

SOGIE

sexual orientation, gender
identity & gender expression

NEWS & RESOURCES



October 2020

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Addressing Behavioral Health Disparities among the LGBTQ Community is Focus of SSW Institute Grant Award

The [Institute for Innovation and Implementation](#) at the [University of Maryland School of Social Work \(SSW\)](#) has been awarded a 5-year, \$3.5 million grant to address LGBTQ+ disparities in the mental health and substance use disorder treatment systems. The grant, recently awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#), will allow the Institute and participating partners, [Affirmative Research](#) and [Judge Baker Children's Center, Harvard Medical School](#), to establish the Center for Excellence on Behavioral Health Disparities Impacting the LGBTQ+ Community. The Center for Excellence website will launch soon and will include our webinar series, online learning modules, training in evidence-informed clinical interventions, and opportunities for tailored technical assistance. [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.

Lorena Borjas Changed Thousands of Lives. Liaam Winslet Is Carrying Her Legacy through Colectivo Intercultural TRANSgrediendo

Lorena Borjas, who dedicated her life to the trans community of Queens, N.Y., died of complications from COVID-19 in March. Those she mentored are working to realize the dreams she left unfinished. Through her legendary activism on behalf of LGBTQ+ New Yorkers, sex workers, and immigrants, she became a de facto mother to a community of Latinx transgender people in Queens, a mainstay for so many. Even in death, she is still serving her chosen family, helping transgender people who are being affected by the virus that took her away from them too soon.



In that posthumous mission, Borjas has help: Liam Winslet is now the acting executive director of the Colectivo Intercultural TRANSgrediendo (CITG), an advocacy organization Borjas founded and presided over as CEO until her untimely passing. Winslet is honored to be carrying out her departed mentor's legacy even as she mourns her loss. She tells *them.* that the funds Borjas was raising at the time of her death have already helped “more than 162 transgender people, immigrants, and sex workers who need support due to the impact of COVID-19,” most powerfully through food delivery.

“I will follow what she started,” Winslet says. “I will remain firm, constant, and with great determination for our rights as a community, I will not stop. Like Lorena did until the last breath of her life, I will continue fighting.” Winslet credits Borjas with saving her life. After fleeing anti-transgender discrimination in Ecuador for the United States in 2012, Winslet began the long process of seeking political asylum, ultimately securing it two years later with Borjas' help. [Read more](#)

Practical Tools

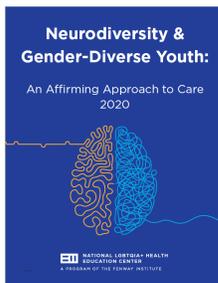
LGBTQ History Month Video: A Brief History of Queer Political Action



October is LGBTQ History Month! In this video from *them.*, Academy award-winning actor and singer Billy Porter takes us on a journey through time to explore the more obscure political actions that have changed the course of LGBTQIA+ history. Before that fateful day at Stonewall in 1969, there were nearly 50 years worth of queer political actions that took place, but today they are still overlooked when regarding

modern history and civil rights movements. [Watch here](#)

Neurodiversity & Gender-Diverse Youth: An Affirming Approach to Care



A new publication from the National LGBTQIA+ Health Education Center, *Neurodiversity and Gender-Diverse Youth: An Affirming Approach to Care 2020*, provides recommendations based on research and clinical experiences with gender-diverse, neurodiverse youth.

This publication provides insight from qualitative research and clinical experience into the unique experience of gender-diverse, neurodiverse youth. [Learn more](#)

Emergency Preparedness and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) People: What Health Centers Need to Know

Health centers often serve as a key resource during natural disasters or other public health emergencies. Before an emergency strikes, it is important for health centers to consider the unique needs and circumstances of vulnerable populations, including LGBT individuals and families in the community. [Read here](#)



Webinars/Virtual Events

Webinar: COVID-19 and Sexual Health Nov. 4, 1-2 p.m. EST

Dr. Ken Mayer will discuss sexual health in the time of COVID-19. Participants will learn how to counsel patients on the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and how to protect themselves in the context of sexual health. Mayer will offer strategies for providers to help patients minimize the risk of SARS-CoV-2 acquisition while affirming the desire for intimacy, and participants will learn how telehealth technology can be used to provide remote sexual health counseling and screening for sexually transmitted infections. [Register here](#)



Seeking Trans Participants for the SnapshoT Photo Elicitation Study



Loyola University Chicago is conducting a national online study called **SnapshoT**, using photos on the experience of transgender and gender-diverse youth living in the United States. If you are between 14 and 29 years old and identify as trans, you could participate and be eligible to win a gift card for completing this study. [Complete survey](#)

Articles/Research

New Research Reveals Latinx LGBTQ Youth at 30 Percent Greater Risk of Suicide



In a new report, the Trevor Project finds that Latinx LGBTQ youth have a 30 percent higher risk of suicide than non-Latinx LGBTQ youth and that this increase is due to fears of personal or family member detainment or deportation. Several disturbing findings emerged in a new analysis of a national survey of 40,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth by the Trevor Project — the leading national organization providing crisis

intervention and suicide prevention services to these young people under the age of 25. [Learn more](#)

Worsening Perceptions of Family Connectedness and Parent Support for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Adolescents

Lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) adolescents often report compromised relations with their families. Given the recent changes in societal attitudes toward LGB individuals, in respect to rights for marriage and other legal statuses, this study explores whether or not there has been a change in how LGB and heterosexual adolescents perceive their family relations over time. The study found that while levels



of perceived family connectedness and parent support have increased for heterosexual adolescents since 1998, the same increases were not found for LGB adolescents. Among LGB participants, levels of perceived connectedness/support generally decreased in each survey wave, especially among females. Alarming, significant disparities in these perceptions remained for LGB youth over time. The findings have implications for supportive interventions focused on LGB adolescents and their families and, in particular, the role of father support. [Read more](#)

It Gets Better Turns 10 while Personal Stories Project Documents LGBTQ Lives



Ten years ago, from midsummer to early fall 2010, a pandemic of suicide deaths affected the LGBTQI community across the United States as nearly a dozen adolescents killed themselves. Some identifying as gay, others trans, and others subjected to horrific bullying because those young people were “perceived to be gay,” all ended their lives all too early. As a result, noted Seattle-based newspaper advice columnist, LGBTQ activist, and social commentator Dan Savage and his partner/now spouse Terry Miller were determined to make a difference and attempt to prevent other LGBTQ youth from killing themselves and to,

as Savage later said, “give these kids hope.”

Storytelling is also at the heart of another Los Angeles-based nonprofit that records the stories of LGBTQ people, which was very much inspired by the It Gets Better Project. The brainchild of its executive director, Charles Chan Massey, and his husband, Joseph Chan, who serves as a board member and treasurer, the Personal Stories Project documents LGBTQ people’s lives from all sectors of society around the United States and the globe. The difference, though, Chan-Massey told the *Blade*, was that in addition to preserving the stories, he and his spouse wanted to find a way to increase donations to LGBT-focused 501(c)(3) organizations. [Read here](#)

Research Highlight: Differences in Suicide Risk Among Subgroups of Sexual and Gender Minority College Students

Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for people in the U.S. between 15 and 24 years old. While rates of depression, suicidal thoughts, and suicidal behaviors are high among all college students, research has found rates for these risk factors to be higher among adolescents and young adults identifying as a sexual minority (referring to sexual orientation) or gender minority (referring to gender identity).



There are many subgroups within sexual minority populations (including gay, lesbian, and bisexual) and within gender minority populations (including transgender, genderqueer, and nonbinary). While research has shown a clear distinction in suicide risk between heterosexual and non-heterosexual groups, fewer studies have investigated differences in risk between subgroups of sexual minority populations: for example, comparing risk of those identifying as bisexual with those identifying as pansexual. Within gender minority populations, few studies have directly examined mental health or suicide risk among those identifying as transgender relative to those identifying as genderqueer or nonbinary. Examining differences in suicide risk among many sexual and gender minority subgroups could help researchers determine various subgroup needs, with implications for improved suicide prevention interventions. [Read here](#)

Policy News

U.S. House Approves 988 Number for Suicide Prevention Lifeline

The Trevor Project commended the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, which when implemented will allow Americans to simply dial 988 to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, instead of the current 10-digit number. Passed by the Senate in May and now the House, this is the first bill that is specifically LGBTQ-inclusive to pass Congress unanimously in history. The FCC formally approved a two-year phase-in plan for

the new 988 number on July 16. The passage of this bill was a necessary, concurrent step as it authorizes the funding mechanisms needed for 988 to be successful and contains several key LGBTQ-inclusive provisions, including requirements for LGBTQ cultural competency training for all Lifeline counselors and the establishment of an integrated voice response option for LGBTQ youth and other high-risk populations to reach specialized care. [Learn more](#)



Human Rights Campaign Releases Healthcare Equality Index 2020



The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) released the 2020 Healthcare Equality Index (HEI), a national LGBTQ+ benchmarking tool that for 13 years has evaluated health care facilities' policies and practices related to the equity and inclusion of their LGBTQ+ patients, visitors, and employees. HEI 2020 evaluates more than 1,700 health care facilities nationwide. Every year, HRC recognizes the health care facilities that participate in HEI for their

dedication and commitment to LGBTQ inclusion. This year, however, HRC also extends its deepest gratitude to these facilities for their courageous fight against COVID-19 and commitment to addressing racism and injustice. [Learn more](#)

TLDEF Leads Coalition Opposing HUD Anti-Transgender Emergency Housing Rule

In July, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development proposed a malicious rule that would encourage discrimination against transgender and non-binary people based on crude stereotypes. The proposed rule encourages emergency shelters to use, among others, visual cues that may contradict a person's gender identity and disregards that transgender women, especially Black and other trans women of color, are at the greatest risk of violence. In September, the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund (TLDEF) submitted comments opposing the proposed federal rule that demonstrate it is unconstitutional and would expose trans people to further discrimination and violence if enacted. Joining TLDEF's comments are partners at Arianna's Center, Gay Men's Health Crisis, Marsha's House, Metro Trans Umbrella Group, Princess Janae's Place, and Translatinx Network. [Learn more](#)



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