

### Statement on 2020 Pride Month

The Collaborative Research Group on Health Policy & Promotion (CRG-HPP) + *UrbanHealth Lab* at York College is proud to celebrate Pride Month with the York College and general CUNY community. Our mission includes the design and promotion of collaborative, informative and rigorous research focusing on the critical public health issues facing individuals, families, and communities in the greater New York metropolitan area including our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQQIA) and other sexual and gender minority communities. Headed by Co-Directors and Co-Founders Dr. Susan Letteney (Department of Social Work) and Dr. Nicholas Grosskopf (Department of Health & Human Performance), our research team believes that social justice is necessary to ensuring the health and well-being of all. We stand with our communities and with the goal of promoting equity to end health disparities among sexual and gender minorities. CRG-HPP + *UrbanHealth Lab* has a strong history in publishing and presenting research on the health experiences, needs, and successes of sexual and gender minority communities as well as supporting local and international community-based and non-governmental organizations aimed at improving the health of these communities.

More specifically, in 2014 CRG-HPP launched the ***Sex[Ed] in the City (v. 1.0): Attitudes, Beliefs, Behaviors and Access to and Perceived Quality of Health Care among Sexual Minority Women Study***. Sexual minority women (SMW) have been underrepresented in the public health literature. However, research shows that lesbian and bisexual women experience a number of common risk factors which may contribute to disparities in health outcomes when compared to their heterosexual counterparts, including access to quality health care. Thus, it is important to address current knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors with regard to health care access and quality for these women.

A number of York College students (now alumni who've gone on to masters programs in social work, public health, etc.) were instrumental in the design and execution of the study. Attending several Pride events in and around NYC, the CRG research team collected data with a convenience sample of 203 diverse SMW. Results illustrated existing disparities in access to health insurance, primary care and routine sex and gender-focused health care (e.g., gynecological care) and self-care behaviors (e.g., breast self-exams). The study results point to the need for further research on the health behaviors and health outcomes of SMW and may help in shaping policy around health care knowledge, access and quality for SMW.

To keep up with CRG-HPP's recent work please feel free to visit us at [www.besthealthresearch.org](http://www.besthealthresearch.org) and follow us on Twitter and Instagram @UrbanHealthLab and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/urbanhealthlab](http://www.facebook.com/urbanhealthlab).