

Year 1 Public Description of Work for
Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education

University of Minnesota

**Qualitative Study of LGBTQIA students' risk and protective factors
for sexual harassment and sexual assault.**

This Action Applies to Rubric Item(s): 24,26 and 28.

Description of Work:

Background.

The Association of American Universities Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct in 2019 demonstrated an increased prevalence of sexual harassment and sexual assault in LGBTQIA students. Extant literature, which is primarily quantitative, demonstrates a higher prevalence of sexual misconduct among LGBTQIA students, particularly those with multiple marginalized identities. Most previous work on sexual harassment is done within a heteronormative and cis-normative framework, leaving a gap in knowledge about the experiences of gender- and sex- minority people. This qualitative study addresses research gaps by centering the experiences of LGBTQIA students to better inform prevention efforts for this population of undergraduate students.

Relation to NASEM report.

The 2018 NASEM report acknowledges that sexual- and gender-minority people experience sexual harassment differently and research is needed to understand risk and protective factors for sexual misconduct among LGBTQIA students.

Purpose and goals.

The purpose of this qualitative work is to better understand LGBTQIA students' conceptions and behaviors related to sexual consent in order to inform effective and comprehensive sexual misconduct prevention strategies for LGBTQIA college students.

Methods.

This collaborative research is one project of the President's Initiative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct (PIPSM) at the University of Minnesota. This system-wide initiative, established in 2017, is institutionalized with a permanent home in the University of Minnesota Office of Human Resources. The PIPSM organizational structure includes a Steering Committee, a diverse stakeholder Advisory Committee and five working committees of which one is the Student Education and Engagement Committee (SEEC). The research described here is undertaken by SEEC in collaboration with key campus partners, including the PIPSM Steering Committee. LGBTQIA students are involved in multiple capacities in the project including being members of the research team and as participants in a community forum that served to shape the research questions. This IRB approved qualitative study was framed in public health theory, queer theory and intersectionality and uses a community-engaged model. Thirty students participated in semi-structured interviews throughout the spring of 2020.

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Current status of work.

Investigators completed the interviews and are analyzing the data. They have proposed a workshop at the NASEM Public Summit to share about this research.

Next steps.

The findings of this research will inform prevention initiatives intended to reduce the likelihood that LGBTQIA students will experience sexual misconduct. Results of the study will be shared with the campus community in Fall 2020, with a particular emphasis on reaching LGBTQIA undergraduate students. With the input of these students and other stakeholders, evidence-informed prevention initiatives will be developed, implemented, and evaluated. Additionally, the research team intends to present findings from the study at conferences and pursue publication in academic journals. This project is critical in helping to fill the gap in knowledge about the experience of sexual misconduct among LGBTQIA students.

Website for further information (if applicable): NA

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