

Frequent Experience of LGBQ Microaggression on Campus Associated With Smoking Among Sexual Minority College Students . Introduction Lesbian , gay , bisexual , or queer / questioning (LGBQ) microaggressions refer to often-unintentional insults, assaults, and invalidations that denigrate sexual minorities . While experiencing hostile discrimination and violence has previously been associated with elevated rates of smoking cigarettes for LGBQ college students , the relationship between LGBQ microaggressions and smoking is unknown. Methods Data from a national anonymous online survey of sexual and gender minority college students were used to examine the relationship between past month cigarette smoking and interpersonal LGBQ microaggressions. Multivariable logistic regression assessed the relationship between smoking and frequent (chronic) experiences of microaggressions, using a hierarchical procedure to control for demographics , predictors of smoking, and academic factors. Results Past year frequent LGBQ microaggression was reported by 48% of respondents and was more common among students who smoked in past 30 days . Experiencing past year physical violence was reported by 15% and did not differ by smoking status . Past year frequent experience of microaggressions was associated with increased odds of 1.72 (95% CI 1.03–2.87) for past 30-day smoking after adjusting for age , gender , race, socioeconomic indicators, alcohol misuse, physical violence, as well as academic stress and engagement. Conclusions The results indicate that frequently experiencing LGBQ microaggressions is a risk factor for LGBQ college students smoking cigarettes . The mechanisms underlying this relationship require additional research, as does identifying positive coping strategies and institutional strategies to address LGBQ microaggressions on campuses. Tobacco control efforts should consider the impact of microaggression on the social environment for the prevention and treatment of tobacco use among LGBQ individuals. Implications Microaggressions related to sexual minority identity include subtle forms of discrimination experienced during daily interactions that can create hostile and stressful social environments for a socially disadvantaged group. Prior research has demonstrated that LGBQ college students have higher rates of cigarette smoking , and that experiencing identity-based violence is a risk factor. This study revealed that experiencing frequent LGBQ microaggressions on college campus is associated with increased likelihood of current smoking among LGBQ college students.