PHYSICAL VICTIMIZATION OF YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM: THE ROLES OF MALTREATMENT AND SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITY STATUSES

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ABSTRACT

The victimization of youth incarcerated in juvenile justice (JJ) facilities by institutional staff and peers is a salient issue within the JJ system, posing serious risk to the safety and wellbeing of youth in custody. Physical victimization in particular has remained largely understudied, despite being linked to myriad adverse social and emotional outcomes. Certain factors, such as youths' history of maltreatment, may increase risk of physical victimization during incarceration. Given that sexual minority (SM) and gender minority (GM) youth are disproportionately impacted by childhood maltreatment and have a heightened likelihood of coming into contact with the JJ system, the risk of victimization among SM and GM youth during incarceration warrants further study. Using self-report data gathered as part of the National Survey Youth in Custody, the current study expands the existing body of literature by investigating the roles of distinct maltreatment types and SM and GM statuses as risk factors for the physical victimization of JJ youth by institutional peers and staff. The study utilized hierarchical binary logistic regressions conducted via generalized linear modeling to parse out the effects of SM and GM statuses as a risk factor above and beyond youth maltreatment history, and to examine the additive risk posed by the intersection of maltreatment history and SM and GM statuses. Findings indicated that facility physical victimization by peers was significantly associated with older age of youth, identifying as Black or Hispanic, prior maltreatment history, and the interaction between SM status and prior physical abuse. Facility physical victimization by staff was significantly associated with identifying as Black and prior physical abuse. These findings suggest that other

demographic factors (e.g., age, race and ethnicity) may be more salient to facility victimization of incarcerated youth than SM and GM statuses. These findings also underscore the role of prior maltreatment history as a robust risk factor for facility victimization by both peers and staff. The results of this study have the potential to inform targeted and trauma-informed intervention strategies aimed at the prevention of physical victimization of youth in JJ facilities.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Victimization of Youth Incarcerated in Juvenile Justice Facilities

The victimization of youth incarcerated in juvenile justice (JJ) facilities by institutional staff and fellow juveniles represents a profound issue within the JJ system. Previous research on the experiences of formerly incarcerated youth indicates victimization (i.e., instances of physical and sexual assault) prevalence rates as high as 96.8% (N = 62) in JJ facilities (e.g., Dierkhising et al., 2014). Similarly, findings from a nationally representative survey of youth in custody (N = 9,198) showed rates of facility sexual victimization by peers and staff of 12% (Beck et al., 2010). Ultimately, victimization experiences within the JJ system place youth at heightened risk for long-term mental and physical health difficulties (e.g., posttraumatic stress symptoms, depressive symptoms, hypertension) and poorer post-release outcomes, including recidivism and further entrenchment in the legal system (Dierkhising et al., 2014; Dye, 2018; Haahr-Pedersen et al., 2020; Malvaso et al., 2022; McFarlane, 2010). Given that one of the major goals of the JJ system is the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders, the pronounced vulnerability of youth to victimization during incarceration necessitates further investigation.

Relative to sexual victimization, research on physical victimization in JJ facilities is scarce despite evidence linking physical victimization to equally adverse negative social and emotional consequences, including school problems, financial difficulties, internalizing disorders, and continued offending behavior (Lansford et al., 2021; van der

Put & de Ruiter, 2016). The potential consequences of physical victimization emphasize the pressing need to direct greater attention to its prevalence and associated risk factors in JJ settings. To this end, studies that aim to identify the youth who are most at risk of experiencing victimization – particularly the understudied issue of facility physical victimization – are crucial. Likewise, they may help inform policies and practices aimed at the prevention of this phenomenon in JJ settings.

Maltreatment as a Risk Factor for Facility Victimization

One risk factor for victimization by staff and juveniles within JJ facilities may be youths' history of maltreatment prior to incarceration. The World Health Organization defines child maltreatment as "the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age", including "all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power" (World Health Organization, 2024). The association between maltreatment and subsequent victimization may be understood through the lens of Widom's (1989) cycle of violence theory. According to this theory, children who have experienced maltreatment, whether in the form of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect, are at a greater risk for perpetrating violence in the future. Although Widom's original hypothesis focused more on violence perpetration, subsequent extensions of this theory have demonstrated how early maltreatment can also increase the risk of experiencing subsequent victimization later in life (Widom, 2008, 2013). Indeed, a seminal study by Widom and colleagues (2008) found that individuals

with childhood histories of abuse and neglect reported higher rates of overall victimization relative to a control group, and that childhood maltreatment, regardless of type, was associated with a greater risk of lifetime victimization. Several potential explanations have been proposed for this cycle of violence, including the assertion that early maltreatment impairs children's ability to develop adaptive coping strategies and gives rise to psychological and behavioral health challenges (Benedini et al., 2016). In turn, these issues are likely to compromise interpersonal functioning, which may put youth at risk for subsequent victimization experiences (Averdijk et al., 2016; Benedini et al., 2016).

Regardless of the mechanism imparting risk for victimization among maltreated youth, the cycle of violence theory has been highly relevant for research on the victimization of youth in JJ facilities. Its relevance to justice-involved youth is attributable to a wealth of empirical work suggesting that this population reports elevated rates of childhood maltreatment relative to non-justice-involved youth (Abram et al., 2004; Dierkhising et al., 2013; Lederman et al., 2004; Pyle et al., 2016). For instance, when comparing a group of adolescents with offending behaviors to youth with no offending behaviors, Way & Urbaniak (2008) concluded that offending adolescents had significantly greater rates of childhood sexual and physical abuse, neglect, and other forms of maltreatment. In addition, evidence demonstrates that youth involved in the JJ system tend to undergo multiple types of maltreatment that begin early and persist throughout their lives (Dierkhising et al., 2013; Ford et al., 2013). Indeed, among a randomly selected and stratified sample of justice-involved youth, investigators found

that over half (56.8%) had been exposed to six or more maltreatment events over their lifetimes (Abram et al., 2004).

In turn, research conducted with justice-involved youth populations has lent growing support to the idea that early maltreatment is associated with victimization within JJ facilities, specifically sexual victimization (Ahlin, 2021; Beck et al., 2010; Yoder et al., 2019). For example, initial findings from the first wave of the National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC) showed that youth with prior sexual abuse experience had a twofold increase in the likelihood of sexual victimization in JJ facilities relative to youth with no past sexual abuse (Beck et al., 2010). Similarly, results from the 2012 survey (NSYC-2) revealed that the risk of sexual assault during incarceration was 52% higher for youth inmates who had previously experienced forced sexual contact (Ahlin, 2021). Other nationally representative surveys of youth in residential placements indicated significant direct effects between cumulative early maltreatment and subsequent sexual victimization in JJ facilities (Yoder et al., 2019). In particular, youth who reported all types of early maltreatment were 2.5 times more likely to experience facility sexual victimization (Yoder et al., 2019). Taken together, this evidence highlights the potential cycle of sexual violence occurring for justice-involved youth in JJ contexts.

However, as the existing findings have primarily focused on sexual victimization, there is a dearth of evidence on the associations among prior maltreatment experiences and physical victimization of youth by staff and peers in JJ facilities (Ahlin, 2021; Beck et al., 2010). This gap in the literature merits a closer look, especially considering that physical victimization is argued to be one of the most significant stressors that contribute

to offending trajectories (Agnew, 2001). Moreover, physical victimization has been associated with increased mental and behavioral health problems (Cui & Liu, 2020), poorer self-concept (Hager & Leadbeater, 2016), and greater frequency and severity of physical health problems among youth (Iyer-Eimerbrink & Jensen-Campbell, 2018). In a notable exception in the literature, Yoder and colleagues (2019) demonstrated that each form of examined maltreatment was related to an increased likelihood of physical victimization during incarceration. In another key exception, a recent 2025 study leveraged data from the 2018 NSYC-3 to show that youth with a history of past physical abuse had almost two times greater odds of reporting facility physical victimization by staff (Suslovic et al., in press). It is important to note that neither study specifically assessed how prior maltreatment experiences differentially impacted youths' vulnerability to facility physical victimization by peers versus staff. However, in light of this concerning evidence, research examining the associations between distinct types of maltreatment and physical victimization of incarcerated youth by peers and staff is urgently needed.

The Role of Sexual and Gender Minority Statuses

Given that maltreated youth who become justice-involved may be at risk for victimization within JJ facilities, it is imperative to recognize that certain youth groups face distinctive challenges that may elevate their vulnerability to both maltreatment and justice involvement. The exposure of these youth to both experiences may disproportionally and incrementally increase their risk for victimization in the JJ system. One such group is LGBTQ+ youth, specifically sexual minority (SM) and gender

minority (GM) youth. SM youth include all youth who are not heterosexual (i.e., lesbian, gay, bisexual, not sure, or something else), whereas GM youth include all youth who are not cisgender (i.e., transgender, not sure, something else). SM and GM youth are theorized to be particularly susceptible to childhood maltreatment due to widespread anti-LGBTQ+ stigma and discrimination – a phenomenon explored by the minority stress model (Frost & Meyer, 2023; Meyer, 2003). Aligning with this model, previous empirical work suggests that, relative to heterosexual and cisgender youth, SM and GM youth are at an elevated risk for experiencing multiple forms of maltreatment (e.g., Baams, 2018; Daigle & Hawk, 2022; Mitchell et al., 2023; Musicaro et al., 2019), including disproportionate rates of childhood physical and sexual abuse across family systems and peer groups (Collier et al., 2013; McGeough & Sterzing, 2018; Vasquez, 2019).

Apart from their heightened susceptibility to maltreatment in early life, SM and GM youth also have a greater likelihood of coming into contact with the JJ system (Garnette et al., Irvine & Canfield, 2015; Squatriglia, 2008). The homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination faced by SM and GM youth at home, school, and in their communities may also contribute to this trend (Meyer, 2003). For example, SM and GM youth often experience family rejection as a result of their sexual orientation and gender identity (Majd et al., 2009; Palmer & Francis, 2024), which may lead them to misuse substances, be kicked out of their homes, or run away, and subsequently be charged with status offenses (e.g., ungovernability or incorrigibility, truancy, illicit drug use) (Durso & Gates, 2012; Majd et al., 2009; Mereish, 2019). LGBTQ+ youth who become unhoused may then be forced to engage in other criminal offenses (e.g., shoplifting, sex work) to

survive on the streets, further amplifying their risk for justice involvement (Majd et al., 2012; Mountz, 2011). Moreover, anti-LBGTQ+ attitudes and a scarcity of LGBTQ+-specific resources within the legal system are also theorized to contribute to harsher sanctions against these youth in justice settings, such as incarceration rather than alternative solutions (Feinstein et al., 2001; Himmelstein & Brückner, 2011; Mallett, 2017; Mitchum & Moodie-Mills, 2014; Poteat et al., 2016).

In line with these explanations, research demonstrates that SM and GM youth are overrepresented in juvenile detention centers and other JJ facilities (Garnette et al., 2011; Irvine & Canfield, 2015; Johnson et al., 2019; Wilson et al., 2017). For instance, Irvine and Canfield (2015) found that 20% of youth surveyed in multiple detention sites identified as LGBTQ+ – a much higher proportion than the approximately 7% of LGBTQ+ adolescents in the general population (Pew Research Center, 2023). Taken together, the evidence indicates that LGBTQ+ youth are at disproportionate risk for both early life maltreatment and JJ involvement, which may expose them to an increased risk of victimization during incarceration.

Indeed, extant research has begun to show that SM and GM youth face greater risks of sexual victimization in JJ settings. For example, findings from the 2008 NSYC revealed that SM youth reported higher rates of sexual victimization by peers and staff than heterosexual youth (20.4% versus 11.1%, respectively) (Beck et al., 2010). Analyses from the 2012 NSYC-2 data lent further support to this finding by showing that non-heterosexual youth had a 266% higher risk of experiencing forced sexual assault or victimization during incarceration relative to heterosexual youth (Ahlin, 2021). Along

this line, preliminary results from the most recent survey (NSYC-3) indicated that non-heterosexual youth were nearly twice as likely to report facility sexual victimization than heterosexual youth (Field & Davis, 2018). Since this version of the NYSC was the first to assess gender diversity in the study population, Field and Davis (2020) also found that GM youth were nearly three times as likely to be sexually victimized by staff and peers while incarcerated relative to youth who identified with their sex assigned at birth. Although evidence of SM and GM youth's disproportionate risk of sexual victimization in JJ facilities has certainly grown in recent years, evidence of the risk for physical victimization of these youth, particularly GM youth, remains exceedingly limited. Research addressing these gaps is warranted, as the findings could have valuable theoretical and practical implications for developing interventions and policies to prevent physical victimization in juvenile justice facilities.

The Current Study

In order to address the scarcity of research on physical victimization among incarcerated youth, the present study sought to examine the roles of distinct maltreatment types (i.e., physical abuse and sexual abuse) and SM and GM statuses on the risk of physical victimization by fellow youth and facility staff. Specifically, the study aimed to elucidate the impact of SM and GM statuses as a risk factor above and beyond experiences of maltreatment, as well as analyze the incremental risk of the intersections between maltreatment history and SM and GM statuses. Based on the review of the theoretical and empirical literature, we hypothesized that 1) SM and GM youth will report disproportionately higher rates of previous physical and sexual abuse, as well as

higher rates of facility peer and staff physical victimization relative to heterosexual and cisgender youth. It is also expected that 2) having a maltreatment history will be related to elevated rates of peer and staff physical victimization of youth, 3) SM and GM identities will also be related to an increased likelihood of physical victimization by peers and staff above and beyond maltreatment, and 4) the interaction terms between previous physical abuse, previous sexual abuse, SM status, and GM status will be significantly associated with increased rates of physical victimization by peers and staff during incarceration above and beyond SM status, GM status, or maltreatment history alone.

CHAPTER TWO

METHOD

Participants

The proposed study will leverage data from the 2018 National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC-3) made publicly available via the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). Within the 332 facilities surveyed as part of NSYC-3, there were 12,750 adjudicated adolescents deemed eligible for participation. Of these youth, 23% did not have legal guardian consent to participate, 14% refused to complete the survey, and 8% were considered nonrespondents for various additional reasons (e.g., inconsistent responses). The remaining pool of participants (n = 6,910) were randomly assigned to complete either the sexual victimization survey (90%) or the alternative survey (10%). Responses from the sexual victimization survey were available from 6,211 participants. After a thorough data-quality review by the NSYC-3 research staff, it was determined that responses from 6,049 adjudicated youth who completed the sexual victimization survey were usable.

Given that the present study focuses on physical revictimization in JJ facilities, data analysis will involve all participants who completed the sexual victimization survey (n = 6,049), which concurrently assessed facility physical victimization by youth and staff. Among respondents, 88.9% were assigned male at birth and 11.1% were assigned female at birth. The majority of the youth sample (87.5%) identified as male, 10.5% identified as female, 0.9% identified as something else, 0.7% identified as transgender, and 0.4% reporting being unsure of their gender identity. Most (87.8%) youth identified

as straight (i.e., heterosexual), 8.3% identified as bisexual, 2.3% as gay or lesbian, 0.7% as something else, and 0.8% reported being unsure. Regarding race and ethnicity, 40.2% of respondents identified as Black/African American, 39.1% as White/Caucasian, 16.0% as Hispanic, 2.4% as multiracial or multi-ethnic, and 2.3% as another race/ethnicity (i.e., American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander). Six percent of youth were 14 years of age or younger, 11.8% were 15 years of age, 21.1% were 16 years of age, 26.2% were 17 years of age, and 34.9% were 18 years of age or older.

Procedures

Based on variable state regulations, research staff at different facilities used one or more consenting methods, including in loco parentis, and active and passive legal guardian consent. For youth who reached the legal age of consent, permission from caregivers was not required for participation in the survey. For those under the legal age of consent, in loco parentis consent was obtained by research administrators in 129 participating facilities. Forty-eight facilities provided caregivers the opportunity to withhold consent, and for caregivers who did not actively refuse consent, in loco parentis consent was provided by research administrators (passive consent). One-hundred and fifty participating facilities mandated that parents or guardians must directly provide consent for youth under the legal age of consent. Among all participating facilities, youth were required to provide direct assent to participate in the study.

Prior to data collection, the NYSC-3 research team required that facility administrators provide rosters of all adjudicated youth assigned a bed. In facilities that obtained in loco parentis consent, rosters were collected five weeks before the start of

data collection. In facilities that used a combination of parental and guardian consent and in loco parentis consent, rosters were collected nine weeks before the start of data collection. The initial rosters were updated before the beginning of data collection to reflect any changes in facility population (i.e., any youth who were admitted or discharged since the creation of the original roster). Participants were randomly sampled from the initial and updated rosters of adjudicated youth. Interviewing capacity was assessed by research administrators at each site, based on the number of days allotted for data collection, the number of interviewing rooms, and the interviewers available. In four facilities, youth were randomly subsampled to ensure that the number of youth sampled did not exceed the interviewing capacity determined by researchers.

Youth allocated to the sexual victimization questionnaire were surveyed with one of two versions based on age (15 and older versus 14 and younger). The surveys consisted of six sections, gathering information ranging from basic demographics to facility living conditions to descriptions of sexual contact in the facility. Youth completed the self-report surveys in a private location within their respective facility using audio computer-assisted self-interview (ACASI) technology to ensure confidentiality and minimize literacy problems. Surveys that were deemed unusable either did not provide enough information to determine if sexual victimization had or had not occurred (63 youth) or had extreme or inconsistent responses (99 youth). Final response rates were 98.2% for facilities, and 54.6% for youth. The overall response rate, which was calculated by multiplying the facility-level response rate by the youth-level response rate, was determined to be 53.6%.

Measures

Demographics and Covariates

Youths' age and race/ethnicity were used as control variables in the present study. Age was determined prior to the distribution of the questionnaire and subsequently preloaded onto the surveys. Race/ethnicity was determined via responses to the item "Which of these describes your race? Check all that apply" with response options of *White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander*, as well as the item "Are you Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish?" Race/ethnicity was separated into three dichotomous variables (i.e., 0 = *Black,* 1 = *non-Black;* 0 = *Hispanic,* 1 = *non-Hispanic,* 0 = *multiracial,* 1 = *non-multiracial*).

Maltreatment History

Maltreatment history was ascertained via two survey items assessing physical abuse and sexual abuse prior to incarceration. Previous physical abuse was determined by an affirmative response to the survey item which asked, "Before you came to this place, did a grown-up in your life hit, beat, kick, or physically abuse you in any way?" Information on previous physical abuse perpetrated by other youth was not available from the survey. Previous sexual abuse was determined based on an affirmative response to the survey item which asked, "Before you came to this place, had anyone ever forced you to have any kind of sexual contact?" Prior research has demonstrated that information on child maltreatment can be effectively and responsibly collected from

youth self-reports (Laurin et al., 2018). Responses for both items were coded dichotomously (0 = *no*, 1 = *yes*).

SM and GM Statuses

Respondents were identified as SM if they answered a survey item which asked, "Do you consider yourself..." with response items "gay/lesbian", "bisexual", "something else", or "not sure". Respondents were categorized as GM if they answered "transgender", "something else", or "not sure" to the survey item which asked, "Do you currently describe yourself as male, female, transgender, something else or are you not sure?". Previous empirical research suggests that questionnaires assessing LGBTQ+ identities are more effective when they include an option such as "I'm not sure yet". Youth tend to interpret this option to mean that one is questioning or still trying to figure out their sexual orientation or gender identity (Hughes et al., 2021; Temkin et al., 2017). Hence, we considered youth who reported being unsure of their sexual or gender identities as SM or GM, correspondingly. SM and GM statuses were coded dichotomously (0 = *heterosexual*, 1 = *SM; 0 = cisgender, 1 = GM)*.

Facility Physical Victimization

Facility physical victimization perpetrated by peers was determined through an affirmative response to either of the following items: "Have you ever been hit, punched, or assaulted by another youth here?" and "Has another youth here physically hurt you on purpose?". A combined categorized peer physical victimization variable was created (0 = *no*, 1 = *yes*) based on participants' responses to both items. Physical victimization perpetrated by staff was determined through an affirmative response to either of the

following items: “Have you ever been hit, punched, or assaulted by facility staff here?” and “Has a staff member physically hurt you on purpose?” Similarly, a combined categorized staff physical victimization variable was created (0 = *no*, 1 = *yes*) based on participants’ responses to both items.

Data Analysis

All data analyses were conducted in SPSS version 29. As all variables of interest were categorical, they were not examined for normality, homoscedasticity, and potential outliers prior to conducting the statistical analyses. Missing data ranged from less than 1% to 1.8%. Due to missingness across study variables, 4.4% of the sample were not included in the hierarchical analyses. Due to missingness being less than 10%, no methods were used to replace data and listwise deletion was implemented. Descriptive statistics were generated to elucidate the prevalences of various characteristics of the sample (e.g., sexual and gender minorities, maltreatment, and physical victimization by peers and staff) and to assess for sufficient variability. Although the proportions of GM youth and multiracial youth were low and resulted in limited variability (more than 90% of youth in one category), analyses utilizing these variables were conducted regardless to avoid erasing the experiences of GM and multiracial youth. All other study variables were found to have sufficient variability (greater than a 90% to 10% split for categorical variables). Additionally, Phi correlations and Chi-square analyses were performed to explore differences in key predictor and outcome variables (e.g., previous sexual and physical maltreatment, physical victimization during incarceration by peers and staff) based on SM and GM statuses.

Given that the outcome variables were categorical in nature, the main statistical analyses involved two hierarchical binary logistic regressions (one for peer physical victimization and one for staff physical victimization). These hierarchical regressions were conducted via generalized linear modeling function in SPSS using the logit link. The hierarchy was comprised of four models for each outcome variable that were treated as steps. Step 1 (model 1) included basic demographic information (i.e., race and ethnicity, age). Step 2 (model 2) added prior maltreatment (i.e., physical and sexual abuse), and Step 3 (model 3) included SM and GM statuses. Lastly, Step 4 (model 4) added two-way interactions between specific prior maltreatment experiences and SM and GM statuses (i.e., previous physical abuse and SM status, previous physical abuse and GM status, previous sexual abuse and SM status, and previous sexual abuse and GM status).

Each step represented either a null or alternative model; for example, in the first comparison, step 1 represented the null model and step 2 represented the alternative model. Model differences were assessed via the chi-square significance test based on the log-likelihood ratio, in which a significant chi-square statistic indicates that the alternative model is a better fit to the data than the null model. Improved model fit was also determined by decreasing Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) and Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC) values (Kline, 2011). Within the models/steps, the significance of direct effects was determined using p-values less than .05 and 95% confidence intervals (CI). Interpretation of any significant interaction terms were

facilitated by an Excel template designed by Dr. Jeremy Dawson for plotting two-way logistic interaction.

CHAPTER THREE

RESULTS

Descriptive Statistics, Chi-Square Analyses, and Phi Correlations

Among the present sample of justice-involved youth, 12.2% (n = 733) of respondents were identified as SM and 2.1% (n = 125) as GM. Thirty-one percent of youth reported experiencing physical abuse and 15.6% reported experiencing sexual abuse prior to incarceration. Rates of facility physical victimization by peers were high, with 46.1% of the sample endorsing being physically hurt or attacked by fellow juveniles. Finally, 15.8% of youth overall endorsed experiencing physical victimization perpetrated by facility staff.

The results of chi-square analyses demonstrated that SM youth report significantly higher rates of prior physical abuse relative to heterosexual youth (55.8% versus 27.5%, respectively; $\chi^2(1) = 237.05$, $p < .001$). Prior sexual abuse rates were also disparate for SM versus heterosexual youth, with 51.5% of SM youth reporting sexual abuse relative to 10.6% for heterosexual youth ($\chi^2(1) = 807.99$, $p < .001$). Facility physical victimization by peers was significantly greater for SM youth (57.6%) relative to heterosexual youth (44.5%; $\chi^2(1) = 44.37$, $p < .001$). Unlike peer physical victimization, however, staff physical victimization rates were identical for SM youth and heterosexual youth within facilities (15.8% for both groups, $\chi^2(1) = .001$, $p = .975$).

Similar to SM youth, prior physical abuse rates differed significantly by youths' GM status, with 59.5% of GM youth reporting physical abuse relative to 30.4% of cisgender youth ($\chi^2(1) = 47.00$, $p < .001$). Similarly, significantly more GM youth

reported prior sexual abuse (50.0%) relative to cisgender youth (14.9%; $\chi^2(1) = 113.96$, $p < .001$). There was also a significant difference in rates of facility peer physical victimization for GM youth versus cisgender youth (54.8% versus 45.9%, respectively; $\chi^2(1) = 3.93$, $p = .047$). Much like SM youth, GM youth reported nearly identical rates of staff physical victimization relative to cisgender youth (15.8% versus 15.7%, respectively, $\chi^2(1) = 1.71$, $p = .191$). A full list of prevalences by SM and GM statuses and results from chi-square analyses can be found in Table 1 in the appendix.

Results from Phi correlations demonstrated that SM status was positively correlated with GM status, prior physical abuse, prior sexual abuse, and facility physical victimization by peers, but not by staff. Similarly, GM status was positively correlated with prior physical abuse, prior sexual abuse, and facility physical victimization by peers, but not staff. Prior physical abuse was positively correlated with prior sexual abuse and facility physical victimization by both peers and staff. In contrast, prior sexual abuse was positively correlated with facility physical victimization by peers only. Facility physical victimization by peers was also positively correlated with physical victimization by staff. For a full list of Phi correlations among study variables, see Table 2 in the appendix.

Hierarchical Binary Logistic Regressions

Hierarchical analysis was first conducted for facility physical victimization by peers. Relative to the baseline model, which included only demographic information (age, race and ethnicity), adding prior physical and sexual abuse in step 2 significantly improved model fit ($AIC_{decrease} = -234.33$, $BIC_{decrease} = -221.00$, $\chi^2(2) = 238.33$, $p = .001$). Adding SM and GM statuses in step 3 ($AIC_{increase} = +1.04$, $BIC_{increase} = +14.37$, $\chi^2(2) =$

2.96, p = .228) did not improve model fit relative to model 2. However, factoring in the interactions between SM status, GM status, and prior maltreatment experiences in step 4 resulted in mixed fit indices relative to model 2 ($AIC_{decrease}$ = -6.25, $BIC_{increase}$ = +33.73, $\chi^2(2) = 18.25$, p = .006). Given that two of three indices suggested a better fit, model 4 was retained for facility physical victimization by peers. In the retained model, significant direct effects were found for age (B = -.07, p = .001, 95% CI [-.115, -.027], Odds Ratio (OR) = .93), identifying as Black (B = -.20, p = .002, 95% CI [-.321, -.075], OR = .82), and identifying as Hispanic, (B = -.33, p < .001, 95% CI [-.489, -.167], OR = .72), but not for identifying as multiracial (B = -.23, p = .088, 95% CI [-.487, .033]). Prior sexual abuse (B = .39, p < .001, 95% CI [.199, .587], OR = 1.49), prior physical abuse (B = .86, p < .001, 95% CI [.728, .995], OR = 2.37), and SM status (B = .53, p < .001, 95% CI [.253, .801], OR = 1.69) were all significantly associated with greater facility physical victimization by peers, but GM status was not (B = -.19, p = .589, 95% CI [-.871, .486]). Notably, the interaction effect between SM status and prior physical abuse was significant (B = -.61, p = .001, 95% CI [-.983, -.246], OR = .54). A closer examination of this interaction indicated that SM youth with no history of physical abuse were more likely to report facility physical victimization by peers relative to heterosexual youth with no physical abuse history. However, youth with physical abuse histories had a higher probability of facility physical victimization by peers, regardless of SM status. The plotted two-way logistic interaction is represented in Figure 1. For detailed statistical information on all models of facility physical victimization by peers, see Table 3 in the appendix.

For facility physical victimization by staff, the best-fitting model was model 2 (AICdecrease = -69.87, BICdecrease = -56.54, $\chi 2(2) = 73.87$, $p = .001$), which added prior physical and sexual abuse to the demographic variables entered in step 1. Entering SM and GM statuses in step 3 (AICincrease = +2.47, BICincrease = +15.80, $\chi 2(2) = 1.53$, $p = .465$) and the interactions between SM and GM statuses and prior maltreatment experiences in step 4 (AICincrease = +2.94, BICincrease = +42.92, $\chi 2(4) = 9.06$, $p = .170$) worsened the overall model fit relative to step 2. Hence, model 2 was retained. Significant direct effects were found for identifying as Black ($B = .51$, $p < .001$, 95% CI [.339, .671], OR = 1.66), but not for age ($B = .02$, $p = .480$, 95% CI [-.038, .081]), identifying as Hispanic ($B = -.10$, $p = .403$, 95% CI [-.337, .131]), or identifying as multiracial ($B = -.04$, $p = .835$, 95% CI [-.422, .318]). Prior physical abuse ($B = .70$, $p < .001$, 95% CI [.537, .857], OR = 2.01) was significantly associated with physical victimization by staff, whereas prior sexual abuse was not ($B = -.11$, $p = .316$, 95% CI [-.315, .099]). For detailed statistical information on all models of physical victimization by staff, see Table 4 in the appendix.

CHAPTER FOUR

DISCUSSION

The victimization of youth in JJ facilities, especially the substantial but understudied issue of physical victimization by peers and staff, is a critical issue within the JJ system (Dierkhising et al., 2014; Lansford et al., 2021; van der Put & de Ruiter, 2016). Prior research has highlighted the putative roles of maltreatment exposure (Averdijk et al., 2016; Benedini et al., 2016; Widom, 2008; 2013) and SM and GM statuses (Baams, 2018; Field & Davis, 2018; Frost & Meyer, 2023; Meyer, 2003) as risk factors that may exacerbate youths' susceptibility to facility physical victimization. In an application of Meyers' (2003) minority stress theory and Widom's (1989) cycle of violence theory, the present study sought to examine the roles of SM status, GM status, and distinct maltreatment types in JJ youths' vulnerability to facility physical victimization by peers and staff. In particular, the study aimed to illustrate the effects of SM and GM statuses on the risk of facility physical victimization above and beyond the effect of prior maltreatment experiences. Additionally, the incremental risks of facility physical victimization posed by the intersections of prior physical abuse, prior sexual abuse, SM status, and GM status were examined.

In support of our hypotheses, SM and GM youth exhibited disproportionate prevalences of prior physical abuse and prior sexual abuse relative to their heterosexual and cisgender counterparts. This disparity was most striking for prior sexual abuse, with SM youth nearly five times as likely to report prior sexual abuse relative to heterosexual youth, and GM youth over three times as likely to report prior sexual abuse relative to

cisgender youth. These findings provide additional support to existing evidence that SM and GM youth are more vulnerable to maltreatment (Baams, 2018; McGeough & Sterzing, 2018; Mitchell et al., 2023; Vasquez, 2019). Numerous factors have been identified as potentially influencing this disparity, including the notion that higher gender nonconformity, which is generally confounded with both sexual and gender identity (Baams et al., 2013; Martin-Storey, 2016), is linked to more severe parental abuse (Grossman et al., 2005, 2006), family rejection (Palmer & Francis, 2024) and polyvictimization (Baams, 2018). Moreover, both SM and GM youth showed higher rates of facility physical victimization by peers relative to heterosexual and cisgender youth, respectively. These results tie into the concept of gender policing, which posits that individuals, including SM and GM youth, with gender performances that do not conform to binary masculine and feminine norms are more likely to be targeted by bullying and harassment from peers (Payne & Smith, 2016). These findings are also supported by prior research suggesting that SM and GM youth are disproportionately vulnerable to peer victimization during incarceration, including facility sexual victimization by peers (Ahlin, 2021; Beck et al., 2010; Field & Davis, 2018). The overall heightened levels of maltreatment and facility victimization among SM and GM youth may also stem from disparate exposure to identity-based discrimination and stigma (Frost & Meyers, 2023; Meyer, 2003).

Contrary to our expectations, however, rates of facility physical victimization by staff were identical between SM and heterosexual youth and nearly identical between GM and cisgender youth. These findings are surprising given the large body of literature

demonstrating a tendency towards harsher sanctions against LGBTQ+ youth in the JJ system (Feinstein et al., 2001; Himmelstein & Brückner, 2011; Mallett, 2017; Mitchum & Moodie-Mills, 2014; Poteat et al., 2016) and disproportionate rates of facility sexual victimization among SM and GM youth relative to cisgender and heterosexual youth (Beck et al., 2010; Field & Davis, 2018). It may be that examining physical victimization specifically does not provide a clear picture of differences in staff's treatment of SM and GM youth relative to heterosexual and cisgender youth. It is plausible that institutional mistreatment of SM and GM youth is indeed prevalent but may be better captured by other experiences (e.g., discrimination, verbal or sexual victimization, solitary confinement).

In further support of our hypotheses, the present study also found that, when examined as independent risk factors, prior sexual abuse, prior physical abuse, and SM status were linked to greater facility physical victimization by peers. However, the impact of SM status seems to be contingent on youths' history of prior physical abuse. Specifically, further examination of the interaction between prior physical abuse and SM status revealed that, in the absence of prior physical abuse, SM youth reported a higher probability of facility physical victimization by peers than heterosexual youth. In contrast, for youth reporting prior physical abuse, SM status did not significantly alter youths' likelihood of reporting facility physical victimization by peers. These findings underscore the elevated risk of facility peer physical victimization faced by youth who have been maltreated. This insight is consistent with the cycle of violence theory and its extensions, which suggest an amplified vulnerability of youth with maltreatment histories

to subsequent victimization (Widom, 1989, 2008, 2013). These results also highlight that SM youth without specific experiences of maltreatment are at greater risk of facility peer physical victimization. Thus, these findings further aligned with the minority stress theory (Frost & Meyers, 2023; Meyers, 2003), which posits that LGBTQ+ individuals are more susceptible than non-LGBTQ+ individuals to stressors (e.g., violence) based on their marginalized identities. Overall, although prior empirical research has supported associations between childhood maltreatment and the risk of victimization in JJ facilities (Ahlin, 2021; Beck et al., 2010; Yoder et al., 2019), physical abuse victimization, particularly experiences perpetrated by peers, has been largely understudied relative to sexual abuse victimization. Hence, this study contributes to closing a substantial gap in the literature by highlighting the significance of both physical and sexual abuse as risk factors for experiences of facility physical victimization by peers among JJ youth.

Despite disparate prevalence rates of facility physical victimization by peers for GM youth relative to cisgender youth, neither GM status nor its interactions with prior maltreatment experiences were significantly related to facility physical victimization by peers above and beyond maltreatment. That is to say, after accounting for prior sexual and physical abuse, GM status did not incrementally increase youths' risk of facility physical victimization by peers. Although this evidence does not align with prior research supporting a link between GM status and increased peer victimization, particularly experiences of facility sexual victimization (Field & Davis, 2018; Garthe et al., 2021; Lowry et al., 2020), it does not suggest that GM youth are not at increased risk for facility peer physical victimization. Instead, these findings may underscore the predominant role

of prior maltreatment experiences, which are elevated among GM youth, in accounting for their disproportionate rates of facility physical victimization by peers. Another possibility for these null findings may be the low base rate of GM youth in the overall sample. Altogether, GM youth accounted for only 2.1% of the sample, which may not have provided sufficient power to detect significant effects.

Interestingly, age was also found to be a key risk factor, with older youth having a decreased likelihood of facility physical victimization by peers. It may be that older youth in JJ facilities, who are likely to possess greater physical strength as a result of development, are perceived as more intimidating, which may mitigate their vulnerability to being physically victimized by peers. Indeed, research has suggested that bullying victimization shows a steady downward trend as youth age (López-Castro et al., 2023). Another potential explanation for this finding may be that older youth have more well-developed social skills and social competence (Nangle et al., 2020), thereby making them less likely to experience conflict with facility peers that escalate to physical victimization.

Also of note, youth who identified as Black and Hispanic had a decreased risk of being physically victimized by their peers. Several potential explanations could help account for these findings, including the idea that Black and Hispanic youth may have more opportunities to form positive and potentially protective peer relationships during incarceration given the overrepresentation of youth of color within JJ systems (Afkinich, 2024; McCarter & Durant, 2022). Relatedly, given the evidence suggesting that Black and Hispanic youth are more predisposed to joining gangs (Pyrooz & Sweeten, 2015), these youth may join ethno-racially homogenous gangs during incarceration, which may

also shield them from peer physical victimization (Kerig & Mendez, 2022; Pyrooz, 2022; Wood et al., 2014). Identifying as multiracial did not emerge as a key factor in youths' risk of facility physical victimization by peers. It should be noted, though, that there was a low base rate of youth identifying as multiracial, which could have resulted in insufficient power to detect significant effects.

Similar to facility physical victimization by peers, facility physical victimization by staff was found to be linked to youths' experiences of prior physical abuse. This finding is supported by prior research demonstrating a link between early maltreatment experiences and facility physical and sexual victimization (Yoder et al., 2019). Additionally, this result maps onto recent evidence suggesting that youth with physical abuse histories were nearly twice as likely to report facility physical victimization by staff (Suslovic et al., in press). Considering that youth with maltreatment histories, particularly those with experiences of physical abuse, may be predisposed to engaging in externalizing behaviors (Averdijk et al., 2016; Benedini et al., 2016), it could be that facility staff are more likely to use undue physical force with these juvenile inmates. For instance, staff may perceive these youth as more disorderly or oppositional, leading to a heightened risk of reactive use of physical control among staff in response to behaviors that might otherwise be de-escalated without physical force. In support of this interpretation, research has indicated that JJ youth with maltreatment histories experience greater use of physical control by staff and that this relation is partially explained by youth externalizing behaviors (Hodge & Yoder, 2017).

Unlike facility physical victimization by peers, however, prior sexual abuse did not emerge as a risk factor for facility physical victimization by staff. This outcome diverges from the expected findings based on the cycle of violence theory and related research, which indicate that childhood maltreatment experiences, including sexual abuse, increase individuals' risk for lifetime victimization (Widom, 1989; Widom et al., 2008). This null finding may indicate that other outcomes not measured in this study, such as facility sexual abuse by staff, are more strongly related to prior sexual abuse relative to facility physical victimization by staff. It is conceivable that prior maltreatment types and subsequent victimization types by staff are complementary – that is, prior sexual abuse may predispose youth to future sexual victimization by staff rather than physical victimization.

Moreover, neither SM status, GM status, nor their interactions with maltreatment experiences, were risk factors for facility physical victimization by staff. Although this does not support our expectations based on Meyers' minority stress model (Frost & Meyers, 2023; Meyers, 2003), or existing research on facility victimization in the JJ system (Ahlin, 2021; Beck et al., 2010; Yoder et al., 2019), it suggests that physical abuse experiences may be a more powerful driver of risk for facility physical victimization by staff than other factors. Taken together, these findings emphasize the need to further investigate how physical abuse histories uniquely contribute to youths' vulnerability to facility physical victimization by staff, potentially outweighing the influence of SM and GM status within JJ settings (Suslovic et al., in press).

Diverging from the findings related to facility physical victimization by peers, youth who identified as Black had an increased risk of facility physical victimization by staff. Findings such as these may underscore the presence of racial profiling and discriminatory attitudes among correctional staff toward Black youth (Holley & Van Vleet, 2006; Reid, 2023). Interestingly, other racial and ethnic minority identities (i.e., identifying as Hispanic or multiracial) were not found to be associated with facility physical victimization by staff. These results may coincide with evidence indicating greater frequency and intensity of punitive behavior by staff in prisons that have higher percentages of Black inmates (Wade-Olson, 2019). It is also possible that these results reflect that, given the clear positional supremacy and power imbalance between staff and incarcerated youth, the potentially protective peer relationships (either gang or non-gang-related) between youth of similar racial and ethnic backgrounds do not alter their vulnerability to physical victimization by staff. Similarly, youths' age was not a key risk factor that influenced their vulnerability to facility physical victimization by staff. It may be the case that the protective effects of older age on facility physical victimization by peers (e.g., greater social competence and physical size) do not function to protect youth from victimization by facility staff in the same way. Given the substantial power imbalance between facility staff and juvenile inmates, social skills (e.g., assertiveness, self-advocacy) that may be protective in interactions with other youth (Melhem, 2021) may be perceived as problematic or defiant by staff.

Future Directions

The findings of the present study highlight multiple avenues for future research. First, the positive associations between maltreatment history, particularly prior physical abuse, and facility physical victimization by youth and staff emphasize the critical need for research that investigates the mechanisms underlying these links (e.g., posttraumatic reactions such as hypervigilance and heightened sensitivity to threats). Building on this, future research evaluating the impact of other types of trauma exposure (e.g., domestic violence and community violence) beyond maltreatment and other specific trauma reactions (e.g., externalizing symptoms, dissociation) on the risk of facility victimization would be valuable, particularly given the high rates of trauma exposure observed in this and other JJ samples. Specifically, longitudinal research with this aim is warranted. Future research should also seek to incorporate more youth with marginalized and minoritized identities that have been historically understudied, such as GM youth, multiracial youth, and youth with disabilities, in order to evaluate their vulnerability to facility physical victimization by peers and staff.

Additionally, apart from facility physical victimization, it would be salient to analyze the incremental risk of SM and GM statuses above and beyond maltreatment on rates of sexual victimization and other violence exposure by peers and staff in JJ facilities. It would also be worthwhile to examine how the interactions between prior sexual abuse and SM and GM statuses influence JJ youths' risk of facility sexual victimization by peers and staff. Finally, while it is crucial to investigate the risk factors that may elevate youths' vulnerability to facility victimization, attention should also be

directed towards identifying protective factors (e.g., social support from fellow juveniles, mental health interventions, academic engagement) that may lower youths' risk of victimization in JJ facilities.

Clinical Implications

The findings of the present study suggest numerous clinical implications. Primarily, the salient role of maltreatment, particularly physical abuse, as a risk factor for facility physical victimization illustrates the importance of applying a trauma-informed lens to the development of JJ policies and procedures. For instance, implementing screening protocols (e.g., administering empirically validated assessments of trauma and posttraumatic reactions, such as the UCLA PTSD reaction index for children and adolescents) would help JJ staff identify youth who are at risk of being victimized in JJ facilities. Likewise, providing these youth with access to evidence-based mental health interventions, such as Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT; Cohen et al., 2017), which involves enhancing safety to prevent future victimization, could help reduce maltreated youths' risk of victimization during incarceration. Moreover, given the heightened rates of maltreatment and facility physical victimization by peers reported by SM and GM youth, there is an evident need for creating more LGBTQ+-affirming environments within the JJ system. Lastly, considering the alarmingly high rates of facility physical victimization by staff reported by JJ youth in general, prevention efforts aimed at reducing physical victimization of youth by JJ staff are essential. For example, these efforts could involve trauma-informed staff trainings, such as Think Trauma, aimed at improving JJ staff's understanding of the potential impacts of trauma exposure on

youth development and coping strategies (National Child Traumatic Stress Network, 2021). These initiatives could help staff more effectively differentiate between behaviors associated with posttraumatic stress and those stemming from disobedience or defiance, as well as help identify inappropriate uses of physical force among facility staff.

Strengths and Limitations

The current study boasts a number of strengths, including the novel contribution it makes to literature investigating the associations between SM and GM statuses and facility physical victimization by peers and staff beyond prior maltreatment. This study also leveraged a nationally representative sample utilizing data from JJ facilities across all fifty states, which makes these findings more generalizable to youth in JJ facilities across the country. Further, the sample also included a considerable number of LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth, in addition to high rates of reported maltreatment and facility victimization, making this sample ideal for answering the research questions posed.

However, several limitations should also be noted. First, despite the high prevalence of LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth in the sample, there were low base rates of youth with GM status and multiracial identity. The limited number of GM and multiracial youth in the current sample may have restricted the opportunity to observe otherwise significant impacts of these identities on youths' risk of facility physical victimization. Future research in JJ settings should consider oversampling youth with these identities to allow for the detection of potentially significant effects. Moreover, the data collection procedures were cross-sectional, impeding the ability to make inferences about the causal relations between variables. Longitudinal investigations of these variables would mitigate

this issue by enabling the establishment of temporal precedence in these associations. Further, all variables utilized in the present study were obtained via a self-report survey completed by JJ youth, thereby rendering the results susceptible to monoinformant and monomethod biases. On a related note, all key variables were categorical. Thus, the richness and depth that could be obtained from examining these factors was limited. It would be beneficial to obtain youth medical records during incarceration to better understand the severity of physical victimization in JJ facilities and corroborate youth reports. Additionally, it should be acknowledged that the present study was limited by the inability to access data on facility sexual victimization by peers and staff. Future data collection efforts in JJ facilities should aim to address this limitation by removing barriers to acquiring this data, thereby promoting greater accessibility and empirical collaboration in initiatives aimed at understanding the full spectrum of victimization experiences of youth in custody.

Conclusion

Within a nationally representative sample of JJ youth, the present study found that maltreatment, including prior physical and sexual abuse, was related to facility physical victimization by peers and staff. Although SM and GM youth exhibited disproportionate rates of prior maltreatment and facility physical victimization by peers, maltreatment history had a more substantial impact on youths' risk of facility physical victimization by peers than SM or GM status. SM status only exacerbated vulnerability to being physically victimized by peers in JJ facilities when examining youth without maltreatment histories. Surprisingly, SM and GM youth did not appear to face an elevated risk of physical

victimization by facility staff during incarceration. Although the study findings were not completely aligned with our expectations based on the minority stress model, they did highlight the utility of the cycle of violence theory in understanding the risk of facility physical victimization. Taken together, these findings underscore the importance of establishing trauma-informed and LGBTQ+-affirming policies and procedures in JJ facilities and suggest the need for prevention and intervention efforts aimed at reducing the physical victimization of JJ youth by peers and staff.

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APPENDIX

Table 1

Chi-Square Results by SM and GM Statuses

Groups	Heterosexual youth	SM youth	χ^2	Cisgender youth	GM youth	χ^2
Prior PA (%Y)	27.5%	55.8%	237.05***	30.4%	59.5%	47.00***
Prior SA (%Y)	10.6%	51.5%	807.99***	14.9%	50.0%	113.96***
Physical victimization – Peer (%Y)	44.5%	57.6%	44.37***	45.9%	54.8%	3.93*
Physical victimization – Staff (%Y)	15.8%	15.8%	.001	15.7%	15.8%	1.71

Notes. SM youth = sexual minority youth; GM youth = gender minority youth; Prior PA = prior physical abuse; Prior SA = prior sexual abuse; Physical victimization – peer = facility physical victimization perpetrated by peers; Physical victimization – staff = facility physical victimization perpetrated by staff; *p < .05 ***p <.001

Table 2

Phi Correlations of Study Variables

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. SM status	-					
2. GM status	.33***	-				
3. Prior PA	.20***	.09***	-			
4. Prior SA	.37***	.14***	.34***	-		
5. Physical victimization - Peer	.09***	.03*	.21***	.13***	-	
6. Physical victimization - Staff	.00	.02	.10***	.02	.26***	-

Notes. SM status = sexual minority status; GM status = gender minority status; Prior PA = prior physical abuse; Prior SA = prior sexual abuse; Physical victimization – peer = facility physical victimization perpetrated by peers; Physical victimization – staff = facility physical victimization perpetrated by staff; ***p <.001.

Table 3

Hierarchical Binary Logistic Regression Results for Facility Physical Victimization by Peers

Model	Variables	Unstandardized Coefficient (*B*)	95% Confidence Intervals (CI)	Odds Ratios
Model 1	Age	**-.06**	**-.107, -.021**	**0.94**
	Black	**-.44**	**-.556, -.323**	**0.64**
	Hispanic	**-.46**	**-.613, -.301**	**0.63**
	Multiracial	-.25	-.499, .008	0.78
Model 2	Age	**-.08**	**-.119, -.032**	**0.93**
	Black	**-.21**	**-.335, -.090**	**0.81**
	Hispanic	**-.34**	**-.503, -.183**	**0.71**
	Multiracial	-.24	-.497, .022	0.79
	Prior PA	**.80**	**.674, .919**	**2.22**
	Prior SA	**.36**	**.200, .514**	**1.43**
Model 3	Age	**-.07**	**-.117, -.029**	**0.93**
	Black	**-.21**	**-.334, -.088**	**0.81**
	Hispanic	**-.34**	**-.503, -.182**	**0.71**
	Multiracial	-.24	-.500, .020	0.79
	Prior PA	**.79**	**.664, .911**	**2.20**
	Prior SA	**.31**	**.148, .479**	**1.37**
	SM status	.16	-.023, .349	1.18
	GM status	-.10	-.495, .311	0.91
Model 4	Age	**-.07**	**-.115, -.027**	**0.93**
	Black	**-.20**	**-.321, -.075**	**0.82**
	Hispanic	**-.33**	**-.489, -.167**	**0.72**
	Multiracial	-.23	-.487, .033	0.80
	Prior PA	**.86**	**.728, .995**	**2.37**
	Prior SA	**.39**	**.199, .587**	**1.48**
	SM status	**.53**	**.253, .801**	**1.69**
	GM status	-.19	-.871, .486	0.83
	SM status x Prior PA	**-.61**	**-.983, -.246**	**0.54**
	SM status x Prior SA	-.17	-.563, .223	0.84
	GM status x Prior PA	.50	-.342, 1.364	1.65

Table 3 Continued

Model	Variables	Unstandardized Coefficient (*B*)	95% Confidence Intervals (CI)	Odds Ratios
Model 4	GM status x Prior SA	-.34	-1.185, .502	0.72

Notes. SM status = sexual minority status; GM status = gender minority status; Prior PA = prior physical abuse; Prior SA = prior sexual abuse; Physical victimization – peer = physical victimization perpetrated by peers; Physical victimization – staff = physical victimization perpetrated by staff; **BOLDED** = significant parameters.

Table 4

Hierarchical Binary Logistic Regression Results for Facility Physical Victimization by Staff

Model	Variables	Unstandardized Coefficient (*B*)	95% Confidence Intervals (CI)	Odds Ratios (OR)
Model 1	Age	.03	-.030, .088	1.03
	Black	**.34**	**.182, .498**	**1.40**
	Hispanic	-.17	-.408, .054	0.84
	Multiracial	-.04	-.418, .316	0.96
Model 2	Age	.02	-.038, .081	1.02
	Black	**.51**	**.339, .671**	**1.66**
	Hispanic	-.10	-.337, .131	0.90
	Multiracial	-.04	-.422, .318	0.96
	Prior PA	**.70**	**.537, .857**	**2.01**
	Prior SA	-.11	-.315, .099	0.90
Model 3	Age	.02	-.040, .079	1.02
	Black	**.51**	**.340, .673**	**1.66**
	Hispanic	-.10	-.335, .133	0.91
	Multiracial	-.04	-.418, .322	0.97
	Prior PA	**.71**	**.544, .865**	**2.02**
	Prior SA	-.07	-.290, .146	0.93
	SM status	-.15	-.410, .095	0.86
	GM status	.17	-.369, .666	1.18
Model 4	Age	.02	-.038, .081	1.02
	Black	**.52**	**.352, .685**	**1.68**
	Hispanic	-.09	-.331, .137	0.91
	Multiracial	-.03	-.408, .333	0.98
	Prior PA	**.78**	**.610, .952**	**2.19**
	Prior SA	-.17	-.431, .082	0.84
	SM status	-.02	-.435, .372	0.98
	GM status	.23	-.777, 1.094	1.25
	SM status x Prior PA	**-.63**	**-1.133, -.116**	**0.53**
	SM status x Prior SA	.52	-.019, 1.058	1.68
	GM status x Prior PA	.18	-.923, 1.349	1.20
	GM status x Prior SA	-.28	-1.368, .806	0.75

Notes. SM status = sexual minority status; GM status = gender minority status; Prior PA = prior physical abuse; Prior SA = prior sexual abuse; Physical victimization – peer = physical victimization perpetrated by peers; Physical victimization – staff = physical victimization perpetrated by staff; **BOLDED** = significant parameters.

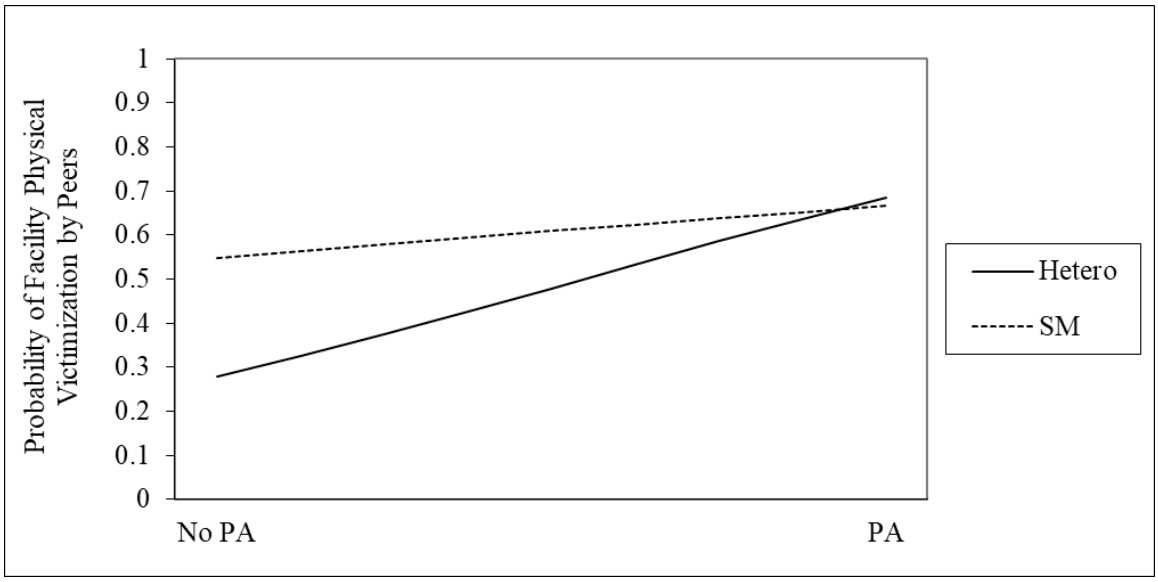

Figure 1

Interaction Between Prior Physical Abuse & Sexual Minority Status on the Probability of Facility Physical Victimization by Peers

Notes. No PA = no prior physical abuse; PA = prior physical abuse; Hetero = heterosexual youth; SM = sexual minority youth

VITA

Grace A. Parker was born and raised in Melbourne, Florida. After graduating from high school, she attended the University of Florida and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish. Her experiences as an undergraduate researcher, therapy aid, and behavior technician inspired her to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Clinical Psychology at the University of Tennessee under the mentorship of Dr. Lucybel Mendez. Her research interests involve examining trauma exposure and posttraumatic stress among marginalized and minoritized youth, particularly LGBTQ+ and justice-involved youth. She looks forward to continuing to pursue her research and clinical goals for the remainder of her time in the doctoral program at the University of Tennessee.