NCSP statement in support of LGBTQIA+ and Pride

The National Council for Suicide Prevention (NCSP) recognized Pride during the month of June and supports LGBTQIA+ communities throughout the year.  Research confirms that members of the LGBTQIA+ population have higher rates of suicidal thoughts and attempts than the general population.  Data shows that 1 in 3 members of the LGBTQIA+ population continue to experience harassment, bullying and other forms of discrimination, which are directly linked to increased rates of depression, substance misuse, and suicidality (Discrimination and barriers to well-being: the state of the LGBTQIA+ community in 2022).   While progress has been made in understanding the unique issues facing this population, more is needed to help prevent so many from suffering unnecessarily.  This is why the NCSP believes more needs to be done to help LGBTQIA+ individuals and their families.

1. Research:  to better understand how to decrease suicide rates in LGBTQIA+ communities as well as inclusion in larger research studies of those who are LGBTQIA+.
2. Data collection:  to-date sexual orientation status is not information captured on death certificates, making it impossible for us to know accurate data on suicide deaths among the LGBTQIA+ community.
3. Funding:  to support awareness, education and programs to reduce stigma and increase acceptance across the population.
4. Policy:  advancement and adoption of nondiscrimination policies throughout society, including in schools and workplaces.
5. Healthcare:  improved access to healthcare, with 15% reporting fears and/or failure to report a medical problem to a healthcare provider due to concerns over discrimination and 1 in 3 needing to educate their healthcare provider about issues they face.
6. Equity:  LGBTQIA+ individuals who are also people of color face even greater discrimination and challenges that need to be addressed.
7. Sports:  policies and practices on participation in sporting activities beginning in school through college and professional sports.

While June is the month of Pride and it gives us time to reflect on the advancements made in acceptance of all people in America, it also reminds us that our work is not done and there is more to do.  The NCSP members offer our support for LGBTQIA+ communities throughout the year and working together we know can make a difference and we can save lives.

Reference

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/discrimination-and-barriers-to-well-being-the-state-of-the-lgbtqi-community-in-2022>. The state of the LGBTQI+ community: a national public opinion study. Center for American Progress, 2022, Washington, DC.