

TRUST IN HEALTHCARE AND HEALTH INFORMATION AVOIDANCE AMONG LGBTQ+ INDIVIDUALS

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Abstract

LGBTQ+ individuals have often faced discrimination within the healthcare system (Casey et al., 2019), which may influence their decisions to seek or avoid health information. In a survey assessing past health information avoidance behavior, experiences, and attitudes among LGBTQ+ young adult participants ($N = 751$, mean age = 23), we examined the relationship between levels of trust within healthcare and health information avoidance. Hierarchical logistic regression analyses revealed that healthcare trust was a significant predictor of past information avoidance behavior ($p < .001$), such that each unit increase in healthcare trust was associated with a 50.4% decrease in the odds of avoiding health information (OR=0.50, 95%CI [0.40, 0.61]). Consistent with predictions, this study found that lower levels of trust within healthcare were associated with higher levels of information avoidance, suggesting important implications for health and wellness among LGBTQ+ individuals.

Introduction

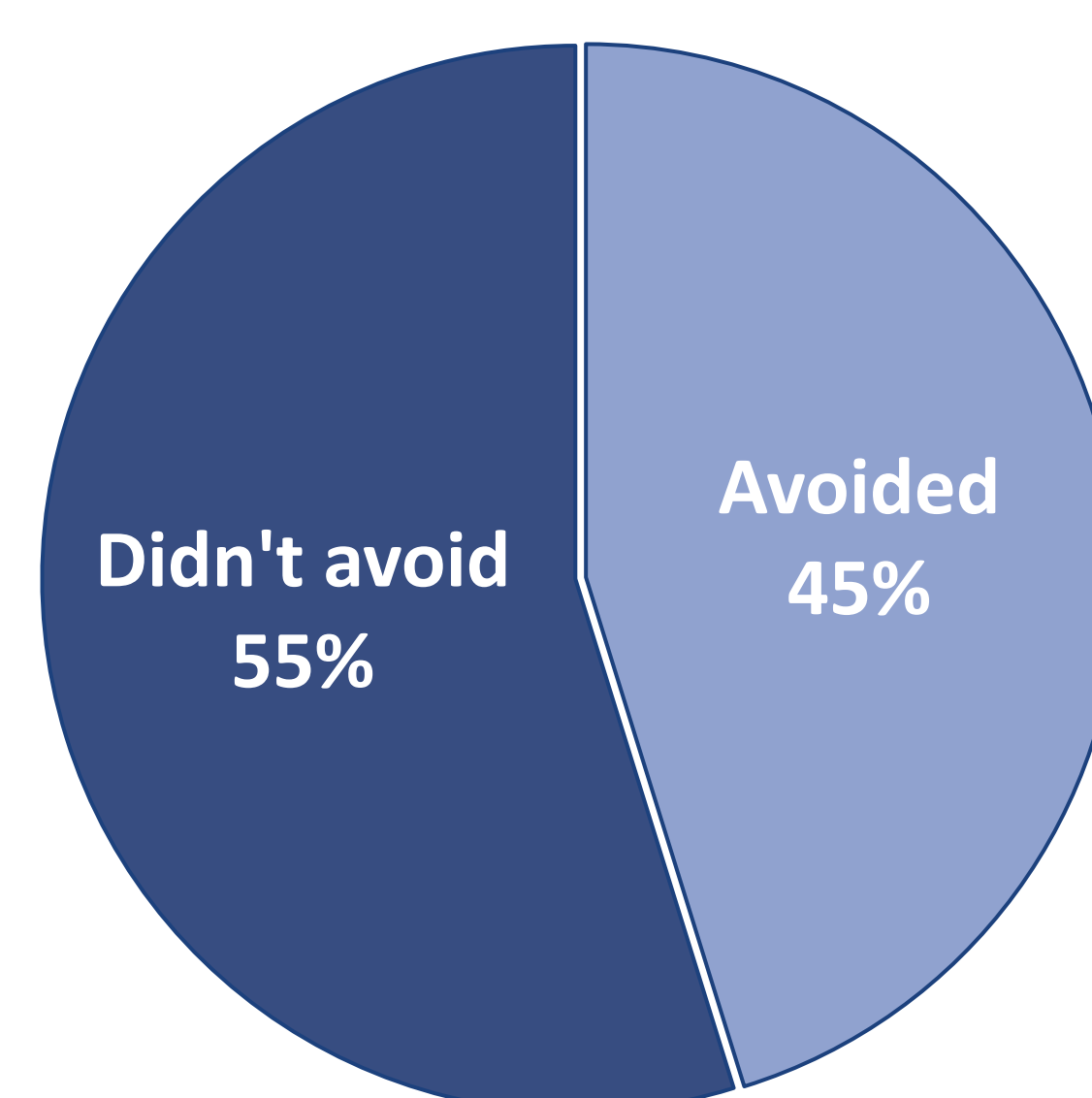
- Members of the LGBTQ community have faced discrimination and unfair treatment due to their sexual orientation, specifically when receiving healthcare (Casey et. al, 2019).
- Previous research has explored the lack of trust that members of the LGBTQ community have with healthcare workers and the quality of healthcare they receive (Stults et. al, 2020).
- LGBTQ members reported avoiding seeking treatment for diseases due to lower levels of trust (Camp et. al, 2020).

Methods

- Data was collected through an online survey using the Prolific research database
- ($N=751$ LGBTQ+ individuals, mean age = 23, age range 18-29)
- Gender identity:**
 - 70.6% Cisgender women
 - 13.4% Cisgender men
 - 2.4% Transgender men
 - 0.8% Transgender women
 - 4.0% Gender-queer
 - 4.1% Gender non-conforming
 - 0.4% Gender variant
 - 4.1% Other gender identity
 - 0.1% Prefer not to answer
- Race:**
 - 67.5% White
 - 10.7% Latina/o/x
 - 8.9% Black/African American
 - 8.1% Asian American
 - 0.7% American Indian or Alaskan Native
 - 0.5% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 - 3.2% Other racial identity
 - 0.4% Prefer not to answer
- Sexual Orientation:**
 - 54.9% Bisexual
 - 16.8% Gay/Lesbian
 - 10.1% Pansexual
 - 7.7% Queer
 - 6.1% Asexual
 - 1.7% Demisexual
 - 1.5% Other Sexual Orientation
 - 0.7% Straight
 - 0.5% Prefer not to answer

Results

% of Participants Reporting Past Health Information Avoidance

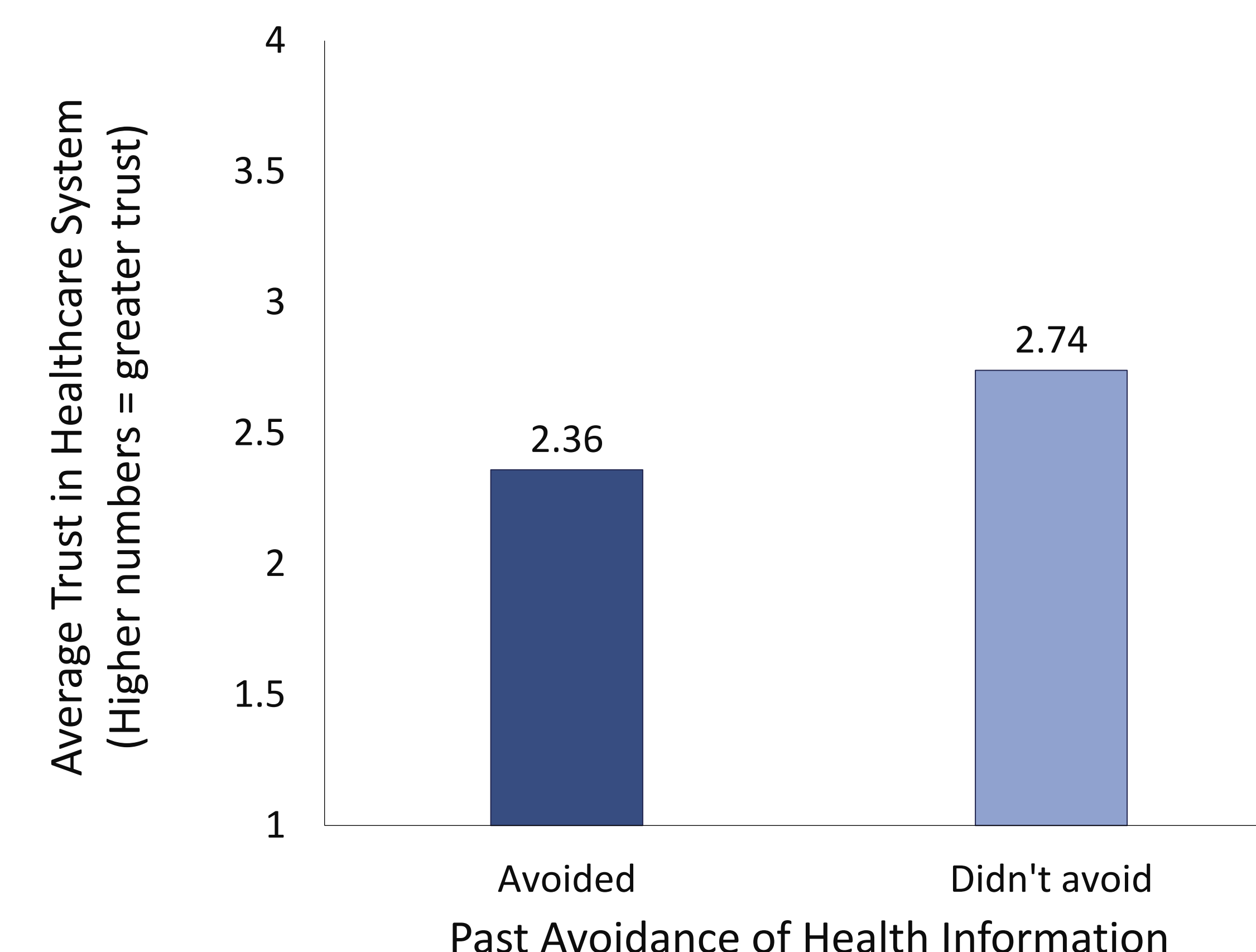


- A hierarchical logistic regression was performed to explore the effects of healthcare trust and other demographic and LGBTQ+ experience factors on the likelihood that LGBTQ+ participants have avoided health information.
- The logistic regression model was statistically significant, $X^2 (7, 724) = 54.31$, $p < .001$.
- The model explained 9.7% (Nagelkerke R^2) of the variance in health information avoidance and correctly classified 62.8% of cases.
- Each unit increase in healthcare trust was associated with a 50.3% decrease in the odds of avoiding health information** (OR=0.50, 95%CI [0.40, 0.62]).
- Each unit increase in age was associated with a 5.8% increase in the odds of avoiding health information (OR=1.06, 95%CI [1.01, 1.11]).
- Gender identity, sense of community, identity pride, and negative experiences due to homophobia and/or transphobia were not associated with health information avoidance.

Information Avoidance Correlation Table

	1	2	3	4	5
1. Information Avoidance	—				
2. Trust within healthcare	-.249**	—			
3. Age	.090*	-.011	—		
4. Sense of community	-.023	.026	-.073*	—	
5. Identity pride	.038	-.010	.019	.555**	—
6. Negative life experiences	-.021	.108**	-.040	-.250**	-.089*

Trust in Healthcare and Health Information Avoidance



Discussion

Summary

- In a study of 751 LGBTQ+ participants, we analyzed the relationship between information avoidance and trust in healthcare.
- As predicted, lower levels of trust correlated with higher levels of information avoidance.
- Though not investigated, it is possible some may avoid information in healthcare for other reasons unrelated to trust, such as fear of certain diagnoses or cost of treatment plan(s).

Future Directions

Future research could explore:

- Is health information avoidance within the LGBTQ+ community universal or strictly limited to America?
- How does information avoidance impact healthcare workers/the healthcare field?

References

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