CORONAVIRUS AND THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

KENDRA FRANKE
PHYSICAL HEALTH VULNERABILITIES

- Trump administration going through with changes to Section 1557 of the Affordable Healthcare Act
  - Section provides protections against discrimination from medical personnel
  - Changes would make it so trans people could be refused care
- Higher rates of preexisting conditions with the trans community
  - Diabetes, heart disease, asthma, and HIV
  - 50% more likely to smoke
- Many do not have health insurance
- Worried about being refused care if outed, even before changes to Section 1557
  - LGBTQ+ people avoid going to the doctor because of possibility of discrimination
  - May have undiagnosed conditions, unknown higher risk of severe COVID-19 infection
  - Feel uncomfortable going to the doctor when COVID-19 symptoms occur, leaving them untreated
MENTAL HEALTH VULNERABILITIES

• The Trevor Project (suicide hotline for LGBTQ+ youth) has seen a 50% call volume increase
• Having to move back into unaccepting and possibly abusive households
  • Changes to school and work has made it so some have had to move back home
  • Losing the sense of community, especially for college students
    • Many went to clubs and classes without their families knowing
    • Professors and clubs are trying to do as much as they can online to provide support
• Choosing between identity or suddenly having to come out to parents
  • Only 1/4th of LGBTQ+ college students surveyed said they could be themselves at home
  • 50% have been made to feel bad about their identity
• Outpouring of online resources becoming available
• Despite Pride celebrations around the world being cancelled, plans for a global, online Pride
  • 24-hour livestreamed event on June 27
  • Performances, workshops, speeches
  • Great way to feel as though the community is still accessible
• *The Trans Clippers Project*
  • Provides hair clippers “for transgender, nonbinary, and two-spirit individuals who (1) don’t have their own set of hair clippers and (2) are experiencing dysphoria/misgendering during COVID-19”
  • Resources in 14 states
RESOURCES CONTINUED

• **The Validation Station**
  • Free text service for trans folks
  • Provide your name, pronouns, and phone number
  • They send you a validating text every day

• them.’s list of *20 Ways to Help the Queer Community During Coronavirus*
  • Community programs
  • Crowdsourced fundraising
  • Mutual aid forms