

Introduction to Special Series on Addiction among the LGBTQ+ Community

June 7, 2017

In many parts of the world, [LGBTQ+ people \(Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning\)](#) have more rights than ever, yet LGBTQ+ people are more vulnerable than others to substance use disorders and other expressions of addiction.



LGBTQ+ people, [including those who identify as Intersex or Asexual](#), generally experience stressors on a daily basis that their heterosexual or cis-gender counterparts do not. From [employment](#), [housing](#), and [health care](#) discrimination to [devastating family and social rejection](#), LGBTQ+ individuals are under a disproportionately greater number of daily stressors that put them at a disproportionately greater risk for engaging in a variety of risky behaviors compared to the general population. These “sexual minorities” are more likely to experience past-year issues with substance use and mental health than “sexual majorities,” [according to a recent US national survey](#).

[Minority stress](#) and social stigma are all-to-familiar themes, we see here at The BASIS. That is why we are pleased to announce a new *Special Series on Addiction among the LGBTQ+ Community* throughout the month of June to coincide with the joyous Pride Festivals and Parades that are taking place around the globe.

We begin today with [an ASHES review](#) of a study examining the prevalence of tobacco use among LGB people. Later in the month, [we will include an op-ed](#) from [Dr. Kimberly Balsam](#), Co-Director of the [Center for LGBTQ Evidence-Based Applied Research](#) at Palo Alto University. Dr. Balsam will describe experiences asking and answering questions about addiction within the LGBTQ+ community. Later in the month, [STASH will review a study](#) on substance use among transgender and non-binary individuals in Canada. Following that, [The WAGER will review a study](#) on the prevalence of psychiatric comorbidity in men who are pathological gamblers and [The DRAM reviews a study](#) examining usage of alcohol treatment services among gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals compared to heterosexual individuals.

We hope you learn and enjoy this new Special Series.

— Vanessa H. Graham

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