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# Discrimination vs. Acceptance of Homosexuality at Valparaiso University

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## **Discrimination vs. Acceptance of Homosexuality at Valparaiso University**

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Views of homosexuality have been a major issue for many years and still are to this day. As stated in the Declaration of Independence, all citizens should be granted equal rights and respect. However, many still are struggling to offer their acceptance to those of diverse populations, especially to those who identify themselves as members of the GLBTQ community. This lack of equality has escalated to a nation full of discriminating views, attitudes, and stereotypes. While all ages have portrayed negative attitudes towards members of the GLBTQ population, it is most visually prevalent among students at college campuses. Because of the prevalence in college, this study was targeted towards students of both heterosexual and homosexual orientation at Valparaiso University. The study was generated in order to obtain varying perspectives on the topic of homosexuality. With the knowledge gleaned, results were expected that there is not an overall acceptance of the homosexual population as there is for the heterosexual population on the Valparaiso University campus. With or without an overall accepting population, it is imperative that the homosexual community be treated with integrity and respect.

### *Information about the Authors:*

Brittney Smiejek, Jen Johnson, and Jenny Pokorny are junior social work students attending Valparaiso University. They are striving to better our campus and community and hope that this research will work towards this goal.

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