

Articles on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Populations

The following document is a compiled list of research based journal articles on gay, lesbian, and transgender populations. It is a valuable resource for instructors, students, researchers, and clinicians interested in this topic. This annotated bibliography can be useful in locating articles, incorporating information into courses, and becoming familiar with the special needs and issues of these populations. Each article is organized alphabetically by authors' last name and located under its corresponding subject areas. The subject areas are as follows: Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs, Community, Children and Youth, Interventions, Human Behavior, Policy, Research, and Health. Many articles are cross listed among multiple subject areas.

Mental Health:

Balsam, K.F., Huang, B., Fieland, K.C., Simoni, J.M., & Walters, K.L. (2004). Culture, trauma, and wellness: A comparison of heterosexual and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and two-spirit Native Americans. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 10(3), 287-301.

This study examined native cultural participation, trauma, physical and mental health, and substance use among 2 samples. The first sample was 25 American Indian and Alaska Native adults who identified themselves as either lesbian, gay, bisexual, or two-spirit participants. The comparative group was identified as heterosexual. The results of this study indicate that when compared to their heterosexual counterparts, two-spirit participants reported higher rates of childhood physical abuse and trauma within their families, higher levels of psychological symptoms, and more mental health service utilization. They also reported differences in patterns of alcohol use and were more likely to have used illicit drugs.

This research study can be used in mental health coursework to discuss unique challenges that ethnic and sexual minority groups face in regards to mental health and society.

Bockting, W., Knudson, G., & Goldberg, J.M. (2006). Counseling and mental health care of transgender adults and loved ones. Retrieved from the Transgender Health Program at www.vch.ca/transhealth.

This is a comprehensive mental health manual for transgender individuals and their loved ones. It addresses many issues including: gender assessment, hormonal or surgical treatment of gender dysphoria, psychotherapy for gender concerns, counseling of loved ones, assessment and treatment of mental health issues specifically for transgender individuals, and specific transgender counseling for isolation, substance abuse, violence, and sexual concerns. This manual is valuable to assist clinicians working with this population including: social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, nurses, physicians, and counselors.

This is a valuable resource in understanding issues and treatment needs of transgender individuals and their loved ones. This can be used in discussing mental health and substance abuse in social work courses.

Carter, C.E. & Goldfried, M.R. (2006). The impact of client sexual orientation and gender on clinical judgments and diagnosis of borderline personality disorder. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 62(6), 751-770.

This study attempted to address the issue regarding individuals who have difficulty coming out as gay or bisexual often get diagnosed with borderline personality disorder. 141 psychologists evaluated a client with problems resembling borderline personality disorder and sexual identity crisis. Results of this study revealed effect of sexual orientation for male clients, but not for female clients. Male clients who were perceived as gay or bisexual or with partners of unspecified gender were more likely diagnosed with borderline personality disorder. Therapists were more confident and willing to work with female clients. This study attempted to uncover how clients' gender and sexual orientation influence therapists' clinical judgments. Therapists' bias may have contributed to the outcomes of this study.

This is a very interesting article to use in mental health courses to address issues around assessment, labeling and diagnosis, with emphasis on gender roles and sexual orientation as influential factors.

Cochran, S.D., Sullivan, J.G., & Mays, V.M. (2003). Prevalence of mental disorders, psychological distress, and mental health services use among lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults in the United States. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 71(1), 53-61.

This article suggests that lesbians, gay men, and bisexual individuals are at higher risks for experiencing mental health problems compared to heterosexual individuals. Gay men were found to experience higher rates of depression, panic attacks, and psychological distress than heterosexual men. Lesbian and bisexual women showed greater rates of generalized anxiety disorder compared to heterosexual women. Mental health services were used less frequently among individuals of minority sexual orientation.

This article is a good resource for discussing mental health problems and treatment among homosexual individuals.

Cochran, S.D. (2001). Emerging issues in research on lesbians' and gay men's mental health: Does sexual orientation really matter? *American Psychologist*, 56(11), 931-947.

Research suggests that the onset, course, treatment, and prevention of mental health problems among gay men and lesbians are different from heterosexual individuals. This article reviews the prior research that addresses these issues. Additionally, obstacles in conducting research on mental health with lesbians and gay men are discussed.

This is a good conceptual article to use in research and mental health courses. It identifies methodological barriers and challenges in conducting research within this population.

Cochran, B.N., Stewart, A.J., Ginzler, J.A., & Cauce, A.M (2002). Challenges faced by homeless sexual minorities: Comparison of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender

homeless adolescents with their heterosexual counterparts. *American Journal of Public Health, 92(5), 773-777.*

This study examined differences among gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender homeless youths and their heterosexual counterparts on physical and mental health problems. 84 adolescents were compared on a variety of psychosocial variables. Results indicate that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youths were more likely to leave home, be victimized, use substances, have higher rates of psychopathology, and have more sexual partners than heterosexual youths. Consequently, sexual minority youths are at increased risks for negative consequences and recommendations for treatment programs and interventions are discussed.

This article outlines the pervasive problems and issues often found among sexual minorities. Recommendations for treatment are discussed.

D'Augelli, A.R. (2003). Lesbian and bisexual female youths aged 14 to 21: Developmental challenges and victimization experiences. *Journal of Lesbian Studies, 7(4), 9-22.*

This article examined adolescent lesbian and bisexual females' victimization experiences and disclosure of their sexual orientation. Most of the participants were aware of their sexual orientation during adolescence, but waited on average 5 years to disclose to others. 75% of the adolescents' mothers and 50% of fathers knew of their sexual orientation. About half of this sample reported verbal harassment and 20% reported severe threats or multiple assaults. 30% of participants did not disclose their sexual orientation to others. Individuals who disclosed their sexual orientation to others reported more lifetime victimization. Fewer mental health symptoms were associated with support from family and friends, and less past sexual orientation victimization.

This is a good article to be used in children and youth, human behavior, and mental health course work. It is relevant for discussion around human development, mental health, and adolescence.

Fitzpatrick, K.K., Euton, S.J., Jones, J.N., & Schmidt, N.B. (2005). Gender role, sexual orientation and suicide risk. *Journal of Affective Disorders, 87, 35-42.*

This article examines the association among homosexuality, gender role, and suicide risk. 72 gay, lesbian, and transgender individuals were assessed on measures of gender role, homosexuality, and psychopathology. The results indicate that cross gendered individuals, regardless of sexual orientation have higher risk for suicide. Cross gender individuals tend to have higher rates of peer and family rejection, leading to greater isolation, thus suicide risk.

This article is a good resource to explore unique issues transgender individuals face, compared with other sexual minorities.

Gilman, S.E., Cochran, S.D., Mays, V.M, Hughes, M., Ostrow, D., & Kessler, R.C. (2001). Risk of psychiatric disorders among individuals reporting same-sex sexual partners in the National Comorbidity Survey. *American Journal of Public Health, 91(6), 933-939.*

This research study examined the risk of psychiatric disorders among individuals with same sex partners. The respondents were asked about whom they had sex with in the past 5 years and assessed for psychiatric disorders using the DSM-III-R. The results indicate that respondents who have a homosexual orientation experience higher rates of anxiety, mood and substance use disorders, and suicide ideation than heterosexual respondents.

This is a good article to use in mental health courses in discussing the possible underlying mechanisms of heightened risks for mental health problems in sexual minorities.

Mays, V.M, & Cochran, S.D. (2001). Mental health correlates of perceived discrimination among lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults in the United States. *American Journal of Public Health Association*, 91(11), 1869-1876.

Prior research suggests that lesbian and gay men are at higher risk for stress-sensitive psychiatric disorders than heterosexual individuals. This present study examines the role of perceived discrimination in generating risk for stress-sensitive psychiatric disorders. Homosexual and bisexual individuals more frequently reported experiences of discrimination than heterosexual individuals. Perceived discrimination was positively associated with harmful effects on quality of life and psychiatric problems. 42% of individuals attributed discrimination to their sexual orientation. This study supports the idea that discrimination and stigma against homosexuality can have significant mental health consequences.

This article is a good resource to emphasize the role stigma and discrimination play in development and maintenance of stress related psychiatric disorders.

Meyer, I.H. (2003). Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: Conceptual issues and research evidence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129(5), 674-697.

This article is a metaanalysis of studies on the prevalence of mental disorders in lesbians, gay men, and bisexual individuals. The author suggests that prejudice, stigma, and discrimination, creates a hostile and stressful social environment that causes mental health problems. The author depicts a conceptual model of this process based on a review of the literature. The conceptual framework is derived from the idea that higher prevalence rates of mental health problems are caused by excess stress related to stigma and prejudice of sexual orientation.

This article is a good resource that demonstrates the effect of discrimination and prejudice from society and its influence on homosexual individuals' mental health. This is a good example of a metaanalysis and effectively reviews prior and current research.

Morris, J.F, Waldo, C., & Rothblum, E.D. (2001). A model of predictors and outcomes of outness among lesbian and bisexual women. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 71(1), 61-71.

This article describes a study of 2,402 lesbian and bisexual women's sexual identity and its association with "outness". Women who were more comfortable in regards to revealing their sexual identity had lower psychological distress, which predicted lower suicidality. Three predictors positively related to outness were: Lesbian versus bisexual orientation, years self identified, and involvement in lesbian, gay, or bisexual communities. Although this study supports the idea that outness is associated with enhanced mental health, individuals who choose to come out may have positive mental health prior to the coming out process. Lastly, coming out is associated with negative consequences, but this study through structural equation modeling reveals enhanced mental health and less psychological distress with outness.

This article describes the process of "coming out" and its influence on mental health and well being. It also demonstrates the complex associations often found in research, such as what factor came first or caused the outcome. It may be that individuals with better mental health are more comfortable with themselves and their sexuality and are more likely to come out, rather than assuming the coming out process is associated with positive mental health and well being.

Alcohol and Other Drugs:

Barbara, A.M. (2002). Substance abuse treatment with lesbian, gay, and bisexual people: A qualitative study of service providers. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, 14 (4), 1-12.

This article addresses issues on substance abuse treatment for lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) individuals. This is a qualitative research study examining service provider's knowledge and impressions of issues experienced by LGB clients in substance abuse treatment. The major themes which came out of this study include the following: the "coming out" process, societal homophobia, internalized homophobia, family and support systems, bars and social activities, body image, and the impact of HIV and AIDS.

This is a good article to be use in alcohol and other drugs coursework to identify issues LGB individuals face in addition to their substance abuse problems.

Beatty, R.L. & Lewis, K.E. (2003). Substance use disorder and LGBT communities. *The Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network: Resource Links*, 2(3), 1-8.

Substance abuse problems are widespread within the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities. It is important in treating these individuals to not make preconceived assumptions that the substance use disorder is a result of their sexuality or that violence or abuse has occurred. It is crucial for workers to be knowledgeable about the unique issues these individuals face, as well as treatment options, resources, and supportive organizations specific to the LGBT community.

This is a wonderful article that reviews research, treatment considerations, and clinical concerns for LGBT individuals who present for substance abuse treatment. This article can be valuable for alcohol and other drug courses.

Cheng, Z. (2003). Issues and standards in counseling lesbians and gay men with substance abuse concerns. *Journal of Mental Health Counseling*, 25(4), 323-336.

This article describes the issues and clinical standards facing mental health counselors when working with lesbians and gay men who have substance abuse problems. Potential factors contributing to substance abuse problems are explored such as gay bar scenes, homophobia, childhood sexual abuse, HIV, and the coming out process. Ethical and clinical standards of practice are discussed such as code of ethics and federal laws.

This conceptual article is a good tool to use in alcohol and other drugs coursework to demonstrate the unique needs of special populations and standards of professional practice.

Hughes, T.L. & Eliason, M. (2002). Substance use and abuse in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations. *The Journal of Primary Prevention*, 22(3), 263-298.

Although there are gaps in research on substance abuse and sexual orientation, overall substance use among lesbian and gay populations has declined. However, substance abuse is still very prevalent among the homosexual population. Bisexual and transgender men and women are at heightened risk for substance abuse as well. This article describes the prevalence, risks, and patterns associated with substance abuse among the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender populations. Additionally, implications for prevention are discussed.

This is a good article to be used in alcohol and other drugs coursework to demonstrate the special needs and considerations of diverse populations when examining substance abuse.

Nemoto, T., Operario, D., Keatley, J., & Villegas, D. (2004). Social context of HIV risk behaviors among male to female transgenders of colour. *AIDS Care*, 16 (6), 724-735.

This article examines the social context of substance use and sexual behaviors that place male to female transgender individuals at heightened risk for HIV. Participants report drug use as means to cope or escape stress associated with relationships, sex work, discrimination, and financial hardship. Elevated substance use can increase the risk for contracting HIV through unprotected sex and drug use. Participants reported practicing safe sex with customers and if they did not it were due to financial difficulties, substance use, and gender validation. However, the majority of individuals reported unsafe sex with their primary partners as means to express love as well as fear of losing the relationship. Additionally, individuals reported using drugs with primary partners. Consequently, most individuals reported contracting HIV from their primary partners rather than paying customers. There are many layers and dynamics underlying these findings, but once teased out, important treatment implications may be revealed.

This article demonstrates the complexity of issues that individuals face and can help to guide social work practice with sexual minorities with mental health and substance abuse issues.

Orenstein, A. (2001). Substance use among gay and lesbian adolescents. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 41(2), 1-11.

This article describes surveys used to identify gay, lesbian, and bisexual teenagers within a specified high school. Those individuals who reported a homosexual preference had greater elevated rates of substance abuse. Differences in substance use by sexual preferences were greater for “hard” drugs. Lesbian youths have higher rates of alcohol use compared to gay males. However, gay males were more likely to use hard drugs than lesbians. It is unclear to why homosexual youths report higher levels of “hard” drug use compared to heterosexual youths. Stress related to being homosexual does not account for the disproportionate use of hard drugs compared to alcohol and marijuana.

This is a good tool to use in alcohol and other drugs coursework, to demonstrate the differences between gender and sexual orientation in relation to substance use.

Remafedi, G. & Carol, H. (2005). Preventing tobacco use among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youths. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, 7(2), 249-256.

This study examined individuals at risk for tobacco use, protective factors, patterns of use, and preventive interventions. Multiple themes emerged: involving participants in design of intervention and prevention techniques and prevention programs should include positive identity formation in addition to smoking cessation. Implications from this study for smoking cessation programs include: engaging and enjoyable activities, psychosocial and cultural underpinnings of tobacco use, support for identity formation, and pharmacological methods for smoking cessation.

This is a good article which demonstrates qualitative research and grounded theory. It reveals participants views on smoking and corresponding interventions.

Shoptaw, S., Reback, C.J., & Freese, T.E. (2002). Patient characteristics, HIV serostatus, and risk behaviors among gay and bisexual males seeking treatment for methamphetamine abuse and dependence in Los Angeles. *Journal of Addictive Diseases*, 21(1), 91-105.

Methamphetamine drug use is very prevalent among gay and bisexual males and is often combined with sexual activities, increasing risks for contracting HIV. This study aimed to predict HIV status based on demographic, drug use, and sexual behavior variables. The major predictor variables found within this study were: presence of suicidal thoughts, history of gonorrhea, number of sexual partners, unprotected sex, and prior methamphetamine treatment. Almost 2/3 of this entire sample was infected with HIV. HIV and non-HIV infected men had similar demographics, drug use, and sexual behavior.

This article is a good tool to use in alcohol and other drugs coursework to demonstrate the special needs of bisexual and gay males in substance abuse treatment.

Stall, R., Paul, J.P., Greenwood, G., Pollack, L.M., Bein, E., Crosby, G.M, Mills, T.C., Binson, D., Coates, T.J., & Catania, J.A. (2001). Alcohol use, drug use and alcohol-related

problems among men who have sex with men: the Urban Men's Health Study. *Addiction*, 96, 1589-1601.

This study examines the prevalence of problematic alcohol and drug use among homosexual and bisexual men. The results of this study indicate a high prevalence of alcohol (85%), drug use (52%), and multiple drug use (18%). The findings of this study reveal a complex pattern and associations among substance use and demographics, early adverse events, mental health status, social and sexual practices, and connection to the gay community. Education, depression, history of childhood sexual abuse, and parental substance abuse was associated with higher rates of substance abuse. It is suggested that heavy and problematic substance use can be influenced by multiple factors: individual, interpersonal, and socio-cultural.

This is a good study to use in alcohol and other drug course work and mental health courses. It reveals the complex patterns among multiple variables associated with substance abuse and mental health problems.

Community:

Herek, G.M. (2002). Gender gaps in public opinion about lesbian and gay men. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 66, 40-66.

This article reviews public opinion towards lesbian and gay individuals. Participants were more likely to view gay men as mentally ill, supported adoption rights for lesbians than gay men, held more negative reactions towards gay men than lesbians. Heterosexual females were more likely to support same sex relationships and policies related to homosexual individuals. These gender gaps may be explained by social constructions of homosexuality.

This article is good tool to use in community concentration courses to illustrate the influence of societal views and community on specific issues such as sexual orientation. Possible topics for discussion include societal influence and its effect on policies and interventions.

Kenagy, G.P. & Hsieh, C. (2005). Gender differences in social service needs of transgender people. *Journal of Social Service Research*, 31(3), 1-21.

Prior studies have ignored gender differences in transgender people. This present study examined gender differences in the social service needs of 184 transgender individuals. The results indicate that reported needs for social services include: job training, legal services, housing, and welfare benefits, which did not differ, based on gender. However, gender differences were apparent for parenting skills, family planning, and child care. Females had more developed skills relating to these areas.

This article can be valuable in understanding social service needs and interventions of transgender individuals.

Harper, G.W., Jernewall, N., & Zea, M.C. (2004). Giving voice to emerging science and theory for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people of color. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 10(3), 187-199.

Lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals of color experience multiple forms of oppression. Negative societal reactions, limited economic resources, racial prejudice, and limited acceptance within their own cultural community. This article reviews the literature on this population, which includes background information and empirical research. Research on this population is scarce and often ignores factors that promote resiliency and well being.

This is a good article for any social work course that emphasizes the interrelated factors of social problems on an oppressed group.

Lombardi, E.L., Wilchins, R.A., Priesing, D., & Malouf, D. (2001). Gender violence: Transgender experiences with violence and discrimination. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 42 (1), 89-101.

Discrimination and violence among transgender individuals is common in society. In this present study, within a sample of 401 individuals, over half reported some form of harassment or violence in their lifetime. Economic discrimination had the strongest association for experiencing a violent incident. Experiencing economic discrimination was the strongest predictor of experiencing a transgender related violent incident. There exists a complex relationship which has not been clearly established. Possible explanations include: prejudice and discrimination influence experiences of both economic discrimination and violence, places of employment can be targets for harassment, intimidation, discrimination, and violence, and if fired from a job, homelessness and sex work can lead to many risks, such as violence. Younger individuals are at heightened risks for victimization, substance abuse, suicidality, STD's, and homelessness. Only a few cities have protective legislation and policies for transgender individuals regarding employment discrimination.

This article is a very important example of complex associations and relationships among many variables regarding research as well as sexual identity. It can be used in research courses as well as social work courses.

Children and Youth:

D'Augelli, A.R. (2003). Lesbian and bisexual female youths aged 14 to 21: Developmental challenges and victimization experiences. *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 7(4), 9-22.

This article examined adolescent lesbian and bisexual females' victimization experiences and disclosure of their sexual orientation. Most of the participants were aware of their sexual orientation during adolescence, but waited on average 5 years to disclose to others. 75% of the adolescents' mothers and 50% of fathers knew of their sexual orientation. About half of this sample reported verbal harassment and 20% reported severe threats or multiple assaults. 30% of participants did not disclose their sexual orientation to others. Individuals who disclosed their sexual orientation to others reported more lifetime victimization. Fewer mental health symptoms

were associated with support from family and friends, and less past sexual orientation victimization.

This is a good article to be used in children and youth, human behavior, and mental health course work. It is relevant for discussion around human development, mental health, and adolescence.

D'Augelli, A.R., Hershberger, S.L., & Pilkington, N.W. (2001). Suicidality patterns and sexual orientation-related factors among lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths. *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 31(3), 250-264.

This study examined the association between sexual orientation and suicidality. 350 lesbian, gay, and bi-sexual youths were involved in this sample, 41% had sometimes or often thought of suicide and 33% reported at least one suicide attempt. Many participants related suicidal ideation and suicide attempts to their sexual orientation. This article discusses sexual orientation in more detail and its association to suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

This is a good article to use in children and youth courses and mental health course work. It describes special challenges adolescents face who are sexual minorities and its association to heightened suicide risk.

Elze, D. (2002). Risk factors for internalizing and externalizing problems among gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents. *Social Work Research*, 26(2), 89-100.

This article examines the risk factors associated with internalizing and externalizing problems among gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents. Few studies have examined the role of risk factors unrelated to sexual orientation in predicting mental health and behavioral problems. The results of this study reveal that lesbian, gay, and bisexual adolescents face unique stressors, as well as shared risk factors with other vulnerable adolescents. The main risk factor in developing emotional distress and behavior problems is family mental health. Additionally, gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth experienced more internalizing and externalizing problems than a normative adolescent sample. However, these results need to be interpreted with caution. The article explains its findings, limitations, and implications for practice and future research.

This is a good research study to discuss in children & youth courses and unique challenges adolescents may face, especially those who belong to a highly stigmatized group.

McLean, K. (2001). Living life in the double closet: Bisexual youth speak out. *HECATE*, 27(1), 109-115.

This conceptual article discusses issues unique to bisexual youths. Bisexual youths are faced with numerous obstacles and challenges, not only from the general community but the gay and lesbian community as well. Bisexual individuals often report not being able to fit within the heterosexual culture and the homosexual culture. Research methodologies are limited in addressing issues specific to bisexual youth. Bisexuality may not be perceived as a valid identity.

This often results in bisexual individuals suppressing and hiding their sexual orientation, and lacking a sense of self or identity.

This article is a good conceptual piece to use in children and youth, and research courses. It discusses challenges faced by youth and research methodological challenges.

Munoz-Plaza, C., Quinn, S.C., & Rounds, K.A. (2002). Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students: perceived social support in the high school environment. *The High School Journal*, Apr/May, 52-63.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth often face extreme discrimination, especially within the school environment. These youth are at heightened risk for multiple health problems: suicide ideation and attempts, harassment, substance abuse, homelessness, and poor academic performance. This study explores the types of social support available to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender adolescents, and associations among development of sexual identity. This study revealed non-family members and peers as more supportive than family members. Negative messages regarding homosexuality at home and in school influenced the development of sexual identity, oscillating from denial to acceptance.

This article can be used in children and youth courses to illustrate various issues youth face during sexual identity development.

Peters, A. J. (2003). Isolation or inclusion: Creating safe spaces for lesbian and gay youth. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Human Services*, 84(3), 331-337.

This article is a good example of action research, which students completed surveys that ask questions pertaining to homophobia in their community. The surveys attempted to capture students' experiences of harassment and anti-gay comments within their schools. The results found that 94% of the students hear anti-gay epithets frequently or sometimes in their schools. 86% of students report anti-gay harassment is rarely confronted or dealt with by school staff. 1 in 10 students report having been physically harassed because of their sexual orientation. Because of the results from this research study, a conference was organized, which included students, parents, and school staff. These issues of harassment were raised within the school environment and also within the surrounding community.

This is a great article which demonstrates action research, where results of research are transformed into instruments for awareness, advocacy, and positive change. This article can be used in children and youth courses and research.

Rosario, M., Schrimshaw, E.W., & Hunter, J. (2004). Ethnic/racial differences in the coming-out process of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths: A comparison of sexual identity development over time. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 10(3), 215-228.

This longitudinal study of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths examined racial and ethnic differences involved during the coming out process. The results did not show any significant differences in sexual development, sexual orientation, sexual behavior, or sexual identity.

However, when compared to whites, black youths reported fewer gay related social activities, less comfort with others knowing their sexual identity, and disclosed their sexual identity to fewer people. Contrary to these findings, black youths had greater increases in positive attitudes toward homosexuality and in certainty over their sexual identity over time than white youths.

This article integrates many aspects of diversity including ethnicity and sexual orientation, in relation to the coming out process. This article can be used in children and youth courses and human behavior courses.

Rosenberg, M. (2003). Recognizing gay, lesbian, and transgender teens in a child and adolescent psychiatry practice. *Journal of American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry*, 42(12), 1517-1521.

Gay, lesbian, and transgender adolescents are at heightened risks and more vulnerable than heterosexual youths for depression, substance abuse, anxiety, academic failure, self-destructive behavior, and suicide. It is estimated that 25% of child psychiatric clients are gay, lesbian, or transgender. This figure is more than likely an underestimate because many gay, lesbian, or transgender youths are reluctant to engage in treatment. Safety is an important issue among these youths because violence, substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, and isolation are common. School avoidance and academic difficulties are often apparent among these youth in addition to other problems. This article reviews these unique difficulties of homosexual youth and offer valuable suggestions to recognize these children and adolescents, reduce isolation and promote acceptance.

This is a good article for children and youth courses, mental health, and alcohol and other drug courses. It illustrates how sexual identity development and sexual minority status in children and adolescents can manifest as a wide range of difficulties without the adequate recognition and support.

Russell, S.T. & Joyner, K. (2001). Adolescent sexual orientation and suicide risk: Evidence from a national study. *American Journal of Public Health*, 91(8), 1276-1281.

This study examined the association between sexual orientation and suicidality. The results suggest that there is a strong relationship among sexual orientation, suicidal thoughts and behaviors. The significant effect was mediated by other youth suicide risk factors such as depression, hopelessness, alcohol abuse, recent suicide attempts by peers or family members, and experiences of victimization. However, sexual minority youths are more likely to be at risk for suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

This is a good article that discusses heightened risk factors for suicidal thoughts and behaviors, which includes being a sexual minority. This article can be used in children and youth courses and mental health course work.

Wormer van, K. & McKinney R. (2003). What schools can do to help gay/lesbian/bisexual youth: A harm reduction approach. *Adolescence*, 38(151), 409-418.

This article discusses the school environment and helping youths with gender identity issues. It reviews some of the psychological and social problems many gay and lesbian youth face including suicide, substance abuse, and homelessness. This may result from internalized rejection facilitated by a heterosexist culture. A harm reduction approach can be implemented in schools to help victims of violence and harassment, and also the perpetrators. Strategies include respect for diversity, addressing emotional problems through individualized interventions, and monitoring student activities. The goals of these strategies are to make school culture less heterosexist and eliminate the harassment of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals. This article makes suggestions for preventive and intervention strategies to be implemented within school settings.

This is a good article to be used in children and youth courses to discuss issues within the school environment and strategies to influence school's culture and climate to eliminate violence and other problems that are prevalent among youth such as substance abuse.

Interventions

Bockting, W.O., Robinson, B.E., Forberg, J., & Scheltma, K. (2005). Evaluation of a sexual health approach to reducing HIV/STD risk in the transgender community. *AIDS Care*, 17(3), 289-303.

There are high prevalence rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases among the transgender population. However, there lacks preventive education and research that targets this population. This research study developed and evaluated preventive strategies to address this lack of knowledge. Transgender individuals attended a 2 day seminar that included lectures, panel discussions, activities, and group discussions. Attitudes toward condom use, safer sex self-efficacy, and sexual high risk behavior were evaluated pre and post intervention. The results indicate improvements in these variables at 3 month follow-up post intervention. Although, participants reported other problems such as social discrimination, depression, suicide ideation, and sexual functioning. Future research may need to study interventions that deal with these crucial issues, as they may influence sexual high risk behaviors.

This is a good research article that can be used in health and intervention courses. It also demonstrates how issues are commonly interrelated: Health, mental health, and social environment.

Chuck, B. (2004). Deconstructing reparative therapy: an examination of the processes involved when attempting to change sexual orientation. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 32(4), 471-481.

This article describes factors and issues involved in reparative therapy. Reparative therapy is a process by which therapists believe they can change homosexuals into heterosexuals. However, there lacks research to support this process. Despite the lack of evidence, therapists continue to practice this form of therapy and debate their point. This article will provide information to allow social workers to formulate their opinion on this issue.

This article describes reparative therapy and allows students and readers to formulate their professional opinions regarding this process, which can be used in any social work course to enhance professional development.

Dworkin, S.H. (2001). Treating the bisexual client. *Journal of Clinical Psychology In Session: Psychotherapy in Practice*, 57 (5), 671-680.

This article reviews the literature on bisexual identity and its biological and social origins. Therapist issues, coming out, relationship patterns, and internalized biphobia issues are discussed. Two case studies are explored and therapists' roles in treating bisexual clients are reviewed. Research issues are explored with identification of gaps and limitations, such as collapsing sexual orientation categories into gay and lesbian which exclude unique aspects of bisexuality.

This article is a good illustration of therapists' issues when working with bisexual clients. It can be used in mental health courses.

Milton, M., Coyle, A., & Legg, C. (2005). Countertransference issues in psychotherapy with lesbian and gay clients. *European Journal of Psychotherapy, Counseling, and Health*, 7(3), 181-197.

This article reviews lesbian and gay sexuality from a psychoanalytic perspective and addresses countertransference issues in working with these clients. Negative countertransference reactions were detected among both heterosexual and homosexual therapists arising from their conscious and unconscious fears about homosexual identities. Therapists of multiple theoretical orientations reported that their thoughts, feelings, experiences, and emotional responses were central to the engagement process with these clients. An empirically derived model was discussed regarding the countertransference process in psychotherapeutic work with lesbian and gay clients. The results indicate that regardless of gender, race, age, or sexual identity of therapists; their views on same sexuality may influence choice of interventions and engagement with gay or lesbian clients.

This article is a good tool to discuss countertransference issues when working with clients. It can be valuable in any social work or counseling courses.

Morrow, D.F. (2004). Social work practice with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender adolescents. *Families in Society*, 85 (1), 91-99.

This article reviews social work practice guidelines with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth. Adolescent development, identity development, family and school issues are addressed in practice. Additionally, risk factors are discussed such as substance abuse, victimization, isolation, depression, and sexually transmitted diseases.

This article provides valuable information for social workers who are working with this population, to more effectively assist individuals with their unique issues and needs.

Human Behavior:

Diamond, L.M. (2005). A new view of lesbian subtypes: Stable versus fluid identity trajectories over an 8-year period. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 29, 119-128.

This research study focused on change of lesbian identification over an 8 year time frame in a sample of sexual minority women. It specifically examined how young sexual minority women who maintain stable lesbian identification over an 8 year period from adolescence to adulthood differed from women who were more inconsistent in their sexual identification. This study has implications for categorization of sexual identity, and proposes a longer time frame for the process of identity development.

This article can be used in human behavior courses to gain a better understanding of sexual orientation and sexual identity development.

D'Augelli, A.R. (2003). Lesbian and bisexual female youths aged 14 to 21: Developmental challenges and victimization experiences. *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 7(4), 9-22.

This article examined adolescent lesbian and bisexual females' victimization experiences and disclosure of their sexual orientation. Most of the participants were aware of their sexual orientation during adolescence, but waited on average 5 years to disclose to others. 75% of the adolescents' mothers and 50% of fathers knew of their sexual orientation. About half of this sample reported verbal harassment and 20% reported severe threats or multiple assaults. 30% of participants did not disclose their sexual orientation to others. Individuals who disclosed their sexual orientation to others reported more lifetime victimization. Fewer mental health symptoms were associated with support from family and friends, and less past sexual orientation victimization.

This is a good article to be used in children and youth, human behavior, and mental health course work. It is relevant for discussion around human development, mental health, and adolescence.

Garnets, L.D. (2002). Sexual orientations in perspective. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 8(2), 115-129.

This article describes a model for understanding sexual orientation. Four main issues are reviewed: conceptualization of sexual orientations, development of sexual orientations, new perspectives on gender and sexual orientations, and convergences, divergences, and intersections of sexual orientation with other aspects of human diversity. Race, age, gender, culture, socioeconomic status, and disability are discussed in relation to sexual orientation.

This is a good article to discuss in human behavior courses and in understanding the development of sexual identity.

Greenwood, G.L., Relf, M.V., Huang, B., Pollack, L.M., Canchola, J.A., & Catania, J.A. (2002). Battering victimization among a probability-based sample of men who have sex with men. *American Journal of Public Health, 92*(12), 1964-1969.

This research study investigated the prevalence of abuse or battering among 2881 men who have sex with men over a 2 year time period. The results indicate that rates of battering victimization are significantly higher for homosexual men than for heterosexual men. The strongest demographic variable associated with all forms of abuse was age 40 or younger. Additionally, education and HIV status was associated with physical and psychological abuse. Less educated and HIV infected males were more likely to be vulnerable to violence and victimization.

This research study is a good tool to use in human behavior courses for discussion on same sex partner violence and potential protective factors.

Gwadz, M.V., Clatts, M.C., Leonard, N.R., & Goldsamt, L. (2004). Attachment style, childhood adversity, and behavioral risk among young men who have sex with men. *Journal of adolescent Health, 34*, 402-413.

This article examines the associations among childhood adversity, attachment style, and risky behaviors. These risky behaviors include: homelessness, substance abuse, sex work, criminality, and unemployment. The results of this study indicate that men with a fearful attachment style were more likely to be homeless, participate in sex work, use substances, involved in the criminal justice system, and out of work or school. These results support attachment theory in which individuals who have difficulties with attachment, are less likely to be involved with family, peers, school, and work. Consequently, may be more vulnerable to participate in risky behaviors, which is poorly understood.

This article is a valuable tool in understanding human behavior using the attachment theory. It can be used in social work human behavior and theory courses.

Kenagy, G.P. & Hsieh, C.M (2005). The risk less known: female to male transgender persons' vulnerability to HIV infection. *AIDS Care, 17*(2), 195-207.

This article explores the differences among (male to female) and (female to male) transgender individuals on risk for HIV infection. Research has found high levels of HIV infection among male to female individuals, but female to male individuals are less understood. Risks for HIV infection was assessed and compared between these two transgender groups. The results indicate significant gender differences between the groups. Female to male individuals were less likely to have protected sex and more likely to engage in high risk sexual behaviors. These results are important because AIDS knowledge, perceived AIDS knowledge and condom usage, demographic variables, self-esteem, and perceived susceptibility to AIDS was controlled for in this study. Possible explanations are discussed such as confronting assumptions that female to male individuals only have sex with women, whereas they could be lesbian, gay, or bisexual. The causes of gender differences are unclear, but have important treatment implications.

This article is a good example of how research can be complex and have many layers. It can be used in research courses as well as human behavior to illustrate human behavior and complex explanations.

Kenagy, G.P.(2002). HIV among transgendered people. *AIDS Care*, 14(1), 127-134.

This study examines HIV and risk factors among transgendered people. The results indicate that the majority of individuals engaged in at least one high risk sexual activity within the past three months, were willing to have high risk sex in the future, and did not believe they were susceptible to HIV. The majority of female to male transgender individuals have lower levels of AIDS knowledge and have not been tested for HIV. Important factors to consider for future research include: sexual orientation of transgender individuals, uniqueness of transgendered bodies and sexual experiences. Lastly, examining specific types of drug use and STD's in relation to contracting HIV may contribute more to our understanding of individuals and HIV.

This article is a good tool to use in human behavior and community courses to illustrate the needs of transgender individuals and issues within the community.

McClennen, J.C. (2005). Domestic violence between same-gender partners. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 20(2), 149-154.

Prior studies reveal similarities between opposite and same gender domestic violence in prevalence, types of abuse, and other various dynamics. However, differences exist in help seeking behaviors. Same gender relationships tend to seek help from friends rather than professional sources. Power imbalance is thought to be associated with interpersonal violence, and is more complex in same gender relationships. Same gender individuals are less likely to seek help due to stigma and more likely to remain in abusive relationships.

This article is valuable in discussing gender roles and domestic violence. It also demonstrates how stigma and discrimination can inhibit individuals from seeking the help they may need.

Mohr, J.J. (2002). Heterosexual identity and the heterosexual therapist: an identity perspective on sexual orientation dynamics in psychotherapy. *The Counseling Psychologist*, 30(4), 532-566.

This article describes a model of heterosexual identity, which may be valuable to identify barriers to facilitating competent practice to lesbian, gay, and bisexual clients. This model incorporates concepts of identity development, social identity, and attitude formation. This model may provide a useful framework for understanding issues of sexual orientation.

This article is a good model for discussing sexual identity, attitude formation, and sexual orientation.

Nemoto, T., Operario, D., Keatley, J., & Villegas, D. (2004). Social context of HIV risk behaviors among male to female transgenders of colour. *AIDS Care*, 16 (6), 724-735.

This article examines the social context of substance use and sexual behaviors that place male to female transgender individuals at heightened risk for HIV. Participants report drug use as means to cope or escape stress associated with relationships, sex work, discrimination, and financial hardship. Elevated substance use can increase the risk for contracting HIV through unprotected sex and drug use. Participants reported practicing safe sex with customers and if they did not it was due to financial difficulties, substance use, and gender validation. However, the majority of individuals reported unsafe sex with their primary partners as means to express love as well as fear of losing the relationship. Additionally, individuals reported using drugs with primary partners. Consequently, most individuals reported contracting HIV from their primary partners rather than paying customers. There are many layers and dynamics underlying these findings, but once teased out, important treatment implications may be revealed.

This article demonstrates the complexity of issues that individuals face and can help to guide social work practice with sexual minorities with mental health and substance abuse issues.

Parks, C.A., Hughes, T.L., & Matthews, A.K. (2004). Race/ethnicity and sexual orientation: Intersecting identities. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 10(3), 241-254.

This article describes findings from a research study on a large, diverse sample of women to uncover the effects of race/ethnicity has on sexual identity development. The sample consisted of African American, Latina, and white lesbian women. The results indicate variations in sexual identity development and disclosure between women of color and white women. These differences and possible explanations are discussed in further detail. One important finding to highlight is that women of color have to adjust to two subcultures because of their ethnic minority status, which may better prepare them for challenges regarding their sexual orientation status.

This is a good article to be used in human behavior courses to demonstrate differences among diverse groups within a larger community context.

Rosario, M., Schrimshaw, E.W., & Hunter, J. (2004). Ethnic/racial differences in the coming-out process of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths: A comparison of sexual identity development over time. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 10(3), 215-228.

This longitudinal study of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths examined racial and ethnic differences involved during the coming out process. The results did not show any significant differences in sexual development, sexual orientation, sexual behavior, or sexual identity. However, when compared to whites, black youths reported fewer gay related social activities, less comfort with others knowing their sexual identity, and disclosed their sexual identity to fewer people. Contrary to these findings, black youths had greater increases in positive attitudes toward homosexuality and in certainty over their sexual identity over time than white youths.

This article integrates many aspects of diversity including ethnicity and sexual orientation, in relation to the coming out process. This article can be used in children and youth courses and human behavior courses

Shankle, M.D., Maxwell, C.A., Katzman, E.S., & Landers, S. (2003). An invisible population: older lesbian, gay, and transgender individuals. *Clinical Research and Regulatory Affairs*, 20(2), 159-182.

Several studies estimate 3-8% of the population is lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. The total number of older lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender individuals is estimated at 1 to 3.5 million in the United States. Research has begun to identify unique issues facing the older population. These issues include: isolation, housing, elder abuse, financial concerns, and health concerns. This article reviews these issues and unique needs of older lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and also addresses methodological challenges facing researchers.

This article focuses on sexual minorities who are elderly. It can be used to discuss the challenges that sexual minorities face, in addition to already being an oppressed group, the elderly have unique needs and problems.

Shidlo, A. & Schroeder, M. (2002). Changing sexual orientation: A consumers' report. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 33(3), 249-259.

This research study interviewed 202 consumers who underwent conversion therapy for their sexual orientation. The purpose of this study was to uncover the harmfulness and helpfulness of these interventions from the perception of consumers. The results of this study indicate that a majority of consumers reported associated harm with these interventions and failed to change their sexual orientation. A developmental model is introduced to describe the process of individuals who attempt to change their sexual orientation.

This is a good tool to use in human behavior courses in discussing "reparative" or "conversion" therapy and individual's sexual orientation and development.

Shippy, A.R., Cantor, M.H., & Brennan, M. (2004). Social networks of aging gay men. *The Journal of Men's Studies*, 13(1), 107-118.

Social support is thought to be a valuable resource for aging gay men. Research suggests that homosexual men do not differ in social isolation when compared to their heterosexual counterparts. However, homosexual men are more likely to depend on their friends for support, whereas heterosexual men are more likely to depend on their family for support. This research study examines the nature and extent of social networks of aging gay men.

This is a good article to be used in human behavior courses to discuss the issues related to the aging population.

Policy:

Cahill, S. (2005). Welfare moms and the two grooms: the concurrent promotion and restriction of marriage in US public policy. *Sexualities*, 8(2), 169-187.

Political and religious conservatives have significantly influenced social policy in the United States. In this article two distinct groups are highlighted: poor, single mothers and same sex couples. Both groups have been the focus of stigmatization. The central theme among these groups is deviant sexual choices. Social stigma and public policies are key issues facing this population.

This is a valuable tool in understanding social policy in social work and how society's values and beliefs can influence these policies.

Fetner, T.A. (2001). Working Anita Bryant: The impact of Christian anti-gay activism on lesbian and gay movement claims. *Social Problems*, 48 (3), 411-428.

This article reviews gay and lesbian movements throughout history. It suggests that opposing movements alter political context which can influence social climate. Topics that are covered include: police harassment, gay and lesbian representation in the media, and gay and lesbian rights. The findings demonstrate that social movements can impact the choices and constraints of the activists in the opposing social movement organization.

This article can be used in policy courses and courses that address organizations, social movements, activism, and macro issues.

Kitzinger, C. & Wilkinson, S. (2004). Social advocacy for equal marriage: The politics of "rights" and the psychology of "mental health". *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*, 4(1), 173-194.

This article examines the issue of equal access to marriage for same-sex couples. It utilizes 2 distinct frameworks or paradigms to understand and discuss this issue. Psychologists and social activists have radically different views of understanding inequality and advocating for social change. Psychologists tend to use a mental health framework describing psychological deficits. Social activists focus on human rights, justice, and social change. It can be difficult to advocate for human rights and social change coming from a psychological mental health model.

This is a good article to use in policy courses and coursework that address social activism and theoretical frameworks in defining and responding to social problems. The way in which social problems are defined have important policy and treatment implications.

Mottet, L. (2004). The education and policy needs of transgender individuals. *SIECUS Report*, 32(4), 35-38.

This conceptual article reviews the issues and experiences transgender individuals face, such as harassment, discrimination, HIV risks, identification documents, and choice of bathroom. Definitions of basic terms are explained and recommendations are made to help eliminate these problems that transgender individuals experience.

This is a good article to use in policy courses to discuss alliances, organizations, laws, and policies to help address the needs of this special population.

Rienzo, B.A., Button, J.W., Sheu, J.J., & Li, Y. (2006). The politics of sexual orientation issues in American schools. *Journal of School Health*, 76(3), 93-97.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) students are more likely to suffer from health risks such as substance abuse, depression, suicide, harassment, and violence. Policies surrounding these issues of sexual orientation in schools have become extremely controversial. There exists a significant amount of power over school based programs and has become highly politicized. Policy recommendations have been established and this article suggests strategies for activists to become politically involved to advocate for change.

This article is a good tool to use in policy courses and to discuss strategies to produce social change on multiple levels.

Schaffer, N. (2005). Transgender patients: implications for emergency department policy and practice. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*, 32, 405-407.

This article briefly reviews policy and legislation regarding transgender individuals. Although many states have legislation and policies to protect transgender individuals from discrimination and hate crimes, most health insurance policies exclude all procedures related to transgender. Many transgender individuals are denied health coverage because they are transgender. Many individuals resort to sex work to pay for procedures, which increase the risk for hepatitis and HIV infection. Policies and institutions need to protect transgender individuals and promote well being. Education, awareness, and advocacy are significant tools to utilize in the emergency room department as well as in other institutions.

This article discusses social policy and legislation and can be used in social work courses, including policy.

Swan, W. & Mazur, P. (2002). Developing a paradigm for worldwide gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender public policy and administration. *International Journal of Public Administration*, 25(1), 5-12.

This article reviews issues related to public policy for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals. Topics discussed include: equal rights, workplace benefits, partnerships or marriages, and equalization of family benefits (adoption & child custody). Multiple countries are compared relative to their progress on these issues.

This article discusses the development of social policies and legislation across multiple regions. It is a good illustration of how culture can influence society's view on social problems.

Research:

Cochran, S.D. (2001). Emerging issues in research on lesbians' and gay men's mental health: Does sexual orientation really matter? *American Psychologist*, 56(11), 931-947.

Research suggests that the onset, course, treatment, and prevention of mental health problems among gay men and lesbians are different from heterosexual individuals. This article reviews the prior research that addresses these issues. Additionally, obstacles in conducting research on mental health with lesbians and gay men are discussed.

This is a good conceptual article to use in research and mental health courses. It identifies methodological barriers and challenges in conducting research within this population.

Kauth, M.R. (2002). Much ado about homosexuality: Assumptions underlying current research on sexual orientation. *Journal of Psychology & Human Sexuality*, 14(1), 1-12.

This article critiques two research studies on homosexuality. The studies reveal differing results, even though the research sample, design, and methods were similar. After examining both research studies, the author concludes that theoretical assumptions can influence research questions, designs, and conclusions. Additionally, western concepts of sexuality are often bias and limit generalizability to other groups.

This article is a good tool to use in research courses and demonstrates the complexity of research and importance of defining terms, reducing bias, and increasing generalizability.

McLean, K. (2001). Living life in the double closet: Bisexual youth speak out. *HECATE*, 27(1), 109-115.

This conceptual article discusses issues unique to bisexual youths. Bisexual youths are faced with numerous obstacles and challenges, not only from the general community but the gay and lesbian community as well. Bisexual individuals often report not being able to fit within the heterosexual culture and the homosexual culture. Research methodologies are limited in addressing issues specific to bisexual youth. Bisexuality may not be perceived as a valid identity. This often results in bisexual individuals suppressing and hiding their sexual orientation, and lacking a sense of self or identity.

This article is a good conceptual piece to use in children and youth, and research courses. It discusses challenges faced by youth and research methodological challenges.

Meezan, W.I. (2003). Exploring current themes in research on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender populations. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, 15(1/2), 1-8.

This conceptual article describes current themes and challenges in conducting research on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) populations. There is a strong need to find representative and inclusive samples, increase protection of participants, using inclusive research methods, and ways to apply research into action. This article further examines problems in researching these populations and offer possible recommendations.

This is a good tool to use in research courses to highlight some of the flaws that can occur when conducting research and potential strategies that can be used to address these issues.

Peters, A. J. (2003). Isolation or inclusion: Creating safe spaces for lesbian and gay youth. *Families in Society: The Journal of Contemporary Human Services*, 84(3), 331-337.

This article is a good example of action research, which students completed surveys that ask questions pertaining to homophobia in their community. The surveys attempted to capture students' experiences of harassment and anti-gay comments within their schools. The results found that 94% of the students hear anti-gay epithets frequently or sometimes in their schools. 86% of students report anti-gay harassment is rarely confronted or dealt with by school staff. 1 in 10 students report having been physically harassed because of their sexual orientation. Because of the results from this research study, a conference was organized, which included students, parents, and school staff. These issues of harassment were raised within the school environment and also within the surrounding community.

This is a great article which demonstrates action research, where results of research are transformed into instruments for awareness, advocacy, and positive change. This article can be used in children and youth courses and research.

Health:

Bockting, W.O., Robinson, B.E., Forberg, J., & Scheltma, K. (2005). Evaluation of a sexual health approach to reducing HIV/STD risk in the transgender community. *AIDS Care*, 17(3), 289-303.

There are high prevalence rates of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases among the transgender population. However, there lacks preventive education and research that targets this population. This research study developed and evaluated preventive strategies to address this lack of knowledge. Transgender individuals attended a 2 day seminar that included lectures, panel discussions, activities, and group discussions. Attitudes toward condom use, safer sex self-efficacy, and sexual high risk behavior were evaluated pre and post intervention. The results indicate improvements in these variables at 3 month follow-up post intervention. Although, participants reported other problems such as social discrimination, depression, suicide ideation, and sexual functioning. Future research may need to study interventions that deal with these crucial issues, as they may influence sexual high risk behaviors.

This is a good research article that can be used in health and intervention courses. It also demonstrates how issues are commonly interrelated: Health, mental health, and social environment.

Garofalo, R. & Katz, E. (2001). Health care issues of gay and lesbian youth. *Current Opinion in Pediatrics*, 13(4), 298-302.

Gay and lesbian youth face unique challenges resulting from the homophobia they may experience in their lives. There are numerous problems that may affect this population at a higher rate than heterosexual youths such as substance abuse, HIV, suicide, and violence. Health care providers should be aware of these unique issues and health risks of this population, but also need to treat patients with respect to normal adolescent development.

This is a good article to be used in health courses with emphasis on adolescent development and health risks.

Kenagy, G.P. & Hsieh, C.M (2005). The risk less known: female to male transgender persons' vulnerability to HIV infection. *AIDS Care*, 17(2), 195-207.

This article explores the differences among (male to female) and (female to male) transgender individuals on risk for HIV infection. Research has found high levels of HIV infection among male to female individuals, but female to male individuals are less understood. Risks for HIV infection was assessed and compared between these two transgender groups. The results indicate significant gender differences between the groups. Female to male individuals were less likely to have protected sex and more likely to engage in high risk sexual behaviors. These results are important because AIDS knowledge, perceived AIDS knowledge and condom usage, demographic variables, self-esteem, and perceived susceptibility to AIDS was controlled for in this study. Possible explanations are discussed such as confronting assumptions that female to male individuals only have sex with women, whereas they could be lesbian, gay, or bisexual. The causes of gender differences are unclear, but have important treatment implications.

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This article is a good tool to use in human behavior and community courses to illustrate the needs of transgender individuals and issues within the community.