Abstract

The literature on violence against LGBTQ+ people, shows that members of the queer community face a higher level of harassment and violence than the general public, possibly leading to higher suicide rates. The purpose of this literature review is to find gaps in the literature concerning the availability of social services available to the queer community. A study done in accordance with an intersectional framework, found that sexual and gender minorities of color faced more overall instances of verbal, physical, and sexual assault than whites. Black respondents particularly found that their queer identity was at odds with black cultural norms. Respondents said that queer behaviors were considered “too white” (Meyer, 2012). In a study conducted in 2015, 32.5% of transgender people attempted suicide. Other studies found that the lifetime attempted suicide rate of transgender people could be as high as 41% (Haas et al, 2014). This is significantly higher than the lifetime attempted suicide rate of the general population which is measured at 9% (Nock et al, 2008). The theoretical framework hypothesized in this literature review attributes the higher prevalence of harassment and lifetime attempted suicide to the theory of intersectionality across race, class, gender, and sexual orientation. Another theoretical framework that will be used is social capital theory in that, the lack of social capital in queer communities, such as: counseling and mental health services, community or school organizations, and the support of friends and family, may be associated with higher suicide rates among this group.

References

Haas AP, Rodgers PL, Herman JL. Suicide Attempts Among Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Adults: Findings of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey. American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and The Williams Institute; 2014

Meyer, D. (2012). An intersectional analysis of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people’s evaluations of anti-queer violence. Gender & Society, 26(6), 856-860.

Nock MK, Borges G, Bromet EJ, Alonso J, Angermeyer M, Beautrais A, Bruffaerts R, Chiu WT, de Girolamo G, Gluzman S, de Graaf R, Gureje O, Haro JM, Huang Y, Karam E, Kessler RC, Lepine JP, Levinson D, Medina-Mora ME, Ono Y, Posada-Villa J, Williams D Br J Psychiatry. 2008 Feb; 192(2):98-105.

Reisner, S. L., Vetters, R., Leclerc, M., Zaslow, S., Wolfrum, S., Shumer, D., & Mimiaga, M. J. (2015). Mental health of transgender youth in care at an adolescent urban community health center: a matched retrospective cohort study. Journal of Adolescent Health, 56(3), 274-279.