | | -.14 .27 *** | -.15 .03 *** |
| Harassed | | 1.32 .11 *** | 1.52 .11 *** | | -.10 .20 *** | -.12 .02 *** |
| Assaulted | | 1.58 .17 *** | 1.55 .17 *** | | -.18 .03 *** | -.17 .03 *** |
| F-Test | 237.45*** | 245.56*** | 252.90*** | 80.76*** | 77.79*** | 80.75*** |
| Adj R ² | .24 | .25 | .27 | .10 | .10 | .12 |

Results: State Level Variables and Health

| | Kessler 6 – Serious Psychological Distress | | | | Self-Report General Health Status | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Coef ^{SE} | | | | Coef ^{SE} | | | |
| State MEI | -.00 .00 | | | | .00 .00 | | | |
| Employment/Housing | | -.35 .12 ** | | | | .01 .02 | | |
| Public Accommodations | | | -.28 .11 * | | | | -.01 .02 | |
| Hate Crimes | | | | -.33 .10 ** | | | | .03 .02 |
| F-Test | 245.19*** | 242.62*** | 242.68*** | 243.72*** | 77.58*** | 77.35*** | 77.45*** | 77.57*** |
| Adj R ² | .28 | .27 | .27 | .27 | .12 | .12 | .12 | .12 |

Results: State Level Variables and Relationship Variables

| | Number of people in life | | | | Proportion of people know they're trans | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Coef ^{SE} | | | | Coef ^{SE} | | | |
| State MEI | -.00 .00 | | | | .001 .00 *** | | | |
| Employment/Housing | | .05 .03 | | | | .02 .00 *** | | |
| Public Accommodations | | | .00 .03 | | | | .01 .00 *** | |
| Hate Crimes | | | | .03 .03 | | | | .01 .00 *** |
| F-Test | 67.03*** | 66.07*** | 65.86*** | 66.09*** | 364.10*** | 361.32*** | 360.18*** | 361.27*** |
| Adj R ² | .08 | .08 | .08 | .08 | .28 | .28 | .28 | .28 |



Results

- Experiences of discrimination associated with more distress and worse self-reported health
- Relationships decrease distress and improve self-reported health
- Positive policy does not reduce experiences but may reduce its impact
 - Policy reduces the amount of distress experienced
 - Policy makes it easier for trans people to be out to others and that reduces distress and improves health.

Policies impact on health

- Protective policies may not impact people's behavior in whether they will act discriminatory or violently to trans people.
- The policies could provide trans people with knowledge that they can be open about who they are and not worry about its impact.
- Policies could also reduce the amount of stress people feel as trans people, which would benefit their health and well-being.

Conclusion -- “Its not the destination, It's the journey”

- It may not be the legislation itself, but the social context of the states that pass them.
- To pass legislation requires communities to work with others and this action also leads to more supportive social spaces.
- The social context that are created are able to provide trans people with the social resources that are beneficial.
 - Such as being able to be open about their lives.

Limitations

- Convenience sample.
 - While large, the sample is still a nonrandom sample of trans people willing to complete the survey
- Policies are measured at the state level
 - Local policies may have different affect on trans people's lives
- Limited measures of coping and social relationships.
 - Measures of social capital and social support would have provided more understanding of the social context trans people are embedded within.

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