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# Experiences of second-generation queer youth: LGBTQ+ community belongingness, queer parent family socialization, and coping

Nita U. Kulkarni<sup>#</sup> , Abigail L. Moore<sup>#</sup>  and Rachel H. Farr 

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## ABSTRACT

LGBTQ+ youth with LGBTQ+ parents are known as “second-generation queer youth.” These individuals have unique experiences with LGBTQ+ community belongingness, queer-parent family socialization, and coping previously unexplored in psychological research. Queer-parent family socialization involves LGBTQ+ parents engaging in practices that instill family identity pride within their child, prepare them for potential bias, and proactively create a queer-friendly environment. In this study, we quantitatively examined the perspectives of second-generation queer youth ( $N=53$ ) in the United States on LGBTQ+ community belongingness, queer-parent family socialization, and coping, and the dynamics between subscales of these constructs. We found that youth who reported higher levels of coping also reported greater belongingness within the LGBTQ+ community and higher instances of socialization. By relying on family and community support, and practicing coping strategies, these youth can combat the harmful effects of discrimination. This indicates that these support systems may offer opportunities for strength and resilience.

## LAY SUMMARY

We found that second-generation queer youth (i.e. LGBTQ+ adolescents of LGBTQ+ parents) who reported greater belonging in the LGBTQ+ community and that their parents teach them about being queer in society also described greater adaptive coping skills. Relying on family and community support, these youth can become resilient amidst discrimination.

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## Introduction

Research following the Temporal Intersectional Minority Stress Model (TIMS; Rivas-Koehl et al., 2023) describes how LGBTQ+ adolescents face unique challenges in the current United States (U.S.) political climate, particularly when they have LGBTQ+

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parents (Kovalanka & Monroe, 2020). It is important to note that the authors' use of "LGBTQ+" includes but is not limited to those who identify their sexual identity as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, gender expansive, and more. Considering these challenges, research has highlighted unique strengths of adolescents in these families (Kovalanka & Monroe, 2020). While the protective nature of parental support for LGBTQ+ adolescents has been well-documented (Katz-Wise et al., 2022), relatively little work has analyzed how supportive behaviors (e.g. engaging in socialization; Mendez, 2022) in LGBTQ+ parent family structures may connect to unique adolescent abilities to cope with stress and feel belongingness in the LGBTQ+ community in the current sociohistorical context. Coping skills and community belongingness for minoritized adolescents have been protective against harm caused by discrimination normalized by current U.S. legislation (Fish & Russell, 2022). Our study quantitatively explores how second-generation queer adolescents describe coping skills and LGBTQ+ community belongingness, and how these constructs relate to queer-parent family socialization.

### ***Current political context in the U.S***

In the current U.S. context, diversity in adolescent populations is becoming more prevalent and visible alongside increases in attacks against minoritized and especially LGBTQ+ adolescents (Fish & Russell, 2022). LGBTQ+ adolescents coming out during an already tumultuous time of development are disclosing their identities in the hostile context of "Don't Say Gay" bills and anti-transgender legislation (American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), 2025; Anti-Trans Bill Tracker, 2025). Homophobia and transphobia in daily social interactions are normalized by this legislation (Bockting et al., 2020; Goldberg & Abreu, 2024). National surveys and research studies detail how these actions amplify mental and physical health consequences for diverse adolescents (Ramos et al., 2023; The Trevor Project, 2024). Because these inquiries largely focus on LGBTQ+ adolescents as individuals without parent identity contexts, research can attenuate how LGBTQ+ adolescents with LGBTQ+ parents uniquely experience coping or buffering from these hostile political climates.

### ***Theoretical framework: the TIMS model***

Psychology models of stress processes can analyze impacts of normalized discrimination on LGBTQ+ adolescents. Recently, scholars developed the TIMS (Rivas-Koehl et al., 2023), which adds time and intersectionality (Crenshaw, 1995) to the LGBTQ+-centered model developed by Virginia Brooks (1981) and expanded by Ilan Meyer (2015). Through these attenuations, the TIMS model can examine LGBTQ+ adolescent responses to the current political moment by explaining how experiences of political stressors (proximal) initiate distal processes (e.g. internalized stress or homophobia); these increase the likelihood of mental health disorders, substance abuse, and physiological problems (Felner et al., 2020; Kassing et al., 2021; Rivas-Koehl et al., 2023). The model can discuss these outcomes in diverse adolescents in LGBTQ+ parent families because its emphasis on time frames how diverse families

experience and navigate power structures and sociopolitical changes. For example, the model can conceptualize diverse adolescent perceptions of stress during times of increasing political polarization and family diversity (including second-generation queer family dynamics).

Building on foundational stress models, the TIMS model accounts for both stressors and protective constructs of social support, coping, and community belonging (Rivas-Koehl et al., 2023). The positive, resiliency-building constructs associated with the model must be studied in second-generation queer adolescent and queer parent dynamics. These relationships potentially hold nuanced strengths and protective relational power. The TIMS model emphasizes how supportive family members are protective against political and social stressors (Rivas-Koehl et al., 2023). Developmentalists have discussed the power of supportive actions such as building emotional bonds, engaging in facilitative parenting, and expressing microaffirmative behavior (e.g. small acts of acceptance, listening, and caring; Johnson et al., 2020; Kivalanka, 2013). Recent research suggests that second-generation queer adolescents see LGBTQ+ parents as a source of support and normalization for their identity (Kivalanka & Monroe, 2020).

### ***Queer-parent family socialization***

One major protective factor in LGBTQ+ parent families is queer-parent family socialization, which involves parents discussing queer identity significance (Astle et al., 2024) and acting as filters for their adolescents when understanding relevant political topics (Katz-Wise et al., 2022). This theory draws from racial/ethnic socialization theory (Hughes & Chen, 1997), where parents instill pride and protection in their children through three predominant domains: cultural socialization with ingroups, preparation for potential bias, and promotion of mistrust of outgroups. With regards to cultural socialization in racial/ethnic socialization theory, parents educate their children on their cultural history through anecdotes, through reviews of major historical factors in their cultural history, and through immersing them in cultural media (Lee et al., 2015). Parents engaging in queer-parent family socialization integrate cultural socialization by immersing their children in LGBTQ+ culture (i.e. taking them to pride events and educating them about queer history; Johnson & Best, 2012). In preparation for bias, parents discuss racial issues and strategies to handle discrimination with their children; they also encourage culturally adaptive coping strategies like talking to people with similar background about their concerns (Goldberg et al., 2022). Similarly, with queer parent family socialization, queer parents have deliberate conversations with their children on how to handle potential discrimination or bullying they may face for their family's identity (Farr et al., 2022; Oakley et al., 2017). In racial/cultural socialization, the third construct is promotion of mistrust, where parents encourage their children to be wary of outgroups to protect themselves (Hughes & Johnson, 2001). In place of promotion of mistrust, queer-parent family socialization includes proactive parenting, where parents discuss how their family is similar and different from cis-heteronormative families and create a queer-friendly environment (e.g. moving to a neighborhood with abundant pride flags; Oakley et al., 2017).

Queer-parent family socialization research highlights how queer parents engage their children (both second-generation queer and cis-het) in necessary preparation for

discrimination (Mendez, 2022). From these conversations, adolescents may learn or develop coping skills in response to knowledge of discrimination that they may face in society (Kuper et al., 2014). However, relatively little research has centered the types and strengths of chosen adolescent coping mechanisms in the current sociohistorical moment characterized by anti-LGBTQ+ legislation (American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), 2025; Anti-Trans Bill Tracker, 2025).

### ***Feelings of community belongingness in LGBTQ+ contexts***

Similarly, research suggests that second-generation LGBTQ+ adolescents may experience greater opportunities to engage with and feel belonging in the LGBTQ+ community; their parents may introduce them to members and community-building activities (e.g. pride parades, drag shows; Mendez, 2022). One study found that children of queer parents experience positive feelings of LGBTQ+ community belongingness (Diomedede et al., 2024); no studies to-date have investigated this exclusively among second-generation queer youth. Research on LGBTQ+ community belongingness has found that it buffers against stigma and mental health challenges (Kaniuka et al., 2019). Community connectedness has been linked with higher social well-being and lower psychological distress (Frost et al., 2022; McAweeney & Farr, 2024).

Additionally, one study centered the experiences of parents with a transgender or gender diverse (TGD) child, finding that these families encountered sexual and/or gender minority stress due to stigmatization about their own identities or sharing gender minority stress because of their relationship with their TGD child (Mackenzie, 2021). These families found strength and resilience through interpersonal, community, and institutional support (Mackenzie, 2021). This indicates that community belonging may be protective for LGBTQ+ families.

A study investigating connections made by children of LGBTQ+ parents showed emerging adults with LGBTQ+ parents connect with the broader LGBTQ+ community and with fellow children of LGBTQ+ parents (Cashen, 2022). Thus, connections with people sharing diverse identities can be a source of support. This study did not explicitly explore dynamics of second-generation queer individuals but explains how children of LGBTQ+ parents find community.

Queer-parent family socialization also details how parents instill a sense of pride in their children for being part of an LGBTQ+ family (Oakley et al., 2017). Research must examine how discussions of identity significance may contribute to feelings of LGBTQ+ community belonging in the current sociohistorical context. This must attenuate anti-LGBTQ+ legislation (American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), 2025) and the changing landscape of community engagement due to the COVID-19 pandemic forcing many opportunities to be canceled or moved online (Gillig et al., 2022).

### ***Coping***

Coping skills are buildable strategies that individuals utilize when facing adversity to promote resilience and positive mental health outcomes (Smith & Carlson, 1997; Taylor & Stanton, 2007). Adaptive coping strategies such as positive thinking, social

support, and problem solving are increasingly recognized for their connection to well-being outcomes (Szymanski et al., 2023). LGBTQ+ youth report coping with minority stress through cognitive self-talk, developing their self-concept, gaining information about their identity, seeking online support, and relying on supportive friends, LGBTQ+ friends, and adults (Goldbach & Gibbs, 2015). Additionally, one major component of queer parent family socialization is preparation for bias, which includes deliberate conversations on how to prepare and cope with potential discrimination; for example, children and adolescents of queer parents can interact with other children of LGBTQ+ parents about their shared struggles or even rely on the LGBTQ+ community as a support system as a form of coping (Robinson et al., 2024).

This article takes a strengths-based approach through focusing on coping, as LGBTQ+ research benefits from decentering typically comparative and damage-centered deficits-based work. This work centers minority communities who thrive despite adversity (Cippolina et al., 2024; Tuck, 2009). Coping is a distinct outcome of interest because studies have demonstrated how parent involvement through teaching coping strategies can attenuate risk factors and promote resilience in their children (Smith & Carlson, 1997). Coping is connected to resilience and can be a crucial protective factor for adolescents, especially those from diverse families and with multiple marginalized identities (Stein et al., 2024). Overall, queer-parent family socialization and community involvement can be sources of support for adolescents when facing adversity and discrimination.

### ***This study***

Research on parent-child relationships with shared LGBTQ+ status has yet to investigate the protective dynamics of parent support when facing normalized discrimination against multiple identities being supported by constant executive and legislative attacks (American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), 2025; Turchin & Korotayev, 2020). With these attacks against LGBTQ+ families and youth (Bishop, 2023; Anti-Trans Bill Tracker, 2025), it is crucial to explore coping within these potentially powerful insular family relationships. Therefore, this study quantitatively explores coping, LGBTQ+ community belonging, and queer-parent family socialization data as described by second-generation queer adolescents with LGBTQ+ parents in the U.S.

### ***Aim 1***

Our first aim is to investigate associations among second-generation queer youths' perceptions of LGBTQ+ community belongingness, queer-parent family socialization, and coping skills.

**Hypothesis 1.** Feelings of LGBTQ+ community belongingness, queer-parent family socialization, and adaptive coping skills will all positively correlate. When adolescents report a stronger connection with the LGBTQ+ community, they have likely experienced queer-parent family socialization and have adapted coping skills to combat potential discrimination. Since these individuals grew up in an LGBTQ+ household and identify as LGBTQ+, we expect moderate to high levels of community belongingness. Additionally, shared LGBTQ+ identity between adolescents and parents may contribute to perceptions of receiving queer-parent family socialization, matching pattern in racial/ethnic

socialization where parents and children share a racial identity (Hughes et al., 2009). Finally, greater LGBTQ+ community belongingness and more queer-parent family socialization among children of LGBTQ+ parents will relate to positive outcomes (Diomedea et al., 2024; Farr et al., 2022; Simon & Farr, 2022), indicating that these constructs will be positively associated with adaptive coping skills.

### ***Aim 2***

Our second aim is to further explore unique connections among subscales of our queer-parent family socialization, LGBTQ+ community belongingness, and coping measures.

**Hypothesis 2.** Through this exploratory aim, we will examine constructs not previously explored among second-generation queer youth to specify sources of support. Broadly, social support, belongingness, and consistent stable parenting relate to coping and resilience among adolescents at-risk for developing mental health and behavioral challenges (Smith & Carlson, 1997). Considering increased anti-LGBTQ+ political action (Goldberg & Abreu, 2024), researchers must identify sources of support to promote well-being, especially among niche populations (i.e. second-generation queer youth). Examining interrelations between sub-constructs may reveal unique resilience pathways in second-generation queer youth.

### ***Aim 3***

Our third aim is to investigate an exploratory mediation model where feelings of LGBTQ+ community belonging mediate the relationship between queer-parent family socialization and adaptive coping skills.

**Hypothesis 3.** The mediation model was included as an exploratory aim as it is informed by prior findings that support the plausibility of the proposed indirect relationship. Prior research suggests that adolescents who receive queer-parent family socialization often become more connected and feel more involved in the broader LGBTQ+ community (Cashen, 2022). Other studies have shown that diverse adolescents connected to the community learn more ways that other LGBTQ+ youth use adaptive coping skills in discriminatory circumstances (Robinson et al., 2024). The proposed mediation model can explore a potential connection between these processes in second-generation queer families to see if parent socialization results in coping skills through belonging in the LGBTQ+ community.

## **Method**

### ***Participants***

Participants are a sub-sample from a larger study (McAweeney & Farr, 2024), that examines the experiences of LGBTQ+ parents of a 12–19-year-old adolescent, as well as adolescents (12–19) with at least one LGBTQ+ parent. Participants included in this study ( $N=53$ ) are LGBTQ+ adolescents between the ages of 12–19 who have a parent who is LGBTQ+. See Table 1 for complete demographic characteristics.

**Table 1.** Second-generation queer adolescent demographics.

Category	Sub-Category	Frequency (N)	Percent (%)
Gender	Cisgender woman	20	37.7
	Cisgender man	17	32.1
	GNC/NB <sup>a</sup>	10	18.9
	Transgender women	2	3.8
	Transgender men	2	3.8
	Transgender masculine	1	1.9
	Questioning/Unsure	1	1.9
Race	white	21	39.5
	Black	7	13.2
	Hispanic/Latinx	11	20.8
	Asian	5	9.4
	Native American	1	1.9
	Multiracial	8	15.1
Sexuality	Bisexual	25	47.2
	Pansexual	7	13.2
	Gay	7	13.2
	Lesbian	4	7.5
	Asexual	4	7.5
	Queer	3	5.7
	Questioning/unidentified	2	3.8
	Heterosexual	1	1.9

<sup>a</sup>GNC/NB includes nonbinary, gender non-conforming, genderfluid, and agender.

## Materials

### *LGBTQ+ community belongingness*

Feelings of LGBTQ+ community belonging were reported through the LGBTQ+ Psychological Sense of Community Scale (PSOC-LGBT; Lin & Israel, 2012). This measure assesses perceptions of the existence of LGBTQ+ community and feelings of community belonging and dependence. Participants answered Likert-type questions rated from 1 (none) to 5 (a great deal) to describe their experiences across a 22-item scale. An example statement is “How much do you feel that you can get help from the LGBTQ+ community if you need it?” (Lin & Israel, 2012). The PSOC-LGBT includes six subscales: Existence of Community (5 items), Membership (3 items), Needs Fulfillment (3 items), Shared Emotional Connection (5 items), Influenced by Others (3 items), and Influencing Others (3 items; Lin & Israel, 2012). The scale has a reliability estimate of 0.91 in the literature (Lin & Israel, 2012) and 0.82 in the current sample.

### *Socialization in queer-parent families*

Queer-Parent Family Socialization was measured through the Sexual Minority Parent Socialization Scale (SMPSS; Oakley et al., 2017). The 20-item Likert-type scale measures the frequency of parent engagement in child socialization behaviors over the last 12 months. This measure (Oakley et al., 2017), adapted from Hughes and Chen (1997) racial/ethnic socialization scale, has three subscales: cultural socialization (5 items), preparation for bias (8 items), and proactive parenting (7 items). Behavior frequency is rated from 1 (never) to 5 (very often). Words were adapted to ask adolescents how often their parents engage in socialization behaviors; an example item is, “How often have your parents done or said things to show you that all people are

equal regardless of race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation” (Oakley et al., 2017). The scale has a reliability estimate of 0.75 (Oakley et al., 2017). Within the current sample, the scale has a reliability estimate of 0.95.

### ***Coping behaviors***

Coping skills are measured using the Brief Coping Orientation to Problems Experienced (BCOPE) inventory (Baumstarck et al., 2017; Carver, 1997). This is a 28-item Likert-type self-report measuring the frequency of use for 14 coping strategies. Participants rate each item from 1 (I have not been doing this a lot) to 4 (doing a lot). An example item is, “I’ve been getting emotional support from others” (Baumstarck et al., 2017). These items are summed, resulting in four subscales: social support (8 items; 2 strategies), problem solving (4 items; 2 strategies), positive thinking (6 items; 3 strategies), and avoidance (10 items; 5 strategies). In this study, we compiled the first three subscales to build an “adaptive coping strategies” scale, also known as “approach coping,” as avoidance can be maladaptive (Aldao et al., 2010; Eisenberg et al., 2012). BCOPE Inventory subscale items have demonstrated acceptable to good internal consistency,  $\alpha = 0.77$ . Within the current sample, the scale has a reliability estimate of 0.73.

### ***Procedure and analytic approach***

Participants were recruited by posting fliers at locations around [REDACTED], *via* social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter/X, and Instagram) or relevant LGBTQ+ email listservs. Fliers were also distributed at regional pride events and through the online platform Prolific. All participants confirmed their eligibility through a screening survey. Eligibility criteria required participants to be adolescents ages 12–19 living with an LGBTQ+ parent in the U.S. Since Prolific participants had to be at least 18 to join the site, most participants in our overall sample were 18 or 19 (89.5%). Eligible participants gave informed consent and completed a Qualtrics survey including demographic information and several measures, including the PSOC-LGBT, SMPSS, and BCOPE Inventory. Participants were compensated upon completion. Data collection spanned from October 2021 to March 2024. All procedures were approved by the University of Kentucky Institutional Review Board.

### ***Missing data***

We conducted analyses of missingness in SPSS version 29 (IBM Corp., 2023a). These analyses revealed missing data on 4 cases across several items. A missingness variable was coded and analyzed; this analysis revealed that missingness was significantly correlated with age in our dataset,  $r(53) = -0.734$ ,  $p < 0.001$ . To preserve statistical power given our relatively small sample size, we did not use listwise deletion but addressed missingness using full information maximum likelihood (FIML). This method was chosen to reduce parameter bias with data missing at random (Enders, 2013) and to maintain the ability to run all planned and exploratory analyses (including the mediation model which can complicate other methods of handling missingness due to bootstrapping; Fairchild & McDaniel, 2017; Schoemann et al., 2025).

**Aim 1**

We used SPSS AMOS version 29 (IBM Corp., 2023b) to run descriptives and correlations among measure composite scores (PSOC-LGBT, SMPSS, and BCOPE) using path analysis with FIML to account for missing data. Through the path analysis, we also calculated a regression where socialization and belongingness predicted coping. We included race and gender as covariates in the model because queer-parent family and racial/ethnic socialization are often intertwined (Hughes & Chen, 1997; Oakley et al., 2017).

**Aim 2**

We ran correlations in SPSS AMOS (IBM Corp., 2023b) among the subscales of each measure using various path analyses with FIML implemented to account for missing data.

**Aim 3**

To test the proposed mediation model and account for missing data while being able to assess pathway and effect significance, we ran a path analysis with FIML using the Lavaan package (Rosseel, 2012) in R (R Core Team, 2024).

**Results****Aim 1**

In descriptive analyses, participants ( $N=53$ ) reported moderate instances of socialization ( $M=2.43$ ,  $SD=0.99$ ) and moderate to high levels of LGBTQ+ community belongingness ( $M=3.18$ ,  $SD=0.71$ ). Participants ( $N=49$ ) reported moderate use of adaptive coping skills ( $M=2.45$ ,  $SD=0.53$ ). The highest potential scores are 5 for socialization and community belongingness, and 4 for adaptive coping. Considering the measure subscales, participants reported moderate averages for all SMPSS, PSOC, and adaptive coping subscales.

All measures were significantly positively correlated. Total queer-parent family socialization was positively correlated with total LGBTQ+ community belongingness ( $r(51) = 0.62$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), as well as with total adaptive coping ( $r(47) = 0.58$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). Community belongingness and adaptive coping were positively correlated ( $r(47) = 0.56$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ). Using path analysis to analyze a regression with community belongingness and queer-parent family socialization predicting adaptive coping skills (see Table 2), belongingness and socialization accounted for 39.3% of the variance in adaptive coping,  $R^2 = 0.393$ . Race and gender were also included in the model as covariates. However, these covariates did not account for

**Table 2.** Regression coefficients for coping as predicted by community belonging and socialization.

	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	$\beta$	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Intercept	1.233	0.271		4.546	< 0.001***
Community belonging	0.229	0.108	0.315	2.127	0.039*
Socialization	0.208	0.080	0.384	2.594	0.013*

\* $p < 0.05$  and \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .

**Table 3.** Second-generation queer adolescent construct correlations.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. Positive thinking												
2. Problem solving	0.31*											
3. Social support	0.52**	0.60**										
4. Cultural socialization	0.49**	0.49**	0.46**									
5. Bias preparation	0.42**	0.52**	0.38**	0.86**								
6. Proactive parenting	0.32*	0.49**	0.41**	0.81**	0.90**							
7. Existence of community	0.32*	0.28*	0.25	0.42**	0.36**	0.36**						
8. Membership	0.17	0.49**	0.36*	0.42**	0.31*	0.29*	0.32*					
9. Needs fulfillment	0.33*	0.47**	0.43**	0.56**	0.51**	0.56**	0.46**	0.70**				
10. Shared emotional connection	0.34*	0.27	0.39**	0.26	0.14	0.15	0.36**	0.42**	0.53**			
11. Influenced by others	0.25*	0.39**	0.34*	0.53**	0.47**	0.41**	0.34*	0.49**	0.47**	0.36**		
12. Influencing others	0.20	0.32*	0.28	0.62**	0.61**	0.62**	0.33*	0.35*	0.55**	0.25	0.58**	
<i>M</i>	2.56	2.45	2.30	2.65	2.41	2.21	3.06	3.53	3.27	3.96	2.80	2.46
<i>SD</i>	0.58	0.81	0.60	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.03	1.16	1.05	0.65	0.94	1.03

Note. Subscales 1–3 belong to the BCOPE scale measuring coping. Subscales 4–6 belong to the SMPSS scale measuring socialization. Subscales 7–12 belong to the PSOC scale measuring LGBTQ+ community belonging.

\* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ .

a significant amount of variance in adaptive coping above and beyond belongingness and socialization.

A post hoc regression power analysis was conducted using G\*Power version 3.17 (Düsseldorf, Germany; Franz et al., 2009). The analysis was run with an alpha of 0.05, sample size of 53, and two predictors. The regression had sufficient power (0.97) to detect large effects ( $f^2 = 0.35$ ). For moderate effects ( $f^2 = 0.15$ ) power dropped to 0.69 and it was 0.13 for small effects ( $f^2 = 0.02$ ).

## Aim 2

All SMPSS subscales were positively correlated with all PSOC subscales, except for shared membership, and with all BCOPE subscales (see Table 3 for all correlations and descriptive information). Most sub-constructs were correlated, with several exceptions: 1) social support (coping) was not correlated with influencing others and community existence (community belongingness), 2) problem solving (coping) was not correlated with shared emotions (community belongingness), and 3) positive thinking (coping) was not correlated with influencing others, influenced by others, or membership (community belongingness). Shared emotions did not correlate with any socialization subscales (cultural socialization, proactive parenting, and preparation for bias). However, needs fulfillment (community belongingness) correlated with every other socialization and coping subscale. Overall, there were strong correlations among subscales, indicating that socialization, community belongingness, and coping are associated among second-generation queer youth.

### Aim 3

A mediation analysis was conducted using the Lavaan package (Rosseel, 2012) in R (R Core Team, 2024) where feelings of LGBTQ+ community belonging acted as a mediator for the relationship between queer-parent family socialization and use of adaptive coping skills. The path between queer-parent family socialization and feelings of LGBTQ+ community belonging was significant ( $B=0.450$ ,  $SE=0.080$ ,  $p<0.001$ ). The path between feelings of LGBTQ+ community belonging and use of adaptive coping skills was also significant ( $B=0.229$ ,  $SE=0.114$ ,  $p=0.046$ ). However, the indirect path, where feelings of LGBTQ+ community belonging served as a mediator, was not significant ( $B=0.103$ ,  $SE=0.056$ ,  $p=0.066$ ). The direct path between queer-parent family socialization and use of adaptive coping skills was significant ( $B=0.208$ ,  $SE=0.092$ ,  $p=0.023$ ). Overall, feelings of LGBTQ+ community belonging did not significantly mediate the relationship between queer-parent family socialization and use of adaptive coping skills.

### Discussion

The TIMS model details how supportive family members act as protective factors for diverse adolescents against sociopolitical stressors (Rivas-Koehl et al., 2023). Parents can provide support, instill pride, and prepare adolescents for discrimination as part of queer-parent family socialization (Oakley et al., 2017). Beyond immediate family, LGBTQ+ individuals find support within the larger LGBTQ+ community (Meyer, 2015). We predicted that queer-parent family socialization and LGBTQ+ community belongingness would connect to adaptive coping strategies among second-generation queer youth. To test this, we collected data from 53 LGBTQ+ adolescents in the U.S. with at least one LGBTQ+ parent using quantitative surveys on queer-parent family socialization, LGBTQ+ community belongingness, and adaptive coping.

Overall, LGBTQ+ community belongingness, queer-parent family socialization, and adaptive coping were all positively correlated, which supports our hypothesis. The TIMS model (Rivas-Koehl et al., 2023) and literature on LGBTQ+ community belongingness (Frost et al., 2022; Kaniuka et al., 2019; McAweeney & Farr, 2024), socialization (Astle et al., 2024; Farr et al., 2022; Oakley et al., 2017), and coping (Goldbach & Gibbs, 2015; Smith & Carlson, 1997), support that LGBTQ+ adolescents who rely on supportive relationships show better mental health and resilience. Connected to this literature, we found that those with stronger feelings of community belonging also reported higher socialization and more use of adaptive coping skills.

Additionally, our model with community belonging and socialization predicting coping indicated that belongingness and socialization accounted for 40% of the variance in coping. This result indicates that LGBTQ+ community belonging and parent engagement in socialization are considerably linked with adolescent coping skills among second-generation queer youth. This supports TIMS research that suggests that involvement from supportive groups, especially families and community organizations, can bolster coping (Rivas-Koehl et al., 2023). Our results show that these constructs are intertwined in second-generation queer adolescent populations, consistent with previous research that LGBTQ+ adolescents with LGBTQ+ family members access more support through their family's community connections (Stone et al.,

2022). Additionally, adolescents may encounter more coping *via* socialization because of their parents' similar LGBTQ+ experiences (Mendez, 2022). However, these data are cross-sectional; future research should probe more causal associations.

Modeling through path analysis revealed that neither race nor gender were significant model covariates. This suggests that second-generation queer adolescents with multiple marginalized identities do not experience major differences (or deficits) in socialization and belongingness predicting coping skills. Some research suggests that individuals possessing multiple minoritized identities may experience more negative outcomes than those with privileged standpoints (Cyrus, 2017; Whitfield et al., 2014). However, our findings quantitatively support qualitative work suggesting that these individuals may also encounter unique coping and community engagement opportunities because of their multiple marginalized identities (Ghabrial, 2019).

Queer-parent family socialization, LGBTQ+ community belongingness, and adaptive coping were positively correlated. Shared queer identity between adolescents and parents may contribute to engagement in queer-parent family socialization and LGBTQ+ community belongingness, which then relate to greater adaptive coping skills. When parents engage in queer-parent family socialization (i.e. cultural socialization through immersing children queer culture; Oakley et al., 2017), they explicitly demonstrate support, which promotes adolescent resilience (Goldbach & Gibbs, 2015; Smith & Carlson, 1997), and connection with the LGBTQ+ community, especially if they are also LGBTQ+ (Frost et al., 2022; Kaniuka et al., 2019; McAweeney & Farr, 2024). Combinations of socialization and community belongingness potentially give queer adolescents facing stressors based on political unrest (Goldberg & Abreu, 2024) a safe community to rely on.

Drawing from racial/ethnic socialization theories, strategies centered around shared identities in families relate to youth adjustment outcomes including positive self-esteem, academic adjustment, adaptive coping, and psychological well-being (Umaña-Taylor & Hill, 2020). This potentially explains why we found similar patterns, specifically a link between queer-parent family socialization and adaptive coping among second-generation queer adolescents.

Additionally, studies suggest that families with at least one queer family member find strength and resilience among the LGBTQ+ community (Mackenzie, 2021). Therefore, it makes sense that LGBTQ+ adolescents with LGBTQ+ parents report feelings of strength and resilience (Burand et al., 2025; Cashen, 2022), which relate to coping.

Using a strengths-based perspective (Cippolina et al., 2024; Tuck, 2009), we proposed that greater queer-parent family socialization and community belongingness relate to higher adaptive coping. Our results supported this, indicating that socialization and belongingness drive second-generation queer youth thriving amidst political unrest.

Our second aim examined the subscales of each measure to explore component connections. Specifically examining the Sexual Parent Minority Socialization Scale (SMPSS), every subscale was correlated with every Coping Inventory (BCOPE) subscale and nearly every community belongingness (PSOC) subscale except for shared emotional connection. This novel queer-parent family socialization scale shows promising connections with coping and community belongingness which are sources of

resilience. Further, these connections demonstrate that second-generation queer youth benefit from socialization strategies, which connect to support and resilience.

Regarding coping, each subscale was significantly related to each of the socialization subscales; there were some exceptions with community belongingness. This indicates that parents bolster positive thinking, problem solving, and social support in adolescents by encouraging reliance on the LGBTQ+ community and through socialization strategies (i.e. prep for bias). Prior literature on queer-parent family socialization (and racial/ethnic socialization; Goldberg & Smith, 2016) also centers how proactive conversations preparing diverse adolescents to encounter discrimination help said adolescents mitigate encounters and resultant stress (Astle et al., 2024; Mendez, 2022).

Coping measures (especially positive thinking and problem-solving) relating to measures of belonging also support broader literature on adolescent protective factors. This literature details how opportunities for community belonging and access to LGBTQ+ representation may bolster positive affect and foster identity validation (Johnson et al., 2020; Katz-Wise et al., 2022). Our sample details scenarios where LGBTQ+ parents provide their adolescents with community contact, giving them access to these benefits.

Connected to these findings and associated literature, we found that subscales for community belongingness, needs fulfillment, and influenced by others correlated with every other construct. This indicates that relying on the LGBTQ+ community and feeling influenced by said community also relate to adaptive coping skills and socialization strategies.

As another exploratory prong of this study, we investigated whether or not feelings of LGBTQ+ community belonging mediated the relationship between queer-parent family socialization and use of adaptive coping skills. Although this indirect association could be conceptually justified by previous studies showing connections between socialization and community belonging (Cashen, 2022) as well as between community belonging and coping (Robinson et al., 2024), the indirect effect was not statistically significant. However, the direct effect between queer-parent family socialization and use of adaptive coping skills was significant as was the direct effect between community belonging and coping within the model. These findings suggest that parents and the broader LGBTQ+ community may act as important and unique direct factors in the development of coping skills. This aligns with both prior research and principles of the TIMS model (Rivas-Koehl et al., 2023) that discuss multiple sources of unique support (e.g. diverse family members and friends) as being crucial for developing coping and stress-mitigation skills after encounters with discrimination (Robinson et al., 2024; Stone et al., 2022).

### **Strengths, limitations, and future research directions**

This article provides novel insights on second-generation queer youths' experiences. There has been limited research on these experiences (Kusalanka, 2013); therefore, this article expands knowledge through exploratory, strengths-based methods. Additionally, our sample includes voices underrepresented in research including a 60.5% racially diverse and 100% LGBTQ+ sample.

In terms of limitations, while our study was well-powered for large effects, it dropped in power for more moderate and small effects. Furthermore, due to the small sample size, we were underpowered to run the exploratory mediation model. This could explain why the indirect path was not significant despite the individual paths between the variables showing significance. Additionally, although our sample was entirely LGBTQ+, the majority of the sample was cisgender which limits our knowledge of these processes amongst the wider population of transgender and gender non-conforming adolescents with LGBTQ+ parents. Finally, the specific LGBTQ+ identities of the second-generation queer adolescents in our sample were noted but not the specific LGBTQ+ identities of their parents. This limits our ability to probe differences in items such as specific socialization strategies when parents identify as Lesbian vs. Bisexual for example and when parents do or do not an LGBTQ+ identity with their adolescent.

Because we found that queer-parent family socialization, community belongingness, and adaptive coping were highly intertwined, future research could test second-generation queer status as a potential moderator of the association between socialization and constructs of community and coping. This may further reveal unique strengths in these relationships that specific policies and clinical approaches can attenuate. Additionally, future studies could probe our proposed mediation from this study with a larger sample size to further assess the significance of the indirect association. Furthermore, future studies should investigate how queer-parent family socialization and racial identity are intertwined. Intersectionality theory (Crenshaw, 1995) details how identities cannot be separated when investigating diverse communities, so future studies should examine how overlapping standpoints relate to these constructs. Finally, future studies can further parse out the sample of second-generation queer adolescents by their parents' specific LGBTQ+ identities to gain further insight into unique relationships in families with shared or unshared specific labels.

### **Implications for practice, policy, and law**

These results highlight second-generation queer youth strengths that can be emphasized in family-based practices. Clinicians should strive to be LGBTQ+ culturally competent and understand that some LGBTQ+ youth also have LGBTQ+ parents. Additionally, amidst a U.S. social climate characterized by political polarization (Turchin & Korotayev, 2020), it is crucial to identify both internal and external (e.g. family and community) sources of strength. Relying on these sources of strength has the potential to be protective against minority stress and other negative outcomes (e.g. mental and physical challenges) that result from LGBTQ+ adolescents encountering legislation directly denying or penalizing their existence (Goldberg & Abreu, 2024).

### **Conclusion**

Second-generation queer youth have unique strengths and support sources within their families and the LGBTQ+ community. By relying on these sources and practicing coping strategies, these youth can be resilient when facing discrimination. Youth

who report higher queer-parent family socialization and higher LGBTQ+ community belongingness also highly use adaptive coping skills, indicating that these systems offer opportunities for strength and resilience.

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None of the authors have any personal or financial interests that would bias the findings of this study.

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## Data availability statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author, N.U.K., and the principal investigator, R.H.F., upon reasonable request.

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