


Engaging Latinx LGBTQIA+ Population & Spirituality

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Learning Objectives

- ▶ Ability to describe the impact that spirituality, religion, and faith have in the Latinx and LGBTQIA+ communities, as well as their role in mental health.
- ▶ Learn examples of effective community engagement initiatives that target the faith-based community and have successfully supported dialogue within the Latinx LGBTQIA+ communities.
- ▶ Identify faith-based community resources that further promote mental health support for LGBTQIA+ community members.

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The Wall Las Memorias Project's Mission & AIDS Monument

- ▶ The Wall Las Memorias Project is a community health and wellness organization dedicated to serving Latino, LGBTQ and other underserved populations through advocacy, education and building the next generation of leadership.
- ▶ The Wall Las Memorias AIDS Monument
Lincoln Heights, CA



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TWLMP Programs & Services


- ▶ HIV Prevention - Testing, Counseling, & Peer Support
- ▶ Hep-C Awareness - Testing
- ▶ Mental Health - Stigma Reduction & Advocacy for LGBTQ TAY + Caregivers
- ▶ Substance Use Disorder Prevention - Environmental, Policy Change, & Activism
- ▶ Trans Health & Wellness - HIV Testing, Counseling, & Peer Support
- ▶ Non-Binary Health & Wellness - Peer Support
- ▶ Social Justice - Community Mobilizing & Advocacy



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Our Roots: Faith, Spirituality, & Culture



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The Power of Spirituality


- ▶ Builds Self-Esteem
- ▶ Allows for One to Relate to Cultural Traditions
- ▶ Self-Acceptance
- ▶ Provides a Sense of Community
- ▶ Can Provide Hope
- ▶ Legitimizes Who We Are
- ▶ Provides Self-Validation
- ▶ Mechanism that Helps us Address Challenges from One Day to Another



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Barriers of Faith & Spirituality for LGBTQIA+

- ▶ Homophobia
- ▶ Transphobia
- ▶ Church Doctrine
- ▶ Isolation
- ▶ Lack of Spiritual Mentors
- ▶ Discrimination



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Social Determinants of Health

- ▶ Income and Social Status
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Physical Environment
- ▶ Social Support Networks
- ▶ Genetics
- ▶ Health Services
- ▶ Gender
- ▶ Sexual Orientation
- ▶ Country of Origin




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Looking at Social Myths about LGBTQIA+ Identity that Directly Affects Individuals Mental Health...

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LGBTQIA+ Myths


<p>MYTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ No one is born gay. 	<p>FACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sexual orientation is a mixture of genetic and environmental factors. ▶ No one chooses to be Gay or Trans, neither do people choose to be straight or cisgender.
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LGBTQIA+ Myths


<p>MYTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ People who are LGBTQIA+ work and live in only certain types of situations. 	<p>FACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ LGBTQIA+ people belong to all ethnic and racial groups, are member of all religious communities, exhibit a range of mental and physical capabilities, and are of all ages.
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LGBTQIA+ Myths

<p>MYTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Same-sex parents harm children. 	<p>FACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ No Legitimate research has demonstrated that same-sex couples are any more or any less harmful to children than heterosexual couples.
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LGBTQIA+ Myths

<p>MYTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Gay people can choose to leave homosexuality. 	<p>FACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ “Conversion therapy” has been rejected by all established and reputable American mental health entities. ▶ Has contributed to higher rates of suicide.
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LGBTQIA+ Myths

<p>MYTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Homosexual people are more likely to molest children. 	<p>FACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Studies show that over 90% of child molestation is committed by heterosexual men.
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Most Common Mental Health Disorders for LGBTQIA+

- ▶ Depression
- ▶ Anxiety
- ▶ PTSD / Trauma
- ▶ Correlation between Mental Health & Substance Abuse

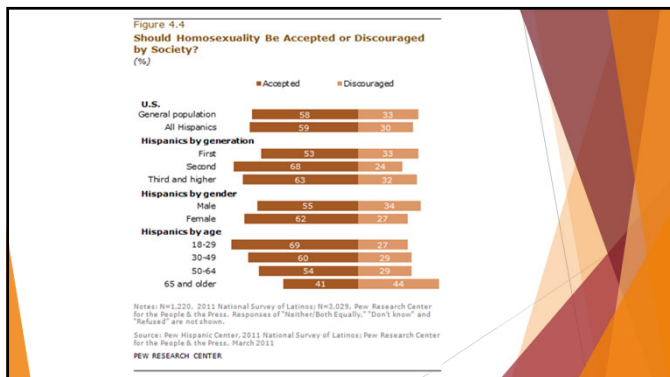


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Engaging Latinx LGBTQIA+ Population & Spirituality...

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Table 4.6
Homosexuality should be ... (%)

	Accepted by society	Discouraged by society	Neither/Both
All Hispanics	59	30	4
Catholic	60	28	4
Protestant	42	46	4
Evangelical	38	51	4
Unaffiliated	77	19	1
General population	58	33	3
Catholic	64	26	2
Protestant	48	44	3
White evangelical	29	63	3
Unaffiliated	79	15	2

Notes: N=1,220, 2011 National Survey of Latinos; N=3,029, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.
Source: Pew Hispanic Center, 2011 National Survey of Latinos; Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, March 2011.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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“ If someone is gay and is looking for the Lord, who am I to judge him? You should not discriminate against or marginalise these people. ”



Pope Francis in 2013

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Providing Safe Spiritual Conversation

- ▶ What is your purpose in life?
- ▶ What is your drive?
- ▶ What is your belief system?

Spiritual Formation


- ▶ Cultural
- ▶ Religious
- ▶ Lived Experiences



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Knowing the Difference

- ▶ Faith
- ▶ Religion
- ▶ Spirituality



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How do we make churches a safe space for LGBTQIA+ individuals?



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Religions and LGBTQIA+ Acceptance

Where Major Religions Stand on Same-Sex Marriage

Sanctions Same-Sex Marriage	Prohibits Same-Sex Marriage	No Clear Position
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservative Jewish Movement Episcopal Church Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Reform Jewish Movement Society of Friends (Quaker) Unitarian Universalist Association of Churches United Church of Christ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Baptist Churches Assemblies of God Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Islam Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod National Baptist Convention Orthodox Jewish Movement Roman Catholic Church Southern Baptist Convention United Methodist Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buddhism Hinduism

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How Should The LGBTQIA+ Community handle hate within their faith?



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Try focusing on the main message or purpose at the center of your spirituality/faith/religion.

Is it...

- ▶ Love?
- ▶ Community?
- ▶ Forgiveness?
- ▶ Healing?
- ▶ Acceptance?
- ▶ Charity?
- ▶ Goodwill?

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LGBTQIA+ Faith-Based Community Resources

Buddhist

- ▶ **Gay Buddhist Fellowship**
Network for LGBT buddhist and their Families
www.gaybuddhist.org

Catholic Orthodox

- ▶ **Call To Action**
Leaders in challenging Catholics to act for justice and build inclusive communities.
www.cto-usa.org
- ▶ **Fortunate Families**
A resource and networking ministry with Catholic parents of LGBTQ children.
www.fortunatefamilies.com

Christianity- Protestant

- ▶ <https://www.gaychurch.org/find-a-church/>
Search engine listing LGBT affirming local churches

Believe Out Loud

- ▶ **Believe Out Loud**
An online network that empowers Christians to work for LGBTQ equality.
www.believeoutloud.com

Islam

- ▶ **Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity**
An organization working to support, empower and connect LGBTQ Muslims.
www.muslimalliance.org

Judaism

- ▶ **Eshel**
An organization working towards creating a community and acceptance for LGBTQ Jews and their families in Orthodox communities.
www.eshelonline.org

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