KEY CONCEPTS

BILOGICAL SEX

GENDER IDENTITY

GENDER EXPRESSION

SEXUAL ORIENTATION
EVOLUTION OF UNDERSTANDING

KINSEY SCALE

MOVING FROM BINARY TO NON-BINARY
KEY TERMS

LESBIAN / GAY / BISEXUAL / PANSEXUAL

ASEXUAL

TRANSGENDER / TRANSEXUAL / FTM / MTF

NON-BINARY / GENDERQUEER

INTERSEX

QUEER
The Gender Unicorn

Gender Identity
- Female / Woman / Girl
- Male / Man / Boy
- Other Gender(s)

Gender Expression
- Feminine
- Masculine
- Other

Sex Assigned at Birth
- Female
- Male
- Other / Intersex

Physically Attracted to
- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

Emotionally Attracted to
- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

To learn more, go to: www.transstudent.org/gender

Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore
NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROJECT SUMMARY

LGBTQ perspectives, issues, and concerns in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties of South Carolina
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Five focus groups were conducted based on initial online survey findings
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25% of queer people have few or no family members who know their sexual orientation.

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MORE THAN HALF of all respondents experienced being criticized by their family for their LGBTQ identity.

57% of respondents said they did not experience having someone in their family who helped them feel good about themselves.
25% of queer people have few or no family members who know their sexual orientation.

40% of trans people have few or no family members who know their gender identity.

MORE THAN HALF of all respondents experienced being criticized by their family for their LGBTQ identity.

57% of respondents said they did not experience having someone in their family who helped them feel good about themselves.

75 individuals reported having been kicked out of their homes because of their LGBTQ identity.
“My father and his entire side of the family disowned me for being gay when I was 16.”
Conclusion:
When families don’t offer support, it fosters a feeling that LGBTQ individuals aren’t loved by the people who mean the most to them.
WORK
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41% heard people at work criticizing LGBTQ people.

165 respondents were told not to let others know their identity in the workplace.
Those who participated in the study overall have lower incomes than the general public—even though our respondents had more education than the general public.

On average, non-cisgender individuals make even less than cisgender people.
“[I was] forced to go back into the closet for 15 more years in order to secure my employment.”
Conclusion:

LGBTQ workers need to feel safe in their places of employment and respected for who they are where they work.
HEALTHCARE
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“My doctor hadn’t even heard of PrEP.”
“I don’t think I’ve ever had a doctor proactively ask me about my sexual orientation or gender identity. If they don’t ask for this basic information, how can they know how to treat me?”
HEALTHCARE

51% reported their partner not being treated like family by their healthcare providers.
HEALTHCARE

Conclusion:
Healthcare providers need to take steps to educate themselves to better serve the LGBTQ community.
QUALITY OF LIFE
52% said they have felt sad or depressed for a long time
QUALITY OF LIFE

52% said they have felt sad or depressed for a long time

33% said they have self-medicated
1 out of 4 said they have thought about killing themself—5X THE S.C. AVERAGE*

“Mental health resources are lacking overall in the South... [and] for marginalized communities it’s lacking even more.”

*According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 4.2% of all South Carolinians have thought about killing themself
207 people said they have been attacked on the street before
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35% said they have felt they could not show affection in public in the last year
There are places where my wife and I go and we immediately get a bad vibe. It’s like, ‘Nope. We’re not holding hands here. This is not a safe space.’”
30% said they have considered moving from the Tri-County area
**Conclusion:**

Mental health professionals need to be aware of the specific challenges LGBTQ people face and policy makers need to take steps to create communities that are safer and more welcoming to the LGBTQ community.
INTERSECTIONS OF IDENTITY

- LGBTQ Elders
- LGBTQ Youth
- LGBTQ Homelessness
- LGBTQ People of Color
- Sexuality / Sexual Health
- Underground Economy / Sex Work
POLICY MAKERS & CIVIC LEADERS

- Advocate for and pass uniform non-discrimination laws and ordinances that include sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression
- Advocate for and pass ban on LGBTQ conversion therapy (also known as “reparative therapy”)
- Enact policies that contractors may not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment on the basis sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression
- Establish a Commission on LGBTQ Issues to study the issues that exist for LGBTQ residents, make policy and legislative recommendations, and work to effectuate their implementation
RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMUNITY MEMBERS & ALLIES

• Advocate for LGBTQ-inclusive protections and policies within your workplace, school, religious group, or social club

• Be visible— Attend rallies, festivals, days of remembrance services, and fundraisers to visibly support the LGBTQ community

• Support businesses that have LGBTQ-inclusive anti-discrimination policies

• Schedule a time to talk to someone at AFFA about how you can get involved
RECOMMENDATIONS

MEDICAL & MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

- Thoughtfully update intake forms and train all patient-facing employees on the "who, what, why and where"

- Update our language to be inclusive of all orientations and identities

- Regularly attend LGBTQ cultural competency CEU offerings

- Provide visual clues for LGBTQ patients that this is a safe place

- Remember the intersections at which LGBTQ people live
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
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This report was made possible by these generous contributors:

LINDA KETNER • MUSC COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS • WESTON MILLIKEN
CHRIS DESINO • BRANDON OSBORNE • PALMETTO COMMUNITY CARE

Thank you to our community partners for their assistance with recruitment:

Board of Directors of the Alliance For Full Acceptance
College of Charleston Community Assistance Program
Joseph P. Riley Center for Livable Communities
MUSC College of Health Professions
Freeman Foundation

“Living LGBTQ in Central Alabama” Planning Committee
Spartanburg County LGBTQ Needs Assessment Team
Morten Group Chicago
Grindr4Equality