

Social Justice Framework for GLBTT-SQ* Wellness

Social Justice Issues Outside and Inside GLBTT-SQ Populations

Homophobia (Social and Legal) Biphobia Racism Ableism Patriarchy Heterosexism Transphobia
 Colonialism Ageism Sexism Gender Stereotyping Diaspora Misogyny

Internalization in Individual

Marginalization/Stigmatization
 Isolation from family and community
 Social invisibility /Lack of role models
 Low self-esteem
 Lack of confidence
 Poverty/Underemployment
 Closetry/self-denial
 Disenfranchisement/powerlessness
 Hypervigilance/over-achieving
 Dropping out of school/low attainment
 diminished careers
 Homelessness/street involvement
 Guilt/shame
 Fear/pervasive personal insecurity
 Spiritual deprivation
 Inner turmoil and psychic pain
 Mistrust of health care system

Externalization: Societal Discrimination

Individual Acts

Violence
 Child abuse
 Prejudice
 Bullying (esp. in schools)
 Shunning
 Alienation from family
 and community
 Verbal/physical abuse
 Humiliation
 Disdaining/denigration
 Harassment/ Ridicule
 Hostile environments

Systemic Discrimination (Stigmatization)

Heterosexism: assumption of heterosexuality
 and/or privileging of heterosexuality
 Ignorance of GLBTT-SQ sexuality and communities
 Invisibility of GLBTT-SQ issues in policy & programs
 Devaluing/negating GLBTT-SQ culture & relationships
 Tokenism
 Ignorance of GLBTT-SQ health issues
 Barriers to access
 Social Exclusion
 Reductionism to our sexuality
 Omission/Erasure from research
 Bias in health care providers
 Nonpublic health infrastructure for GLBTT-SQ people
 Religious oppression
 Poisoned work environments

Determinants of Health

Income & Social Status Social Support Networks Employment/Working Conditions Social Environments
 Physical Environments Education and Literacy Healthy child development Personal Health Practices & Coping Skills
 Culture Biology & Genetic Endowment Health Services Gender

Conditions that affirm positive choices for coming out (proposed for GLBTT-SQ population)

Vulnerability/Susceptibility

Individual

Chronic anxiety/stress
 Depression/despair
 Social isolation and lack of community
 Suicidal ideation, contemplation and attempts
 Addictive behaviors (alcohol, party and injection drugs, sex, tobacco)
 Sexual risk taking
 Sexual exploitation
 Eating disorders
 Denial of sexual self

Systemic

Mental Health problems
 Lack of appropriate medical/health/social services
 Invisibility in/exclusion from health promotion
 Obstacles to accessing health and social services
 Insufficient prevention initiatives
 Mistrust of health-care system
 Delayed seeking of health care and treatment
 Inappropriate/inadequate health and social care provision
 Lack of GLBTT-SQ community resources

Known Outcomes—GLBTT-SQ Health Disparities

Increased suicide rates: at least 3X in GLBT youth, 14X in gay men	Higher rates of alcohol use: estimated 30% of GLBT adults have problem with alcohol	Increased anal cancer: 80X more common in gay and bisexual men
Higher smoking rates: 50% for gay men and 100% for lesbians	Higher rates of STIs in gay men and transpeople	Higher levels of eating disorders in gay men
Increasing rates of HIV in gay men/youth	Higher rates of Hepatitis A & B in gay men/youth	Higher rates of homelessness and street involvement in GLBT youth
Higher rate of depression— 3 to 5 times greater than in heterosexuals	Higher rates of unmet health care needs in GLBT people (21.8%) compared to heterosexuals (12.7%)	Higher rates of sexual abuse in GLBT youth
Higher rates of violence: 70% GLBT have been verbally abused and 25% have been physically abused	Cost of Social Exclusion: 5,500 premature deaths in Canada and \$8B in costs annually	

*Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, Two-Spirit and Questioning.