

Cleveland State University

EngagedScholarship@CSU

Undergraduate Research Posters 2024

Undergraduate Research Posters

2024

Assessment of the Intersectionality of Muslim and Queer Identities

Elisha Sledge

Cleveland State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/u_poster_2024

How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!

Recommended Citation

Sledge, Elisha, "Assessment of the Intersectionality of Muslim and Queer Identities" (2024).

Undergraduate Research Posters 2024. 6.

https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/u_poster_2024/6

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Undergraduate Research Posters at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Undergraduate Research Posters 2024 by an authorized administrator of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact library.es@csuohio.edu.





Assessment of the Intersectionality of Muslim and Queer Identities

Sledge, Elisha ; Naser, Shareen, Ph.D.

Department of Psychology, Cleveland State University



Introduction

- Queerness can be a taboo subject in many Muslim communities.
- However, little academic research explores the intersection between queer and Muslim identities.

Trends in LGBTQ youth mental health & suicide risk from 2020-2022

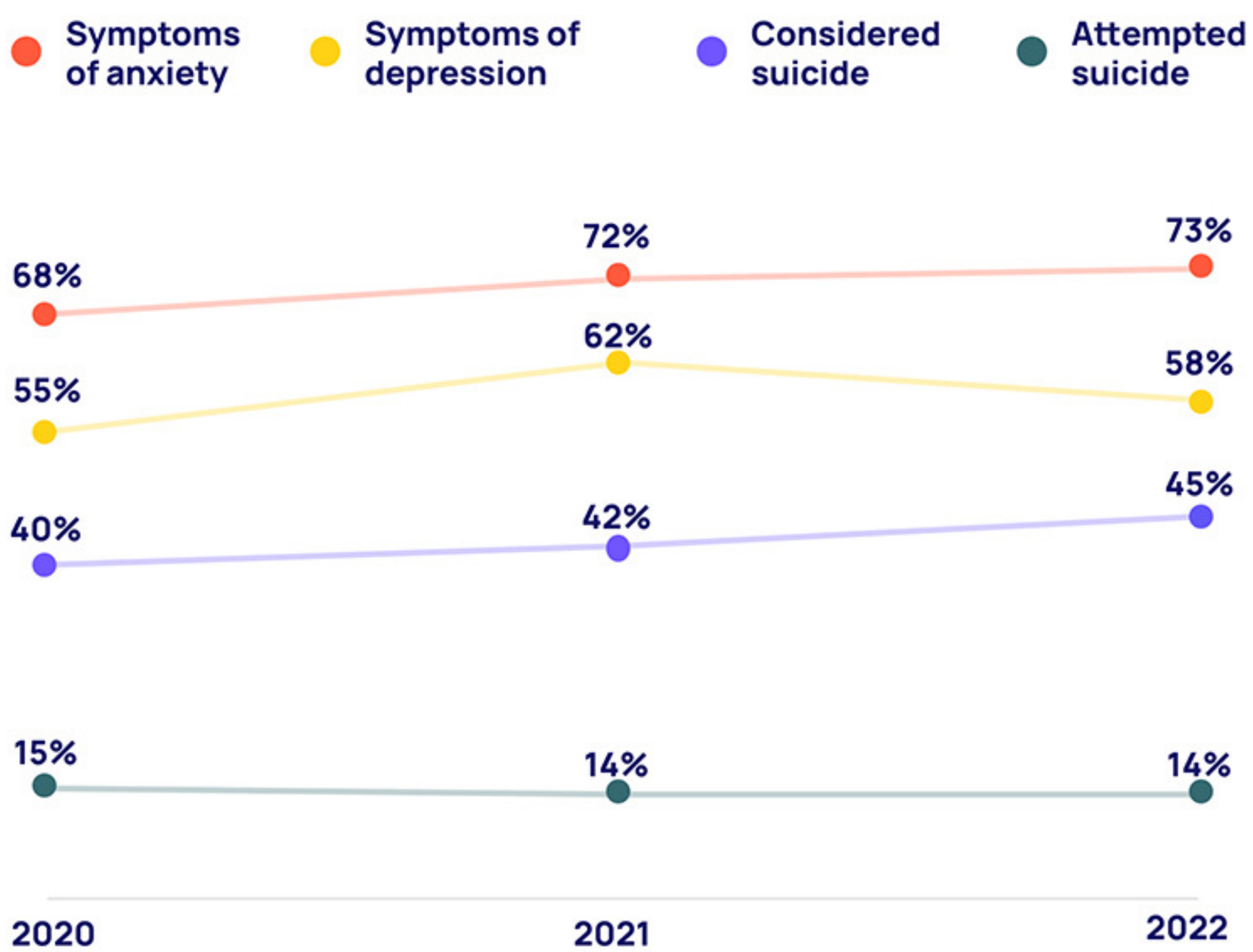


Figure 1. Trends in LGBTQ youth mental health & suicide risk from 2020 to 2022. Data was extracted from the 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health from the Trevor Project. It sampled nearly 34,000 LGBTQ youth ages 13 to 24 across the United States. 45% of respondents were LGBTQ youth of color; 48% identified as transgender or nonbinary. The Trevor Project is a non-profit suicide prevention organization.

Islamophobia Rises Sharply among White Muslims

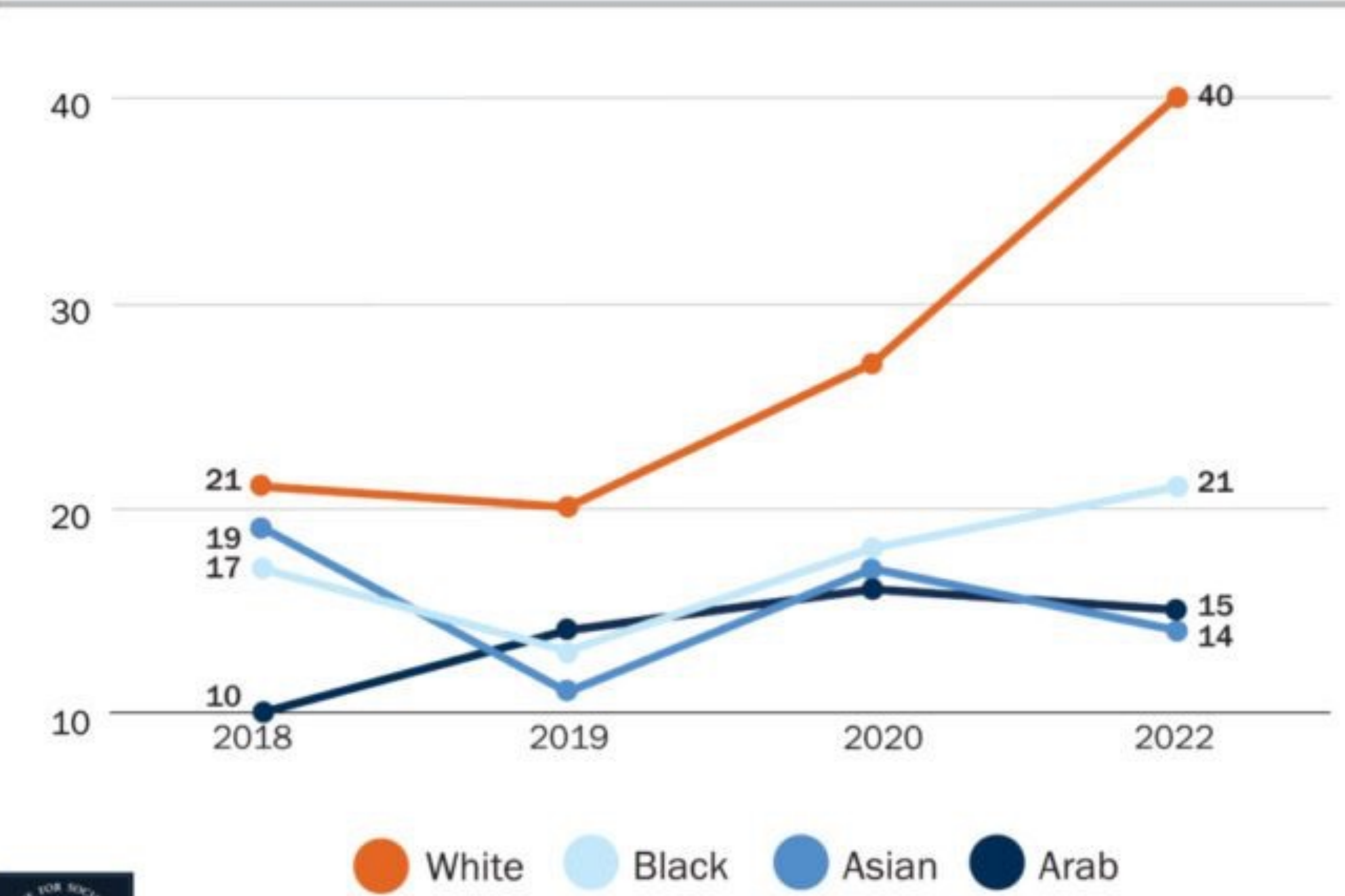


Figure 2. Islamophobia Rises Sharply among White Muslims. Data was extracted from the 2022 American Muslim Poll by the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding. The Institute for Social Policy and Understanding is a nonprofit organization that conducts research to educate the public, foster an informed dialogue, and develop policies that can lead to the betterment of society. They primarily focus on issues that affect the American Muslim community.

Hypothesis

- We hypothesize that familial judgment plays a critical role in shaping the experiences of Queer Muslims, potentially leading to increased:
 - Levels of anxiety
 - Self-reports of depression
 - Suicidal thoughts and attempts

Methods

- Auto-ethnography: diary and audio recordings
 - A written diary with daily entries was maintained for 30 days.
 - Each week a topic was explored.
 - Family dynamics (coming out experiences)
 - Religious beliefs
 - Community support (outside the family)
 - Mental and emotional feelings (depression, anxiety, guilt, etc.),
 - Aspirations (hopes of the outcomes).
 - At the end of each week, a self-reflection was recorded to explore how the subject felt about the week's entry.
- Auto-ethnography: self-interviews
 - Six self-interview sessions were conducted to evaluate a change resulting from the self-reflections and diary entries.
 - Questions were assessed
 - Self-reported progress on mental health status
 - Feelings towards family and community acceptance
 - Religious identity.
 - Answers were coded based on emerging themes.
- Interviews of Queer Muslims
 - Eight interviews from ethnically and geographically diverse Queer Muslim individuals were selected from online sources.
 - Answers were coded based on emerging themes.



Figure 3. Auto-ethnography and interview analysis. A written diary with daily entries was maintained for 30 days exploring different topics each week. Six self-interview sessions were conducted to evaluate a change resulting from the self-reflections and diary entries. Eight interviews from ethnically and geographically diverse Queer Muslim individuals were selected from online sources and coded based on emerging themes.

Results

Participant	Data Collected
Reported Depression	16
Reported Anxiety	20
Reported Suicidal thoughts	8
Accepted by family	12
Accepted by community	10

Figure 4. Themes emerging from self-interview and interviews to other Queer Muslims collected online. The numbers on the right indicate the number of times the theme emerged.

Conclusions

- Preliminary findings suggest that the fear of familial rejection significantly contributes to internalized stigma and emotional turmoil within this community.
- They also suggest that the psychological burden associated with familial expectations may be more impactful than societal or communal scrutiny.
- This work highlights the necessity of creating supportive networks that address the challenges faced by Queer Muslims, ultimately advocating for greater awareness and understanding within both familial and broader societal contexts.

Acknowledgements

- Dr. Shereen Naser
- Dr. Ángel Reyes- Rodríguez
- Jennifer Martinez
- Devon Skufca
- Funding: McNair Scholars Program

