

ABSTRACT

HOMOPHOBIA AND HETEROSEXISM AMONGST GRADUATING MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

The study discussed in this paper addressed homophobia and heterosexism among the graduating MSW students at California State University, Fresno. This descriptive study used parallel subscales of the Attitudes toward Lesbians and Gay Men Scale, as well as a Heterosexism scale to gather this information.

Demographic information such as age, gender, religious affiliation, contact with gay men and lesbians, years of experience in the field, participation in the Title IV-E or PPS programs, and ethnicity were analyzed for possible correlations with attitudes towards gay men and lesbians. A slight difference was found between levels of homophobia and heterosexism, however, it was not statistically significant. Differences in attitudes towards gay men and lesbians were not found. Significant correlations were found between ethnicity and both homophobic and heterosexist attitudes. Religious affiliation, type of affiliation, and frequency of church attendance were all found to be significantly correlated to homophobic and heterosexist attitudes.

Claudia Lucia Martinez
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