

# LGBTQ+ Communities and Climate Change

## A LITERATURE LANDSCAPE SUMMARY

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Climate change presents myriad challenges that disproportionately affect marginalized communities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and others (LGBTQ+). Emerging literature explores the complex intersections of LGBTQ+ identities, climate change, and disasters.

Research indicates that LGBTQ+ individuals often encounter inadequate disaster relief and face institutional discrimination. This is supported by studies such as those by Kilpatrick et al. (2023) and King (2022). Fears of prejudice deter many from accessing emergency services, as highlighted by Leonard (2018). A qualitative study from Australia reveals systemic discrimination against lesbian and bisexual women within emergency services, both as recipients of services and as staff members (Parkinson et al., 2022). In Pakistan, the challenges are twofold for the transgender community: they grapple with the effects of climate change while also confronting social exclusion, as reported by Eco-Business (2023). These challenges are compounded by issues like the absence of safe shelters, religious-based stigma, and violence, as documented by Edge Effect et al. (2018a).

Recent studies highlight the distinct challenges faced by the global LGBTQ+ community due to the climate crisis and emphasize the need for inclusive climate policies (APWLD, 2023; Dalton, 2023). Analysis of the historical roots of Pride Month reveal ongoing struggles for justice and equity in both LGBTQ+ and environmental realms (San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative et al., 2022).

The LGBTQ+ community's existing health disparities exacerbate their vulnerabilities to climate change. They are already at a higher risk of chronic diseases, mental health issues, and substance abuse. Discrimination in healthcare access further compounds these risks (Kilpatrick et al., 2023; Simmonds, 2021). Additionally, socioeconomic challenges like homelessness and poverty intensify the adverse effects of climate change on this community (San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative et al., 2022).

An intersectional approach, which considers overlapping social identities and related systems of oppression, is crucial. LGBTQ+ individuals with multiple marginalized identities, such as race or socioeconomic status, often face even greater climate-related challenges (Kilpatrick et al., 2023; Orr, 2022). For example, transgender people of color have reported increased mistreatment in disaster shelters (Orr, 2022).

Despite disproportionate climate vulnerabilities, LGBTQ+ communities showcase resilience by establishing post-disaster support networks and mental health services (*Edge Effect et al., 2018a; Kilpatrick et al., 2023*). Advocacy groups champion inclusive disaster policies (*Edge Effect et al., 2018b*). While current literature is beginning to address the unique challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community in the context of climate change, there's still much to uncover, especially regarding their resilience and visions for a just future. Engaging the LGBTQ+ community in research is essential to gain deeper insights and drive impactful action.

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