"Like Two Beach Umbrellas Put Together": Investigating the Health Information Practices of South Carolina LGBTQ+ Communities

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"LIKE TWO BEACH UMBRELLAS PUT TOGETHER"

INVESTIGATING THE HEALTH INFORMATION PRACTICES OF SOUTH CAROLINA LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES

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LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT HEALTH DISPARITIES. INFORMATION BOTH PRODUCES & COMBATS DISPARITIES. HOW INFORMATION SHAPES HEALTH DISPARITIES IS UNDERSTUDIED.

RECRUITMENT & DEMOGRAPHICS

SAMPLING STRATEGIES FOR HIDDEN POPULATIONS: PURPOSEFUL, SNOWBALL, THEORETICAL, MAXIMAL VARIATION. RESULTED IN INTERVIEWS WITH 13 SC LGBTQ+ LEADERS. INTERVIEWS ONGOING WITH 30 PARTICIPANTS AS TARGET.

MAP OF PARTICIPANT LOCATIONS

CODE & SUBCODE

OBSTACLES PREVENTING COMMUNITIES FROM ACHIEVING HEALTH-RELATED OUTCOMES OR GOALS.

FIRST CYCLE. INITIAL PROCESS, & DESCRIPTIVE CODING. WHAT IS GOING ON? LINE-BY-LINE.

ANALYSIS

SECOND CYCLE. AXIAL & THEORETICAL CODING. WHAT ARE RELATIONSHIPS BTWN CATEGORIES?

BARRIERS

LACK OF PROXIMITY TO NEEDED HEALTH OR HEALTH-PROMOTING RESOURCES.

IN THE SOUTH, IF YOU GET A FEW GAY PEOPLE GOING IN ONE DIRECTION OTHER GAY PEOPLE WILL COME BECAUSE THEY'RE SO STARVED FOR COMMUNITY. - DEB

ISOLATION

PROVIDING HEALTHCARE BASED ON LGBTQ+ DISPARITIES WITHOUT CONSIDERING OTHER HEALTH NEEDS.

YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO SOMEBODY THAT'S SO PRO TRANS THEY'RE MISSING YOUR REGULAR ISSUES. - TONY

MEDICAL TUNNEL VISION

RESEARCH STUDIES THAT EXPLOIT LIVED EXPERIENCES OF LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY.

I THINK BIG PUBLICATIONS ARE WIDELY MISTRUSTED BY LGBTQ PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY COME FROM BROADER SOCIOECONOMIC SYSTEMS... PLACES THAT AREN'T REALLY EDUCATED ON THE ISSUES WE FACE. - KYLE

RESEARCH

INSTITUTIONALIZED RELIGION DISCRIMINATING AGAINST LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY.

OBVIOUSLY NO SENSIBLE RELIGION'S GOING TO POINT OUT THEIR THERAPY PROGRAMS FOR LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES AND SAY IT'S CONVERSION THERAPY. - ABBY JENNINGS

RELIGION

ABILITY TO "BOUNCE BACK" FROM ADVERSE SITUATIONS BY MAKING POSITIVE ADAPTATIONS.

THE FUNDAMENTAL FACT THAT I EXIST PROVES THAT LIFE IS POSSIBLE. - PINKY LILY FLOWER

RESILIENCE

CALLING FOR OTHERS TO ACKNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY'S EXISTENCE, VALIDITY, OR LEGALITY.

TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD & THAT STARTS WITH THE COMMUNITY WE LIVE IN. - PRINCESS MOCHA

DEMANDING RECOGNITION

NAMING ACTIONS, DESIRES, & IDEAS THAT CREATE A WORD WHERE LGBTQ+ PEOPLE EXPERIENCE EQUALITY.

WHEN IT'S TIME TO COME TOGETHER, WE COME TOGETHER. I DIDN'T KNOW HOW POWERFUL THAT WAS UNTIL WE HAD THE BATHROOM BILL INTRODUCED IN OUR STATE. - TONY

HOPING

SHARING STRONG EMOTIONS BY COMING INTO CONTACT WITH OTHER LGBTQ+ PEOPLE.

TO BE A CHURCH THAT WELCOMES MUSLIMS, IS LED BY A GAY PERSON, AND REFUSES TO USE THE WORD CHURCH SOUNDS LIKE WE CAN LOVE JESUS, BUT DON'T NEED YOUR RELIGION TO LOVE HIM. - PINK LILY FLOWER

SURFACING A COLLECTIVE BODY

ENGAGING IN SPIRITUAL PRACTICES OUTSIDE OF ORGANIZED RELIGION AS A FORM OF HEALTH PROMOTION.

WE'RE AN ABUSED GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT WE ACT THAT WAY. THAT WE TURN TO OURSELVES. - KIM

PRACTICING SPIRITUALITY

DEFENSIVE INFORMATION PRACTICES

INFORMATION PRACTICES REACTING TO PERCEIVED NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES TO SELF & COMMUNITY.

"BUG CHASERS" TRY TO BECOME [HIV] POSITIVE TO ACCESS [HEALTHCARE]... IF YOU EVER TEST POSITIVE, YOU GET THIS ENTIRE HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE YOU CAN'T HAVE OTHERWISE. - PAT

ASSESSING RISK

WEIGHING THE COSTS OF ENGAGING IN A SPECIFIC PRACTICE AGAINST THE PERCEIVED BENEFITS.

I FEEL LIKE WORD OF MOUTH IS THE GOD AS FAR AS INFORMATION, THE WAY IT SPREADS. - KYLE

WORD OF MOUTH

SHARING OF EXPERIENCES & STORIES AMONG COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

IT'S ALL WHO YOU KNOW. THE PEOPLE YOU NEED TO KNOW ARE AT THE CENTER AND THE PEOPLE AT THE CENTER KNOW WHO YOU NEED TO KNOW. - CHARLES

MEDIATING

CONNECTING COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH OUTSIDE EXPERTISE & RESOURCES.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO GO LOOK FOR HEALTH INFORMATION. WE'RE GOING TO LOOK FOR IT WITHIN OURSELVES. WE'RE AN ABUSED GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT WE ACT THAT WAY. THAT WE TURN TO OURSELVES. - KIM

MISTRUSTING OUTSIDERS

SELECTIVELY INTRODUCING NEW, OUTSIDE INFORMATION INTO A COMMUNITY.

IN CONCLUSION...

COMMUNITIES KNOWINGLY ENGAGE IN RISKY OR "UNSAFE" PRACTICES DUE TO LACK OF AVAILABLE OPTIONS OR BARRIERS THAT MAKE "SAFE" DECISIONS INCREDIBLY RISKY.

COMMUNITIES OFFER INFORMATIONAL SUPPORT IN RESPONSE TO A LACK OF RELEVANT HEALTH RESOURCES AND INFORMATION. SUPPORT IS PURPOSEFULLY INSULAR DUE TO MISTRUST OF OUTSIDERS.