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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, and over the last decade has become a priority for the military. Since the implementation of the law repealing Don’t Ask Don’t Tell (DADT) researchers have been investigating the affect marriage equality has on military stereotypes of homosexuals serving in the armed forces. Current literature does not provide in a clear and concise picture of how marriage equality impacts military stereotypes of homosexuals. This study utilized survey-sampling methods in an attempt to understand how opinions about marriage equality affect military stereotypes of gays and lesbians. The results supported the null hypothesis. Participants who had personal contact (friends or family members) with LGBT individuals in the military were less likely to hold negative stereotypes about homosexuals serving in the armed forces than those who did not serve. The findings are consistent with the findings in this study. This study adds to the understanding of the impact of marriage equality on military stereotypes of homosexuals serving in the armed forces.

PROCEDURES AND PARTICIPANTS

To obtain the sample, emails were sent out 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 anonymous online survey. The purpose of this research was to help improve the quality of life for homosexuals serving in the armed forces and to help increase the acceptance of homosexuals serving in the military. By participating in the study, participants were asked to distribute the online survey form (titled via Wrightgate quality) to their students. It is important to note that those who participated in the study, participants were required to be 18 and enrolled part-time or full-time at Wright State University’s main campus during the Spring 2017 semester. A total of 82 student survey responses were collected.

RESULTS

The first hypothesis, H1: Subjects with marriage equality 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 participants had a strong positive 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 who are not of color was not supported. As shown in Table 3, the people of color showed more support for gays and lesbians serving in the military than those who were not of color.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION CONT’D

The sixth hypothesis, H6: Latinos and religion will be less likely to hold negative stereotypes about homosexuals serving in the armed forces than those who are not religious. As reflected in Table 3, those who were not religious showed more support for gays and lesbians serving in the military than those who were religious.

REFERENCES


Fetner, T. (2008). Cohort differences in tolerance of homophobia. Pettigrew (1999) argued that friendship is the most significant protective factor making contact condition, an equal interaction condition involved a personal interaction.


Rhodes, R. (1997). Does the legalization of gay marriage further improve society’s stereotypes about homosexuals serving in the armed forces? This study found that the legalization of gay marriage has improved society’s stereotypes about gays and lesbians serving in the armed forces. Considering the findings of this study, military personnel and defense staff must be aware of the current research and contact theory. It is important to focus on an individual’s personal interaction with the homosexual community, because personal interaction is the most significant protective factor making contact condition, an equal interaction condition involved a personal interaction.

While Bailey, Lee, and Williams (2013) found that the repeal of DADT left society with many negative stereotypes, while those who had served showed less support for gays and lesbians serving in the military. For the purposes of this study the fourth independent variable sex identifies his or herself as homosexual. This study utilized survey-sampling methods in an attempt to understand how opinions about marriage equality affect military stereotypes of gays and lesbians. The results supported the null hypothesis. Participants who had personal contact (friends or family members) with LGBT individuals in the military were less likely to hold negative stereotypes about homosexuals serving in the armed forces than those who did not serve. The findings are consistent with the findings in this study. This study adds to the understanding of the impact of marriage equality on military stereotypes of homosexuals serving in the armed forces.