

LGBTQ Issues and Child Trauma



Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning (LGBTQ) youth experience trauma at higher rates than their straight peers. Common traumas experienced by these youth include bullying, harassment, traumatic loss, intimate partner violence, and physical and sexual abuse, as well as traumatic forms of societal stigma, bias and rejection.

Historically, professionals have failed to recognize and meet the needs of traumatized LGBTQ youth, leading to poor engagement, ineffective treatment and in some cases, perpetuating the youth's traumatic experiences. To ensure that these youth receive the care they deserve, providers need resources to create safe spaces and familiarize themselves with the issues facing traumatized LGBTQ youth.

This 25-minute video helps professionals learn about the impact of trauma on LGBTQ youth; how bias impedes optimal care, and practical steps for creating safe and welcoming environments for traumatized LGBTQ youth. The video features five LGBTQ youth and National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) professionals. Youth describe how trauma and bias have impacted their ability to feel safe when seeking services. Presenters discuss specific steps that professionals and organizations can take to create safer and more welcoming environments for traumatized LGBTQ youth.

NCTSN LGBTQ Resources

Safe Places. Safe Spaces. Creating Welcoming and Inclusive Environments for Traumatized LGBTQ Youth Video and Resource Guide —

<http://nctsn.org/trauma-types/sexual-abuse>

LGBTQ Youth and Sexual Abuse: Information for Mental Health Professionals —

http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/lgbtq_tipsheet_for_professionals.pdf

Transforming Trauma in LGBTQ Youth Speaker Series —

<http://learn.nctsn.org/course/index.php?categoryid=40>

Impact of Polyvictimization on LGBTQ Youth and Adults —

<http://learn.nctsn.org/course/view.php?id=211>

Spotlight on Culture: Trust and Acceptance Can Encourage LGBTQ Youth to Disclose Abuse —

http://nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/lgbtq_youth.pdf

Culture and Trauma Brief: Trauma Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Questioning Youth —

http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/culture_and_trauma_brief_LGBTQ_youth.pdf

Trauma Among Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth —

<http://learn.nctsn.org/mod/page/view.php?id=439>

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) was created by Congress in 2000 as part of the Children's Health Act to raise the standard of care and increase access to services for children and families who experience or witness traumatic events. This unique network of frontline providers, family members, researchers, and national partners is committed to changing the course of children's lives by improving their care and moving scientific gains quickly into practice across the U.S. The NCTSN is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and coordinated by the UCLA-Duke University National Center for Child Traumatic Stress (NCCTS), which guides NCTSN collaborative efforts.

The NCTSN consists of 79 currently funded centers and over 120 affiliate (formerly funded) centers and individuals, working in hospitals, universities, and community-based programs in 43 states to accomplish the NCTSN mission by:

- providing clinical services
- developing and disseminating new interventions and resource materials
- offering education and training programs
- collaborating with established systems of care
- engaging in data collection and evaluation
- informing public policy and awareness efforts

The NCTSN's website provides a range of resources for professionals and the public about child traumatic stress, including products, fact sheets, training opportunities, and access to the latest research and resources.

For more information about child traumatic stress and the NCTSN, visit www.nctsn.org.