Sexual & Gender Minority Research Activities at NIH

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Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Research at NIH

- Background
- SGM Research Strategic Plan
- Strategic Plan Progress
- NIH SGM Grants Portfolio
Background
The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding

- Commissioned by NIH in 2009, published in 2011
- Response to a call for a state of the science report and information on existing NIH LGBT research portfolio
- Includes an extensive literature review of existing research on LGBT health
- First-ever comprehensive report on LGBT health
IOM-Recommended Research Agenda

The **2011 Institute of Medicine Report** recommended a research agenda led by the NIH that includes the following areas:

- Demographic research
- Social influences on the lives of LGBT people
- Inequities in health care
- Intervention research
- Transgender-specific health needs
SGM Definition

“Sexual and gender minority” is an umbrella phrase that encompasses lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations as well as those whose sexual orientation, gender identity and expressions, or reproductive development varies from traditional, societal, cultural, or physiological norms.
Sexual and Gender Minority Population Estimates

4,007,834 (3.4%)

2,648,033 (2.2%)

1,359,801 (1.1%)

Women

4,030,946 (3.6%)

1,539,912 (1.4%)

2,491,034 (2.2%)

Men

1,397,150 (0.6%)

Transgender

Lesbian/Gay

Bisexual

Sources: Gates, 2011 (data on gay, lesbian, and bisexual estimates); Flores, 2016 (data on transgender estimates)
SGM-Related Health Disparities

• Contemporary health disparities based on sexual orientation and gender identity are rooted in and reflect the historical stigmatization of SGM populations (IOM, 2011).

• Sexual and gender minorities still face unequal treatment and are denied equal legal protections causing stress in their daily lives (Knauer, 2012).

• Many providers lack knowledge about health disparities affecting SGM persons of all ages, and SGM individuals often experience hostility and discrimination in care (IOM, 2011).
Health Disparities, Cont.

• Transgender youth have two to three times higher risk of depression, anxiety disorder, suicidal ideation, suicide attempt, and self-harm without lethal intent (Reisner, et al., 2015).

• Approximately one quarter (22%-28%) of transgender women are living with HIV; more than half (estimated 56%) of black/African American transgender women are living with HIV (Clark, et al., 2017).

• Higher rates of smoking (Buchting, et al., 2017) in the transgender community than among general population.
SGM Research Coordinating Committee

The NIH Sexual & Gender Minority Research Coordinating Committee provides a forum within NIH for discussing the diverse health research issues of SGM communities and serves as a catalyst for developing additional research and research training initiatives in this area.
Sexual and Gender Minority Research Office (SGMRO)

- Created in 2015
- Within the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives
- Established as a part of NIH’s response to the 2011 Institute of Medicine Report on LGBT Health Research
SGMRO—What We Do

- **Coordinate** sexual and gender minority (SGM) health research activities across NIH
- **Represent** NIH at conferences and events focused on SGM research
- **Serve** as a resource for the extramural and NIH communities about SGM-related research activities
- **Connect** extramural researchers with key NIH contacts
- **Convene** conferences and workshops to inform priority setting and research activities
- **Collaborate** with NIH Institutes and Centers on the development of SGM health research reports
- **Manage** information dissemination related to SGM research
- **Leverage** resources and develop initiatives to support SGM health research
Sexual & Gender Minority Research Strategic Plan & Progress to Date
NIH SGM Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Expand the Knowledge Base of SGM Health and Well-being Through NIH-Supported Research
Goal One Progress

Funding Opportunity Announcements

Measurement Workshop
NIH SGM Strategic Plan

Goal 2: Remove Barriers to Planning, Conducting, and Reporting NIH-Supported Research about SGM Health and Well-being
Goal Two Progress

Gender Identity Data Collection

Health Disparity Population Designation
NIH SGM Strategic Plan

Goal 3: Strengthen the Community of Researchers and Scholars Who Conduct Research Relevant to SGM Health and Well-being

Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office
Goal Three Progress

Regional SGM Research Seminars

Investigator Awards in SGM Health Research
NIH SGM Strategic Plan

Goal 4: Evaluate Progress on Advancing SGM Research
Goal Four Progress
NIH SGM Grants Portfolio

Source: NIH Reporter
FY 2017, Number of SGM-Related Projects by NIH Institute/Center/Office (N = 379)
FY 2015-2017, Number of SGM-Related Projects by NIH Institute/Center/Office
(2015 = 301, 2016 = 334, 2017 = 379)
FY 2017, Proportion of SGM Projects by Disease Area/Health Condition (N=379)
Questions?

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Citations


