Sparking conversations about suicide prevention in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community with photovoice

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#ktconnects
Sparking Conversations about suicide prevention in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two-spirit community

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Agenda

• The epidemic of LGBTQ2S+ Suicide
• What is Photovoice Method?
• The Still Here project
• KT initiatives
• Challenges & Lessons learned about KT
• Questions
Check in ...

1-800-SUICIDE (British Columbia)
Suicideprevention.ca/need-help/
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THE EPIDEMIC OF LGBTQ2S+ SUICIDE
Prevalence of suicide attempts (Lifetime)

- General Population (Heterosexual and cisgender): 1 in 20
- Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Population: 1 in 5
- Transgender Population: 1 in 2

Bauer 2013; Hottes 2016; Knock 2008
Suicide and HIV as leading causes of death among gay and bisexual men: a comparison of estimated mortality and published research
Hottes, Ferlatte & Gesink (2014) Critical Public Health
Perceived causes of latest suicide attempt among gay men ever attempting suicide: (n=116)

1. Social and interpersonal problems (47.4%)
2. General problems (26.7%)
3. Emotional problems (23.3%)
4. Problems with being gay (16.4%)
5. Mental disorders (12.1%)
Recent Suicide Attempts Across Multiple Social Identities Among Gay and Bisexual Men: An Intersectionality Analysis

Ferlatte et al. (2017) Journal of homosexuality
WHAT IS PHOTOVOICE?
What is Photovoice?

• Photovoice is an innovative participatory action research method.
• Gives voice to populations experiencing health & social disparities.
• Photographs are collected by members of a community affected by an issue to express their experiences and viewpoints.
• The photographs are shared to promote social change.

Wang and Burris, 1997
Why use Photovoice?

• Disrupts power in the research process by having participants choose what is photographed and discussed.
• Increased accessibility by offering an alternative to direct interview question.
• Useful to investigate complex, sensitive and stigma ridden issues by eliminating reliance on words
• Offers unique KT mechanisms that can be used to promote policy changes and inform interventions.

Haque & Eng 2011; Oliffe & Bottorf 2007; Wang 1999
A photovoice study where LGBTQ2S+ individuals affected by suicide take photographs to illustrate their experiences and perspectives.
Where it all started
I am locked in the closet and hope to free myself out, but I am scared...
That’s the mailbox and it’s full of mail, usually bills unfortunately. I hate looking inside. It brings very little good news. It’s usually bad news.
Despite popular belief, a bath bomb does not cure mental illness
Deserted. Empty. Abandoned. Despair. Lonely. Neglect. Is there hope for me? Where are my friends when I need them the most?
Learning to love and accept myself and my body
Resilience
KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION ACTIVITIES
still here
A collection of photographs contributed by gay and bisexual men to the Man-Up Against Suicide project.
Still Here

It's time to talk about depression and suicide in LGBTQ communities.
Social media

@stillhereprojectUBC
Still Here in the media

DAILYXTRA.CA

What does suicide look like to gay and bisexual men?

Researchers gave cameras to 29 people affected by suicide. The result is a new art exhibit in Vancouver

By Hannah Ackeral
Nov 07, 2016, 7:45 PM EST

Jason Hendriksen’s art on self-harm is part of an exhibit on suicide in the gay community. Credit: Hannah Ackeral/Daily Xtra

Depression and suicide are usually not welcome topics, which is exactly the stigma Olivier Ferlatte is trying to fight with the art exhibit still here.

“Sometimes when you have a topic that’s highly taboo, it’s very difficult to talk about,” he says.

Still here is part of Man-Up Against Suicide, a research project conducted through the University of British Columbia’s Men’s Health Research Program. It’s a way to do our part in the wake of recent mass suicides.

BC.CTVNEWS.CA

'I feel happiness now': Men stand up against suicide through art

Jason Hendriksen stands in front of his work in the exhibit, "Still Here" at Vancouver's Gallery Cooper. (Handout, Nov 6, 2016)

Bullying, depression, anxiety, anger, alienation, suicidal thoughts. For the first 30 years of his life, Jason Hendriksen didn’t know what it meant to be happy.

It all began in Grade 5, when Hendriksen began having feelings for other boys in his Fernie, B.C. class. He was bullied for being gay — sometimes violently — and began experiencing mental health issues, developed an eating disorder, cut himself up to 50 times a day, and had thoughts of ending his life.

"It was hell. I don’t know how to put it any other way," the now 25-year-old Hendriksen said, noting he dropped out of high school at 16 and was once told by doctors he would be a “mental case” for the rest of his life.
Challenges & Lessons Learned

• Ethical challenges: anonymity, indelibility of photographs, and safety (Creighton, 2017).

• How to advance participants’ voices throughout all stages (Evans-Agnew and Rosemberg, 2016).

• Time: How to balance KT activities with academic writing?

• Funding: it is expensive to do it right.

• Lobbying to affect policy changes is complex
Are you a gay, bisexual or queer men living with HIV?
Have you had serious thoughts of killing yourself since you became diagnosed with HIV?

... If so, we would like to INVITE you to participate in the Still Here project.

For further information, please contact the UBC Still Here research team. You must not be currently experiencing suicidal thoughts to participate in the study.

Call 604-822-2581 [Vancouver local]
Email info@stillhereproject.ca

Still Here Recruitment Flyer V3. October 11th 2017
Still Here Survey – Sondage Toujours là

Still Here is a Canada wide survey celebrating the resilience of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two-spirit (LGBTQTS) community. It is administered by the School of Nursing at the University of British Columbia. The survey covers a wide range of topics concerning the mental wellbeing of LGBTQ2S people – including knowledge, attitudes, and mental health experiences. The survey data will be used to advocate for better mental health services for queer people in Canada.

Join a thousand other queer people nationwide and help us improve Queer’s mental health!

Do the Still Here survey!
https://survey.ubc.ca/surveys/37-d2288430408a931655ea28621b3/stillhere-survey/

Survey participants will be entered into a draw for a $300 Amazon Gift Card.

Stillhere.ca
Thank you
The Still Here Research team! (PI John L. Oliffe)

Our participants!

Our funders and partners:
Thank you

Online exhibit: stillhereproject.ca
@stillhereprojectUBC
@thestillhereproject

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