

Northwestern University Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing (ISGMH)

The **Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing**, known as **ISGMH**, was founded in 2015 and has since been led by Director Dr. Brian Mustanski. The institute was established during a critical period in LGBTQ history. That same year, the Supreme Court struck down state bans on same-sex marriage. Commenting on the history of the case, former Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy shared that it was born out of the LGBTQ movement's pursuit for "equal dignity in the eyes of the law."

ISGMH is the largest institute in the U.S. to focus on sexual and gender minority (SGM) health research. LGBTQ health disparities represent the next wave of LGBT rights. *ISGMH's work touches the lives of friends and families of LGBTQ people, from youth to the elderly who may be dealing with medical, mental health, healthy relationship issues, and more.*



Marriage equality was an important step in a long pursuit for dignity. Yet, despite progress in legal rights and changing social attitudes, it was increasingly clear that that same dignity was severely lacking in one of the most crucial aspects of our lives—health and wellbeing. In response to emerging calls for sexual and gender minority health research, Northwestern launched ISGMH to catalyze this crucial health research through thought leadership and innovative science.

ISGMH is comprised of a team of researchers dedicated to using research to advance health equity for SGM people on a national scale. Our research reveals mounting evidence that SGM communities face severe health disparities—from HIV, to diabetes, to depression—and with limited access to care. Much of the research we have conducted is unprecedented and provides desperately needed insights to inform how we can close these gaps.



The **National LGBTQ Health Conference** is an interdisciplinary translational research conference bringing together scientists, public health professionals, and healthcare providers to discuss issues affecting the health and wellbeing of the LGBTQ community. The largest scientific gathering of its kind in the US, the conference also provides professional development and networking opportunities. The conference was founded in 2012 by the ISGMH and the Center on Halsted, the largest LGBTQ community center in the Midwest. In 2019, Emory University joined as a partner. **Sponsorship and partnership opportunities are available.**

We are passionate about training the next generation of sexual and gender minority health scholars. Many of our ongoing research projects welcome postdoctoral fellows/scholars, trainees, and interns to learn and work with ISGMH faculty and staff.

Contact Us

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Resources

- ISGMH website: isgmh.northwestern.edu
- Faculty: isgmh.northwestern.edu/people/faculty
- Mailing list: isgmh.northwestern.edu/contact
- Conference registration: lgbtqhealthconf.dryfta.com