

SOGIE

sexual orientation, gender
identity & gender expression

NEWS & RESOURCES



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The SOGIE Newsletter is a publication of [The Institute for Innovation and Implementation](#), University of Maryland School of Social Work.

Community Corner

Community Corner is a place where you can share news about work you are doing with young people with diverse SOGIE (sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression). To submit information about your program to be highlighted in this newsletter, please email theinstitute@ssw.umaryland.edu.

SnapshoT Photo Elicitation Study Seeks Trans Youth Ages 14-29



INQYR ([International Partnership for Queer Youth Resilience](#)) is an exciting global research and practice network working to understand the needs of LGBTQ+ youth and their use of information and communication technologies within diverse global contexts while training the next generation of scholars through the International Student Training Network (ISTN). INQYR, led by Dr. Shelley Craig from the University of Toronto, is comprised of over 60 institutional and community partners and coinvestigators in four regional networks: Canada, the United States, Mexico and the United Kingdom. “INQYR is the realization of a dream. Being able to bring together some of the worlds most committed scholars and emerging academics to conduct creative research

that can make an impact on the lives of amazing LGBTQ+ youth is such an opportunity and I am so grateful to SSHRC for supporting us. We have learned from our previous research that LGBTQ+ in most regions of the world still feel safer online than offline and despite the presence of online risks and offline political or personal discrimination and victimization, are using technology to improve their lives, build community and develop resiliency. With INQYR and through the work of our incredible partners (including Dr. Matarese from the University of Maryland School of Social Work), we are learning how LGBTQ+ youth are navigating their lives and how we can best direct our efforts to support them” - *Dr. Shelley Craig*

In addition to large scale international projects, each regional network is currently conducting their own research studies focused on local gaps in knowledge to improve LGBTQ+ youth wellbeing. The U.S. region led by Dr. Michael Dentato (Loyola University Chicago) and Dr. Ashley Austin (Barry University) is currently recruiting for an exciting photo elicitation project known as snapshoT (see attached flyer). Through photos, SnapshoT is exploring the experiences of trans, gender-fluid, and non-binary youth living in the United States between the ages of 14 and 29. [Learn more](#)

Practical Tools

Video: The Hidden Struggle of Queer Jewish Youth



LGBTQ youth in some of New York City's most insular Jewish communities say they've faced feelings of isolation, fear of abandonment by their families, and even thoughts of suicide. Mordechai Levovitz and his team of social workers are stepping up to support these young people. [Watch here](#)

Checklist: Recommendations for LGBTQQ Mentoring

The LGBTQ supplement to *Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring* responds to a longstanding call to extend the reach and quality of mentoring relationships to one of our nation's most underserved, marginalized, and vulnerable populations — youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQQ). Part of a shared commitment by Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership to improve mentoring services to all children and youth across the country, the supplement offers step-by-step operations guidance to develop safer, more affirming, and responsive mentoring relationships for LGBTQ youth. [View here](#)



Articles/Research

Study: Trans Youth with Access to Puberty Blockers Have Significantly Lower Risk of Suicidal Thoughts Throughout Life

Transgender adults who had access to pubertal suppression treatment during adolescence had lower risks of suicidal thoughts during their lifetime, according to a new study. The research, published in the journal *Pediatrics* in January, is the first to specifically look at the correlations between the access to treatment of a gender-affirming medical procedure for transgender adolescents and suicidality. After analyzing data from more than 20,000 adults ages 18 to 36, researchers found that 90.2 percent of transgender adults who didn't have access to pubertal suppression during adolescence either thought about or planned on committing suicide — a rate that was significantly higher than the 75.3 percent for those who did have access to them. The results seem to confirm previous evidence that offering gender-affirming medical care for transgender youth can lead to lifetime improvement of mental health for transgender adults. [Read more](#)



The Trevor Project's National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health



The Trevor Project has released its first wide-ranging report from a cross-sectional national survey of LGBTQ youth across the United States. With over 34,000 respondents, it is the largest survey of LGBTQ youth mental health ever conducted and provides a critical understanding of the experiences impacting their lives. The survey provides new insights into the challenges that LGBTQ youth across the country face every day, including suicide, feeling sad or hopeless, discrimination, physical threats, and exposure to conversion therapy.

The data provides a sobering look at how far we still have to go to protect LGBTQ young lives. But the survey also reveals the resilience and diversity of LGBTQ youth and provides guidance on what can be done to enable them to survive and thrive. [Read report here](#)

Sexual Orientation and Suicide Attempt Disparities Among US Adolescents: 2009–2017

Sexual minority adolescents face mental health disparities relative to heterosexual adolescents. This study from The Official Journal of American Pediatrics evaluated temporal changes in US adolescent reported sexual orientation and suicide attempts by sexual orientation. Researchers used Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance data from six states that collected data on sexual orientation identity and four states that collected data on sex of sexual contacts continuously between 2009 and 2017. [Read here](#)



Policy News

Virginia Becomes First Southern State to Pass Comprehensive Nondiscrimination Protections for LGBTQ People



Lawmakers in Virginia have passed long-awaited legislation to protect LGBTQ people across the state from discrimination. The Virginia Values Act sailed through both chambers of the Virginia General Assembly and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, employment, public spaces, and credit transactions. Under current law, LGBTQ people in Virginia are at risk of being fired, evicted, or denied service in restaurants or stores

because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This legislation will require private employers with six or more employees to comply with the new protections. State and local government employees, as well as school board employees, are covered even if their workplace has fewer than six employees. Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat, has indicated he will sign it. [Learn more](#)

Amazon, Nike, and American Airlines Join Nearly 150 Companies Opposing Tennessee's Anti-LGBTQ Bills in a Letter to Lawmakers

Amazon, Nike, American Airlines, and dozens of other companies have taken a stand for LGBTQ rights in Tennessee. They are among the nearly 150 companies that signed a letter opposing Tennessee's anti-LGBTQ laws. The collective, known as Tennessee Businesses Against Discrimination, specifically calls out HB 836, a law that allows foster care and other child welfare organizations to refuse to place children into foster care or adoptive families that might violate their "religious or moral convictions." The collective requests that lawmakers not pursue any further legislation that targets and excludes the LGBTQ community. [Read here](#)



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