



February 2022 IN THIS ISSUE

The SOGIE Newsletter is a publication of The National Center for Youth with Diverse Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, & Expression at [The Institute for Innovation and Implementation](#), University of Maryland, Baltimore.

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16 Queer Black Trailblazers Who Made History

From 1960s civil rights activist Bayard Rustin to Chicago's first lesbian mayor, Lori Lightfoot, Black LGBTQ Americans have long made history with innumerable contributions to politics, art, medicine, and a host of other fields. "As long as there have been Black people, there have been Black LGBTQ and same-gender-loving people,"



David J. Johns, executive director of the National Black Justice Coalition, told NBC News. "Racism combined with the forces of stigma, phobia, discrimination, and bias associated with gender and sexuality have too often erased the contributions of members of our community." Read more about 16 of these trailblazers here. [Learn more](#)

Community Corner

Community Corner is a place where you can share news about the 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.

Jessi's House Provides Unconditional Love to LGBTQ+ Young Adults

Making the decision to come out can be difficult, even terrifying, for LGBTQ+ youth. It not only affects their understanding of themselves but also puts them at risk. It can cost them close relationships, put a strain on their mental health and even jeopardize basic needs like housing. Recognizing these challenges, a local organization is opening its doors to LGBTQ+ young people navigating



adulthood while also experiencing housing instability and homelessness. Jessi's House, a transitional home for LGBTQ+ young adults in Arkansas, will open in March. The house will offer a six-month residency for individuals 18 years and older, with a focus on providing support to those who are 18 to 25 years old. The residency is open to young adults from any location, but the organization places an emphasis on Arkansas. There are currently three spots open for residents, and Jessi's

House has plans to expand occupancy in the future. [Learn more](#)

Practical Tools

A Plethora of Pride: 25+ LGBTQ+ Books for Teens

LGBTQ+ books for teens have come a long way in recent years. At Book Riot, they often and unapologetically share lists like this one—and for good reason. Thanks to the tireless work of too many people and organizations to name, the world has become a safer place for young people who identify as queer. In fact, more teens are feeling comfortable openly identifying as LGBTQ+ than ever before. Significantly, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention noted a rise between 2015 and 2019. The percentage of youth aged 15 to 17 who reported being queer increased from 8.3% to 11.7%. [Read here](#)



"The Clinic" Short Film & Tip Sheet for Trans Inclusive Care



"The Clinic" is a short film and digital resource to highlight the need for more trans inclusive healthcare, and provide resources and tips for medical professionals seeking to make their offices and clinics more inclusive for LGBTQ+ patients. [Watch here](#)

An accompanying resource to "The Clinic," these tips are just the starting points of developing a trans-affirming practice. They come from real trans, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming people who have shared their experiences and hopes for their future medical interactions. When in doubt of how to best support your patient, do your own research and then ask them as respectfully as possible. [Read here](#)



Webinars/Virtual Events

Embracing Culturally Responsive Programs and Practices for Black & African American LGBTQ+ People *Wednesday, March 9, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. ET*

Join us for a 90 minute webinar and panel discussion on culturally adapting behavioral health practices for Black and African American LGBTQ+ people. The first 30 minutes will be a webinar discussion detailing systematic review findings on what types of evidence-based culturally responsive programs are effective in behavioral health services, followed by a 60-minute discussion from providers who have adapted their practices to meet the needs of their Black and African American LGBTQ+ clients. This workshop is hosted by The Institute's [Center of Excellence for LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health](#).



Register now: [Non-credit Registration](#)
[CEU Registration](#)
[CME Registration](#)

Working With Gender Diverse Youth During the COVID-19 Pandemic *Tuesday, March 15, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. ET*



NATIONAL LGBTQIA+ HEALTH
EDUCATION CENTER

A PROGRAM OF
THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

This webinar will assist health centers in recognizing and supporting the importance of access to gender-affirming care for transgender and gender diverse (TGD) youth. Participants will learn about the effects of COVID-19 on services for TGD youth and discover strategies for supporting patients, including information on how workflows, telehealth systems, and referral networks can be leveraged during a pandemic.

[Register here](#)

Panel Discussion on Disordered Eating Within Transgender Populations *Tuesday, March 22, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. ET*

Please join us for a panel discussion on disordered eating within transgender populations. Beginning with a discussion of gender dysphoria, the panel will address impacts of unrealistic expectations in the media, relevance to transgender people living with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and difficulty finding a provider that understands the complex intersections of gender dysphoria and disordered eating. The panel will conclude with implications for the field, including recommendations on how to identify and

address disordered eating and gender dysphoria with clients, as well as practical resources. This workshop is hosted by The Institute's [Center of Excellence for LGBTQ+ Behavioral Health](#) in partnership with the [National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders](#). [Register now](#)



Supporting Transgender & Gender Diverse Youth & Their Families in a Clinical Setting – 2022 Learning Collaborative Application

April, 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2022 Thursdays 3:00 - 4:30pm EST/12:00-1:30pm PST



NATIONAL LGBTQIA+ HEALTH
EDUCATION CENTER

A PROGRAM OF
THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

Access to pediatric gender-affirming care for transgender and gender diverse (TGD) youth is vital to positive mental and physical health outcomes and should be considered part of routine primary care. This program will engage pediatric primary care providers, mental health providers, health center administrators, and support staff in establishing welcoming and affirming clinic environments and engaging families in supporting their TGD children, with the aim of improving health outcomes. Providers will learn best practices for serving the families of TGD youth, and strategies for successfully responding to a variety of family and patient needs and priorities. [Learn more](#)

Survey Announcements

School Affecting Children & Family Mental Health During COVID-19

The National Federation of Families surveyed families last January to learn how they and their children were doing during that phase of the pandemic. The infographic that resulted from that survey has been shared amongst federal agencies, national organizations, and family organizations across the nation. They are attempting to repeat that survey to learn how families and children are coping a year later. This data will be analyzed and shared nationwide. Please share the link below with families and encourage them to complete the survey. This information is extremely important as we advocate for increased services and supports for our families and children. [Learn more](#)

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FAMILIES

Bringing Lived Experience to Family Support



HRC Foundation & UConn Launch 2022 LGBTQ+ Youth Survey

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation and researchers at the University of Connecticut are conducting a study to better understand the experiences of LGBTQ+ youth. The survey will ask



LGBTQ+ youth ages 13 to 18 about their experiences as an LGBTQ+ person at home, in school, and across various aspects of their daily lives. All responses will be confidential. HRC Foundation is committed to addressing disparities and inequities among LGBTQ+ youth. With over 2 million LGBTQ+ youth across high schools in

the United States, the data collected will allow greater understanding for addressing the needs of and supporting LGBTQ+ youth. Youth who complete the survey have the option to be compensated for their participation. [Learn more](#)

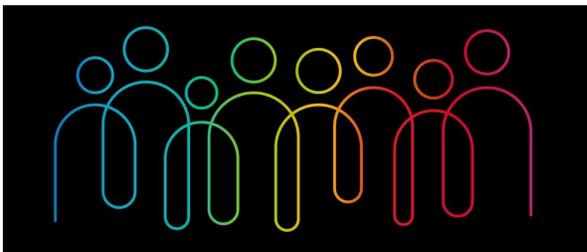
US Trans Survey Launches

The U.S. Trans Survey is the largest community-led survey of trans people and is instrumental to improving trans lives. Almost 28,000 trans people participated in the 2015 survey, and the information collected provided the largest-ever data set about trans experiences in the United States. [Learn more](#)



Articles/Research

Comorbidity Issues in Gender Diverse Youth: The Tangled Web



A recent survey of adolescents across the United States indicated that about 2% of middle and high school students identify as transgender or gender diverse (TGD). With increased research looking at the experiences of TGD individuals separately from their sexual minority peers, we have begun to better

understand cooccurring issues for this distinct population. Specifically, depression, self-injurious behaviors, substance use, disordered eating, and anxiety have been reported, as have high suicide attempt rates: at least 3 times higher than those of cisgender peers. Why are we seeing such increased rates of comorbidities with TGD individuals? Proposed by Hendricks and colleagues, the Gender Minority Stress and Resilience Model (GMSRM) is a framework through which we can understand the unique internal and external stressors that impact TGD individuals, as well as factors that contribute to resilience.

[Learn more](#)

New Report Highlights Racial Disparities Within LGBTQ+ Community

A new study from UCLA's Williams Institute (@WilliamsPolicy) found that LGBTQ+ people of color fared far worse than white LGBTQ+ adults based on several assessments of health and socioeconomic well-being. Additionally, the report found that nearly half of LGBTQ+ people of color live in low-income households, compared to 36 percent of white LGBTQ+ individuals. [Read more](#)



Homelessness Leads to Worsened Mental Health for LGBTQ+ Youth



Young Americans in the LGBTQ+ community experience homelessness at a higher rate than their peers—an issue that in turn increases mental health issues compared to their stably-housed peers, according to a new report from The Trevor Project. Adolescents have faced a growing mental health crisis in recent decades, one that was exacerbated at the start of the coronavirus

pandemic and that has particularly impacted marginalized or minority groups. According to the group's research, over one in four—or 28%—of LGBTQ+ adolescents have experienced homelessness or housing instability at some point in their lives. That number almost doubled for Native or Indigenous LGBTQ+ youth, nearly 44% of whom have experienced homelessness or housing instability. [Learn more](#)

Policy News

AZ: GOP bill would force teachers to out LGBTQ students to parents



Arizona Republicans have lined up behind a measure that would discipline teachers and open them up to lawsuits if they don't tell parents everything a student tells in them - even if the student confides that he or she is gay or transgender. The legislation, House Bill 2161, would make it illegal for a government employee to withhold information that is "relevant to the physical, emotional or mental

health of the parent's child," and specifically prevents teachers from withholding information about a student's "purported gender identity" or a request to transition to a gender other than the "student's biological sex." The bill would allow parents to sue school districts if teachers don't comply. [Learn more](#)

Leading U.S. Child Health & Welfare Groups Denounce Anti-LGBTQ+ Bills

A group of organizations devoted to attending to the medical, educational and developmental needs of children released an open letter today calling on state legislatures around the country to halt the

flood of discriminatory, anti-LGBTQ+ legislation being advanced. The 21 groups, which collectively represent more than 7 million youth-serving professionals and hundreds of child welfare organizations, called on lawmakers to reconsider moving forward with policies that will endanger vulnerable, marginalized populations.

[Learn more](#)



Texas Gov. Pushes Child Welfare Agency to Classify Gender-Affirming Care as Abuse



After a legislative session targeting families of transgender children, Texas' top Republican leaders are renewing a press to have state child welfare officials treat gender-affirming health care as child abuse. Gov. Greg Abbott sent a letter Tuesday to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services demanding that it "conduct prompt and thorough investigations" of parents or guardians who

obtain "abusive gender-transitioning procedures" for their children. [Learn more](#)

Trans People Face New Paperwork Hurdle in COVID-19 Vaccination Cards

Orion Rummler calls our attention to trans peoples' paperwork hurdle with COVID-19 vaccination cards: "Orly Mahoney changed their name in January 2021. In the weeks and months after, they took stock of the documents they would need to update, a "domino effect" of paperwork: Social Security, driver's license, insurance card, passport. Also on that list? Their COVID-19 vaccination card. Mahoney, a 26-year-old nonbinary medicine student, had received their first COVID-19 shot just one week before their legal name change went into effect. When they received their second dose a month later, they used the same card, but soon decided they wanted to change their name on it. Nobody at the clinic or their primary care office was able to help. [Learn more](#)



California Trans Inclusive Care Act Introduced



Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) introduced Senate Bill 923, the TGI Inclusive Care Act. This legislation requires health providers and staff who interact with transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex (TGI) people to undergo cultural competency training to help them provide inclusive care. These trainings must be facilitated by TGI-led organizations, and they must include the perspectives of TGI people. SB 923 also ensures that health plans' online directories include a search feature to list providers who offer gender-

affirming services. This legislation will help create a more inclusive and culturally competent healthcare system for TGI people across California. [Read here](#)

Mississippi Bill Would Block Minors From Legally Changing Their Name

A Mississippi state legislator introduced a bill last month seeking to prohibit incarcerated people from changing their names, as well as barring minors from legally changing their gender or name. The bill says minors cannot file a gender transition petition — nor can their parent, guardian or representative — without letters of support from a licensed physician, a licensed psychiatrist and a chancery clerk;



the clerk must also conduct an in-person interview with the minor. These provisions strike Carl Charles, an attorney at the New York-based LGBTQ+ civil rights organization Lambda Legal, as out of the ordinary for bills like this. Letters of support from medical professionals are typically required only to undergo gender-affirming medical care. Updating legal documents like birth certificates can be complex on its own, which Charles said prevents many minors from completing the process before turning 18. Coupled with the Real You Act, however, families would have to not only find doctors willing to provide letters of support, but also be able to afford such a service. What's more unusual, he said, is to require the approval of a chancery clerk, a profession that does not require any medical background or expertise. [Learn more](#)



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