Anti-LGBTQ State Policies and Population Health

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Introduction

- Structural perspectives on health have flourished in the past decade (Everett et al. 2022; Homan 2019; Montez et al. 2020)

- State policies are important in shaping health

- LGBT-friendly policies associated with life expectancy and physical and mental health (Montez et al. 2020; Hatzenbuehler et al. 2009)

- But we know relatively little about the health consequences of anti-LGBTQ state policies

Data

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data, 2014-2020
  - SOGI Module implemented in 2014

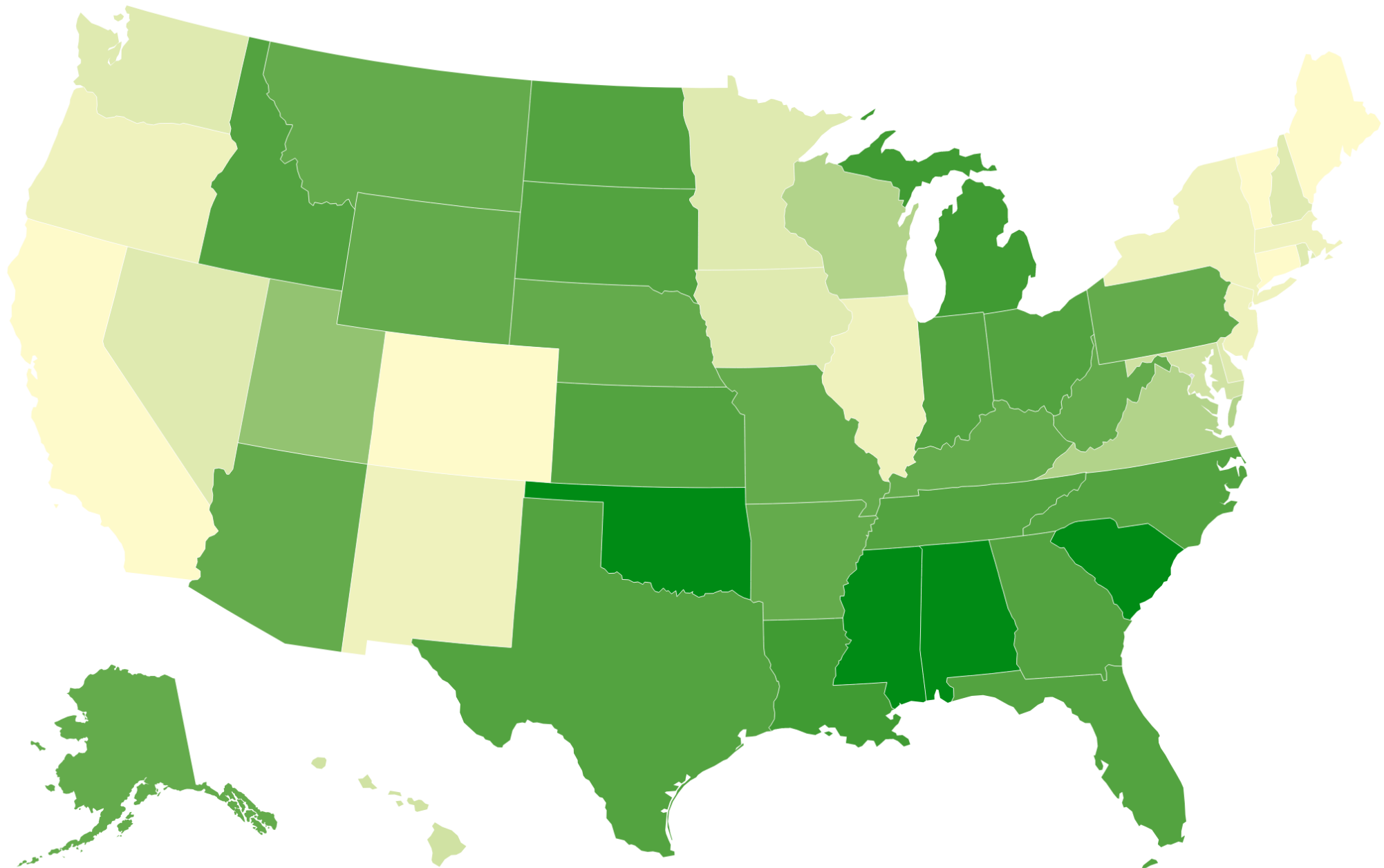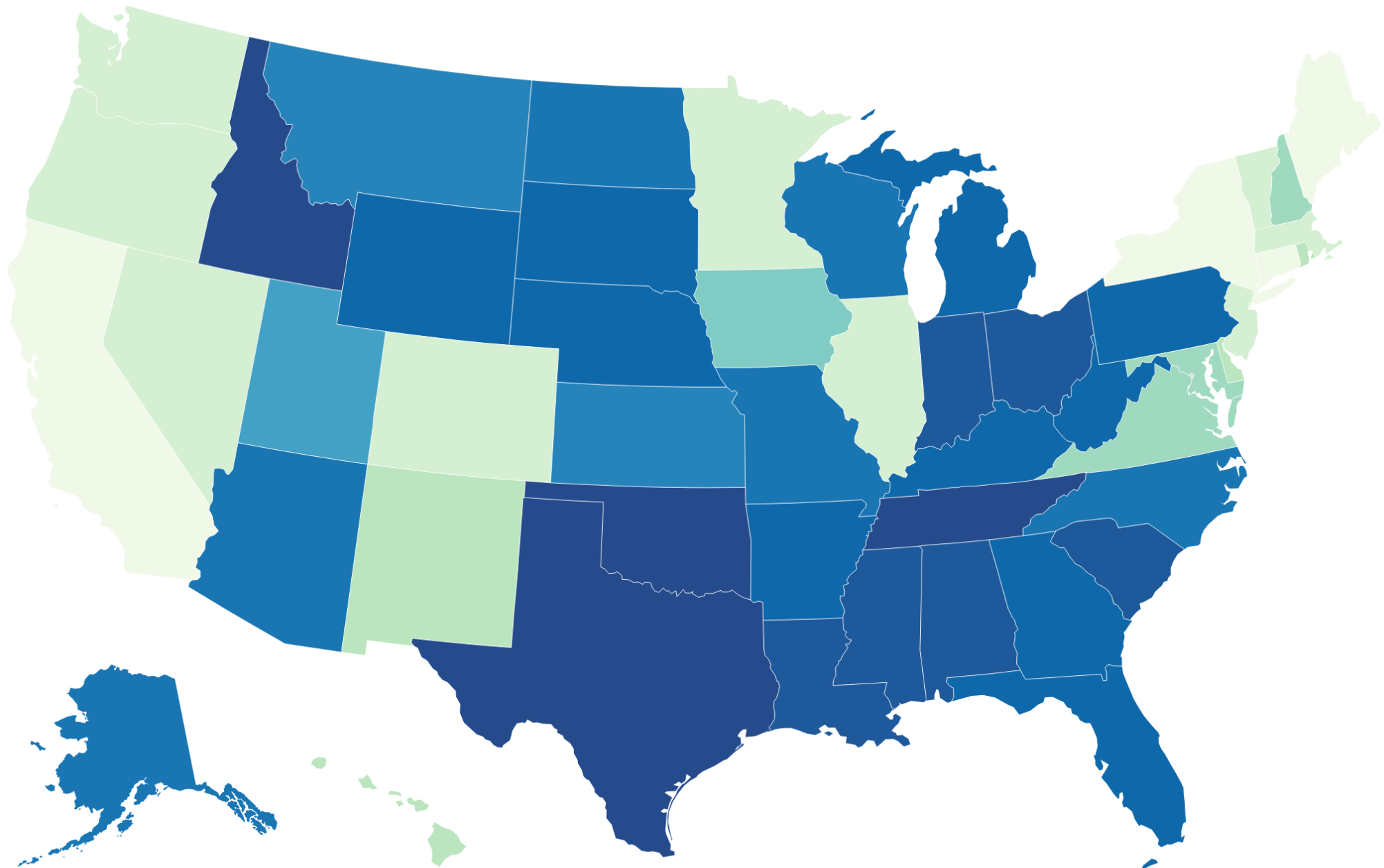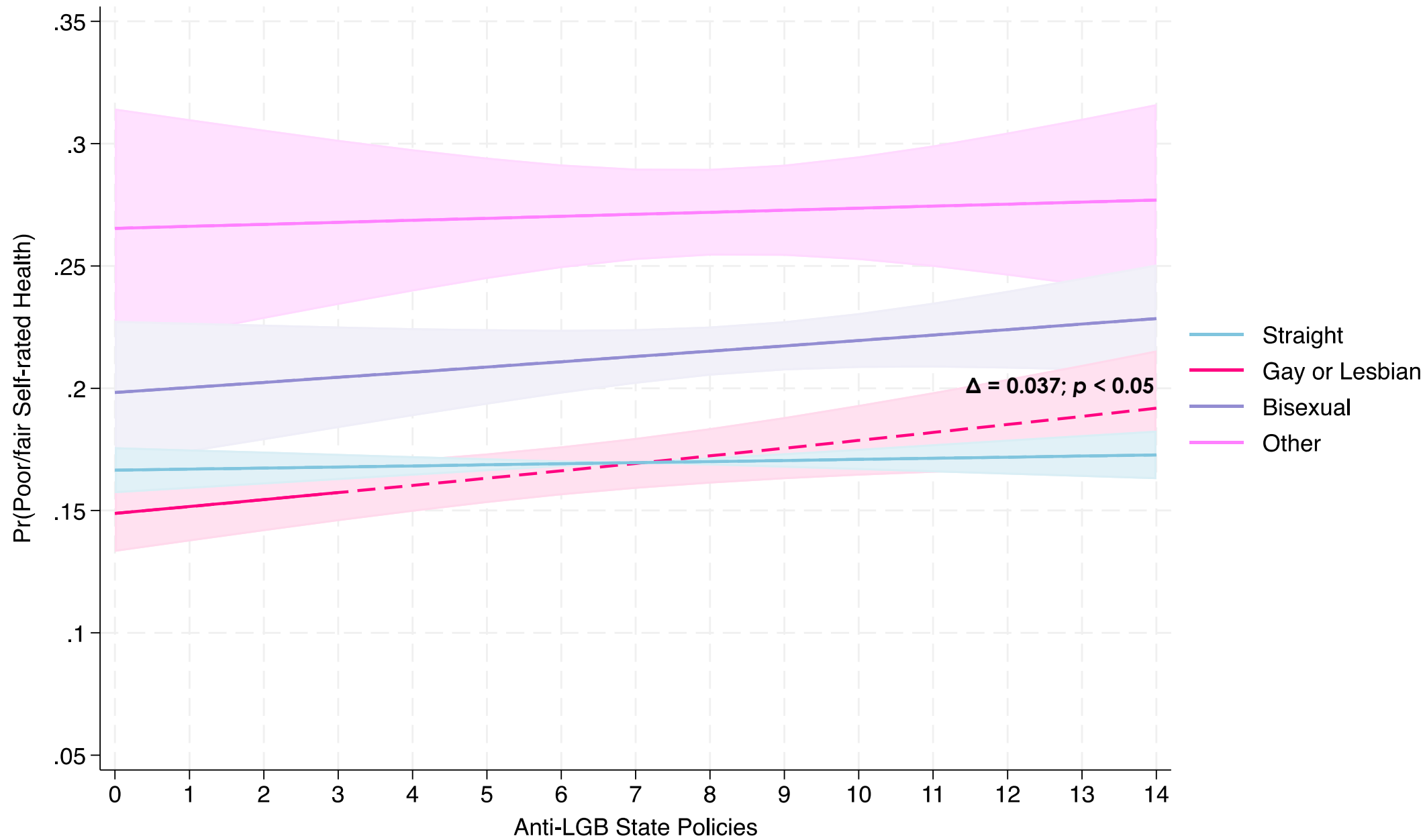- Anti-LGBTQ state policies data derived from Human Rights Campaign (HRC)

Measures

- **Independent variable**: sum of anti-LGB/anti-transgender state policies
- **Moderators**: sexuality/gender
- **Outcome**: poor/fair self-rated health and frequent mental distress

- **Respondent covariates**: sex, age, race/ethnicity, and education
- **State level covariates**: unemployment rate, Medicaid expansion, and percentage of LGBT state residents
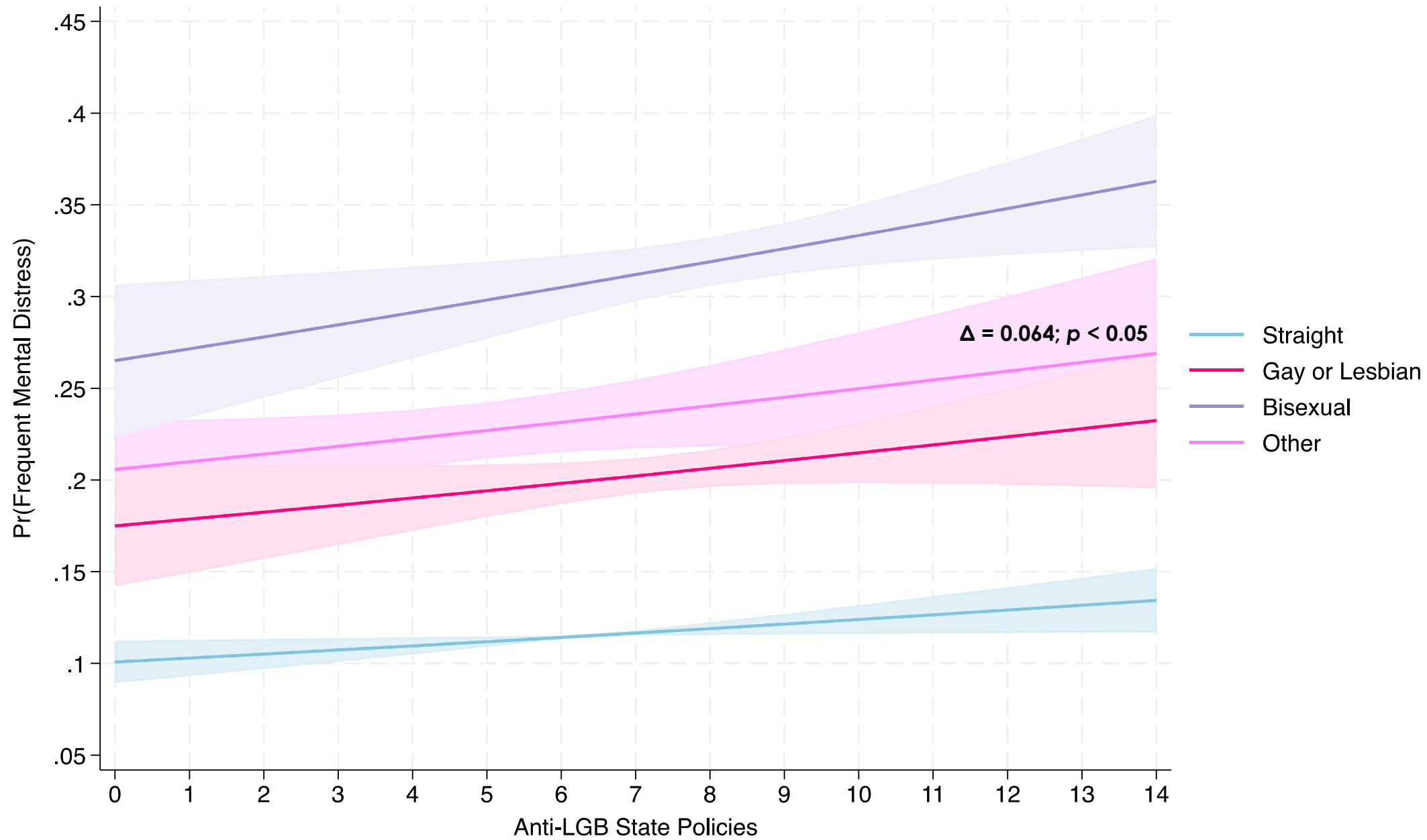
Method

- Two-way fixed effects logistic regression models predicting poor/fair SRH as a function of anti-LGB/anti-transgender state policies x sexuality/gender, net of covariates

- I show predicted probabilities and calculate first- and second-order differences
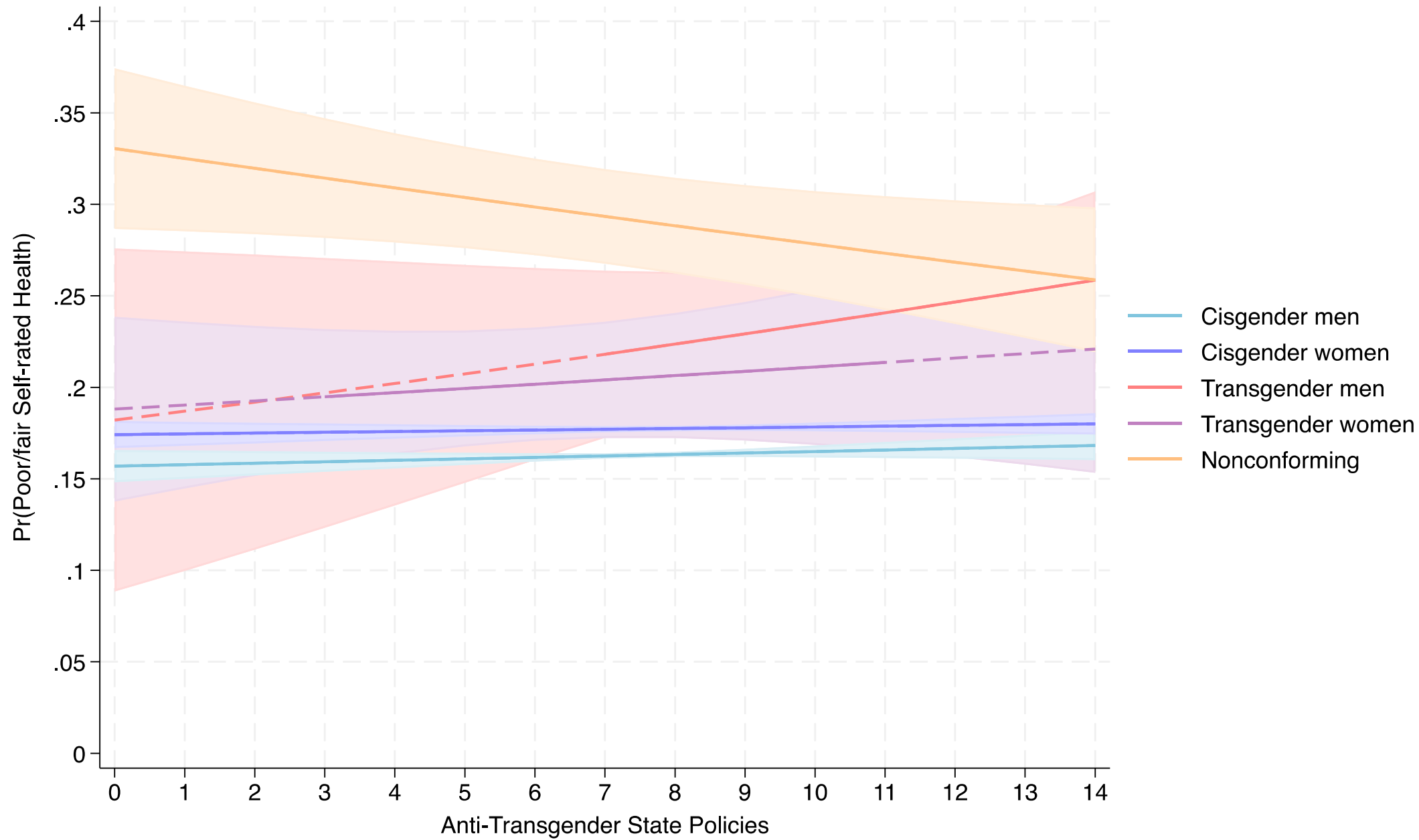
Anti-LGB State Policies

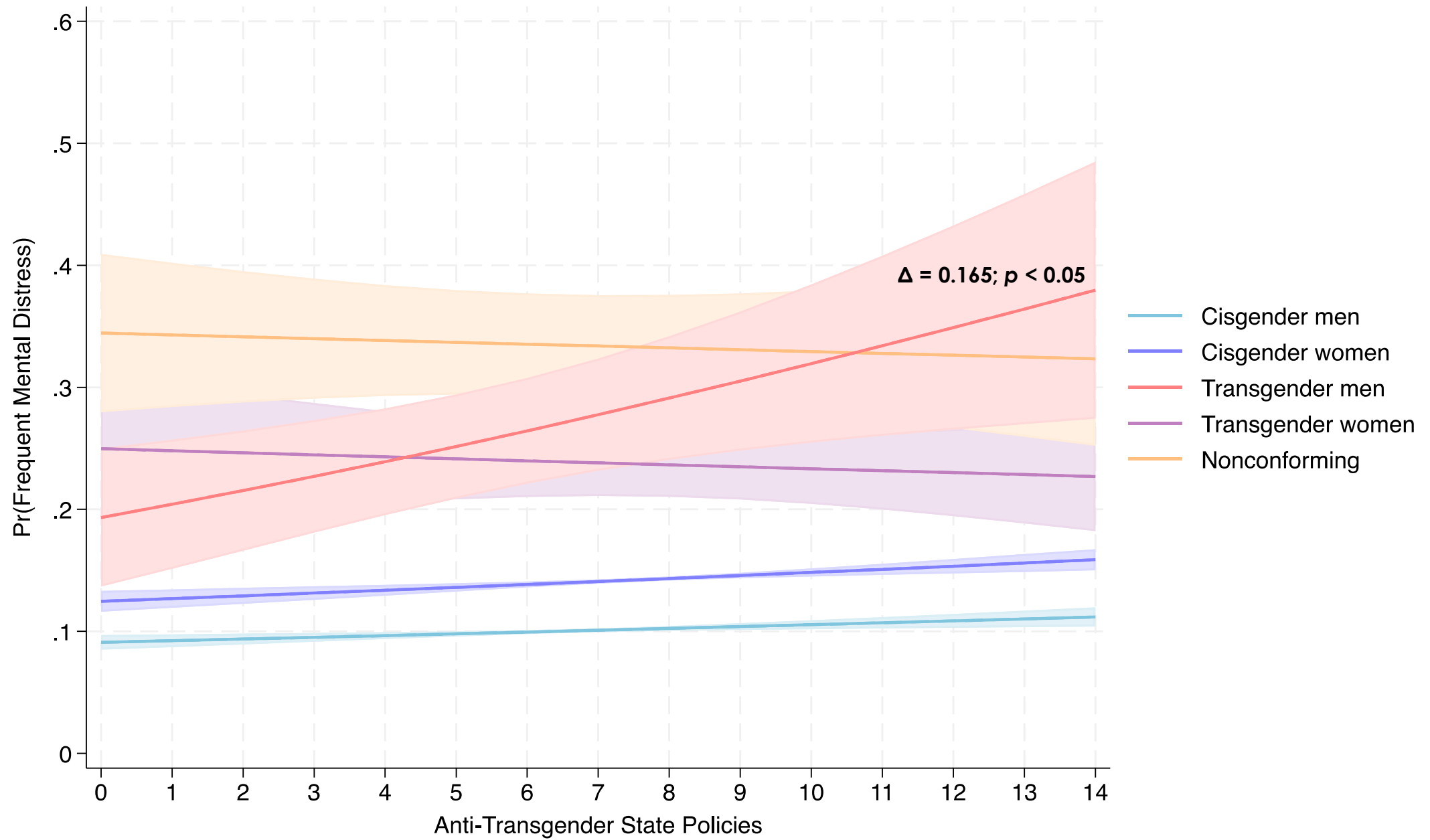Anti-Transgender State Policies

$\Delta = 0.037; p < 0.05$

Straight

Gay or Lesbian

Bisexual

Other

Anti-LGB State Policies

Δ = 0.064; *p* < 0.05

Straight
Gay or Lesbian
Bisexual
Other

Anti-LGB State Policies

Anti-Transgender State Policies

Δ = 0.165; *p* < 0.05

Cisgender men
Cisgender women
Transgender men
Transgender women
Nonconforming

Pr(Frequent Mental Distress)

Anti-Transgender State Policies

Anti-Transgender State Policies

Challenges

- Lack of nationally-representative data with healthy sample sizes of LGBTQ people

- Isolating the role of anti-LGBTQ state policies from structural sexism and racism, and conservativism

- Thinking through the relationship between anti-LGBTQ attitudes and anti-LGBTQ state policies
  - Anti-LGBTQ attitudes are likely predictors *and* consequences of anti-LGBTQ state policies
  - Anti-LGBTQ attitudes associated with health

- Difficulties examining effects of state policies against varying federal and local policies