Legalization of Gay Marriage and its Impact on Military Stereotypes of Homosexuals

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ABSTRACT

Homosexuality has become a popular research topic in a variety of professional fields. Yet, for the most part, little has been done strategically about homosexuals serving in the United States military. Nevertheless, particular attention has been on studying the attitudes and stereotypes about homosexuals. The purpose of this study was to examine the impact of the legalization of gay marriage on the military. The results supported the main hypotheses that the legalization of gay marriage further improves society stereotyping about homosexuals and support for gays and lesbians serving in the armed forces.

METHODS

To obtain the sample, emails were sent to sociology professors at Wright State University during the Spring 2017 semester introducing the research study and asking if they would solicit their student’s participation in an online survey. The sample for this study was not random but was selected by convenience sampling through professors who were associated with the sociology department. The data were collected anonymously and the confidentiality of the participants was assured. The dependent variable being measured was ordinal because this study will be examining the participants’ opinions about same-sex orientation individuals serving in the military. The independent variable of interest is defined as the participants’ attitudes towards homosexuals serving in the armed forces than those with no military experience.

RESULTS

The first hypothesis, H1: Subjects with military experience will be less likely to hold negative stereotypes about homosexuals serving in the armed forces than those without military experience was not supported. As reflected in Table 2, the sample of people showed more support for gays and lesbians serving in the military than those who had not served.

The fifth hypothesis, H5: People of color will be less likely to hold negative stereotypes about homosexuals serving in the armed forces than those people who are not of color was not supported. As shown in Table 5, the people of color showed more support for gays and lesbians serving in the military than those who were not of color.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Most of the hypotheses were supported. Religious is particularly the case for those who are not highly religious. The majority of the sample in this study was younger generation college students who contributed to the impact. The results support the findings of previous research about the legalization of gay marriage further improves society’s stereotypes about homosexuals and support for gays and lesbians serving in the armed forces.

REFERENCES


