OUR MISSION
We are dedicated to research, service and training around issues of mental health among LGBTQ+ communities. Our mission is to eliminate existing health disparities and related social injustices experienced by LGBTQ+ persons. We are bringing awareness to these inequities, as well as disseminating data, validated tools and best practices to improve access to quality mental health care for LGBTQ+ communities.

OUR WORK AIMS TO:
1. Address gaps in understanding of LGBTQ+ mental health and health care and related topics such as HIV, substance use and healthy relationship dynamics
2. Develop and evaluate tools to examine and address LGBTQ+ mental health and related health care needs
3. Disseminate and support the implementation of tools to address LGBTQ+ mental health and related health care needs

UMD-PRC Priorities
Research: We are identifying, assessing and promoting evidence based programs and training modules for students, providers and researchers aimed at LGBTQ+ culturally competent mental health and health care.
Service: We are serving as a resource core for mental health care providers, service providers, LGBTQ+ individuals and allies, researchers and policy makers.
Training: We are creating and providing mentoring opportunities for LGBTQ+ researchers, students and allies, including programs for undergraduate, graduate students and junior faculty interested in LGBTQ+ research.

Visit: sph.umd.edu/prc
LGBTQ+ Mental Health Disparities

›› Lesbian, gay and bisexual people are 1.5 to 3.5 times as likely as heterosexual people to meet the criteria for a past-year mood, anxiety, or alcohol use disorder.

›› Transgender individuals have a high prevalence of victimization, mental health issues and suicide and are less likely to have health insurance than heterosexual or LGB individuals.

Prioritizing LGBTQ+ Health

›› Healthy People 2020, the federal government’s 10-year prevention agenda for building a healthier nation, called for national action to reduce LGBT population health disparities including inadequate health care, suicide, homelessness, cancer, bullying victimization, STI/HIV, substance abuse and mental health concerns.

›› In 2016, the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities designated LGBT people as a health disparity population.

The University of Maryland Prevention Research Center is supported by a five-year (2019-2024) $3.7 million cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is one of 25 academic institutions funded to conduct applied public health prevention research across the nation, and the only one to focus on LGBTQ+ health.

For more information:

Prevention Research Center
4200 Valley Drive, Suite 1242L
College Park, MD 20742
Email: umd-prc@umd.edu

sph.umd.edu/prc

Ongoing Research

Amazon Turk: LGBTQ+ Mental Health Care Needs Assessment: A national survey assessing mental health needs and experiences in care for LGBTQ+ individuals.

Webinar Needs Assessment: A web-based qualitative study identifying the current needs, resources and gaps in practice and research for LGBTQ+ clients and providers.

Mental Health Professional Association LGBTQ+ Policies and Guidelines Analysis: This study seeks to examine the protections for sexual and gender minorities in the institutional policies of mental health professional organizations.

Sexual Gender Diversity Learning Community SGDLC Implementation Project: This project seeks to evaluate the quality and implementation of an evidence-informed LGBTQ cultural competency training for mental health care providers.

Simulated Patient Assessment and Feedback for Mental Health Provider LGBTQ+ Cultural Sensitivity: The development and evaluation of a mental health provider LGBTQ+ competency assessment using actors to simulate clinic interactions.

Founding UMD-PRC Network

School of Public Health:
They include faculty, graduate and undergraduate students from the UMD School of Public Health’s Departments of Behavioral and Community Health, Family Science, Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Health Policy and Management, as well as the Center for Healthy Families, Maryland Center for Health Equity and the Horowitz Center for Health Literacy.

University Partners:

At the University of Maryland, College Park:
• UMD College of Education
• University Health Center
• LGBT Equity Center
• Office of Diversity & Inclusion

At the University of Maryland, Baltimore:
• School of Social Work

An ever expanding list of local, state, and national partners:
• Behavioral Health System Baltimore
• Hearts and Homes for Youth
• Human Rights Campaign
• Maryland Department of Health
• Outside the Box Counseling
• REACH Health Services
• Sexually Transmitted Infections Community Coalition

Proritizing LGBTQ+ Health

Healthy People 2020, the federal government’s 10-year prevention agenda for building a healthier nation, called for national action to reduce LGBT population health disparities including inadequate health care, suicide, homelessness, cancer, bullying victimization, STI/HIV, substance abuse and mental health concerns.

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