



Oral Health Equity and Justice for Marginalized Communities

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AIDPH
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About AIDPH

AIDPH is a 501c3 nonprofit organization committed to transforming dental public health practices through

research, education, and advocacy.

Serving as a catalyst for change, AIDPH advocates for a **justice-oriented oral health system** that prioritizes equity and inclusion.



AIDPH's Mission and Vision

MISSION

Empowering our community to advance oral health through science, education, and advocacy

VISION

A justice-oriented oral health system



AIDPH's communities of focus



LGBTQIA+

Reduce disparities and promote oral health equity for all individuals regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex status.



Veterans

Improve oral health outcomes, promote preventive care, and enhance the overall quality of life for those who serve in the military.



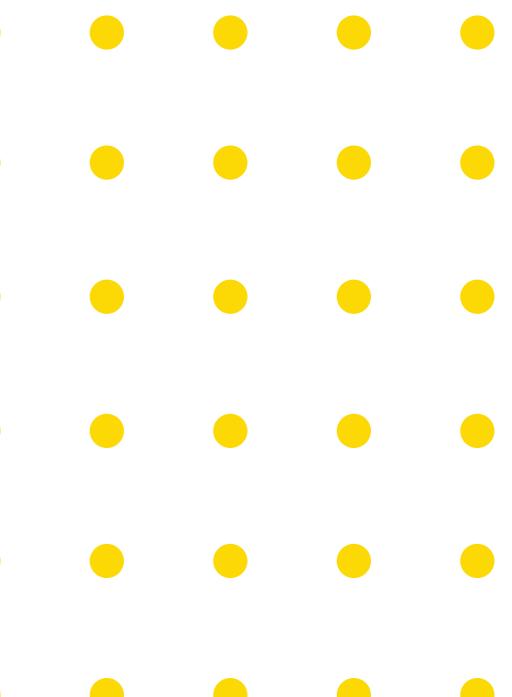
Disabilities

Improve the oral health outcomes and overall well-being of people with disabilities.

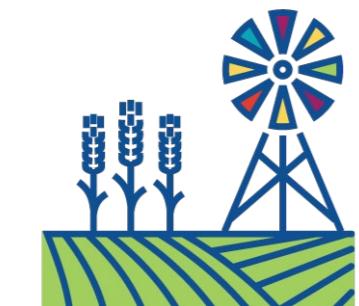
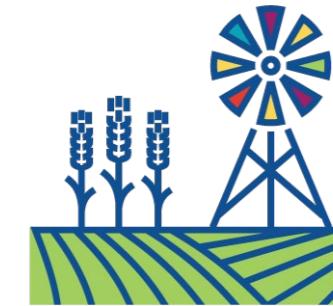


Rural

Contribute to reducing oral health disparities and improving the overall well-being of rural communities.



Fast Facts: Intersections of Communities of Focus



There are **1 million** veterans who identify as LGTBQIA+ and **90,000** active duty queer service members

Approximately **30%** or **5.2 million** veterans report having a disability

About **25%** of veterans (4.6 million) live in a rural area

An estimated **2.9 – 3.8 million** LGBTQIA+ people live in rural areas

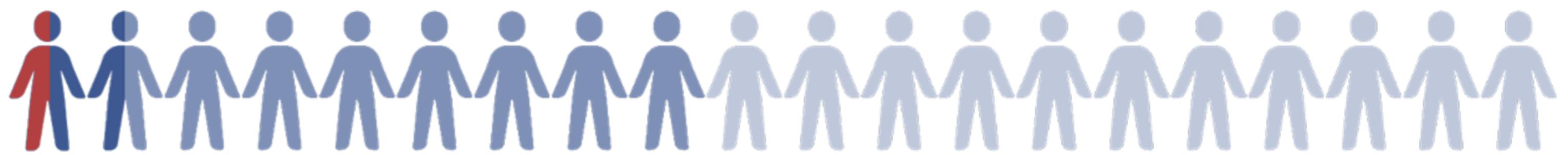
Between **3 – 5 million** queer people have a disability

Common experience of historical exclusion and marginalization from healthcare systems.

AIDPH's model for community engagement



Community Highlight on Veterans



There are **18 million** veterans in the US. Of those, **9 million** receive healthcare from the VHA. Only **2.2 million** are eligible for dental care from the VHA, with just over **600,000** receiving dental care.

Community Highlight on Veterans

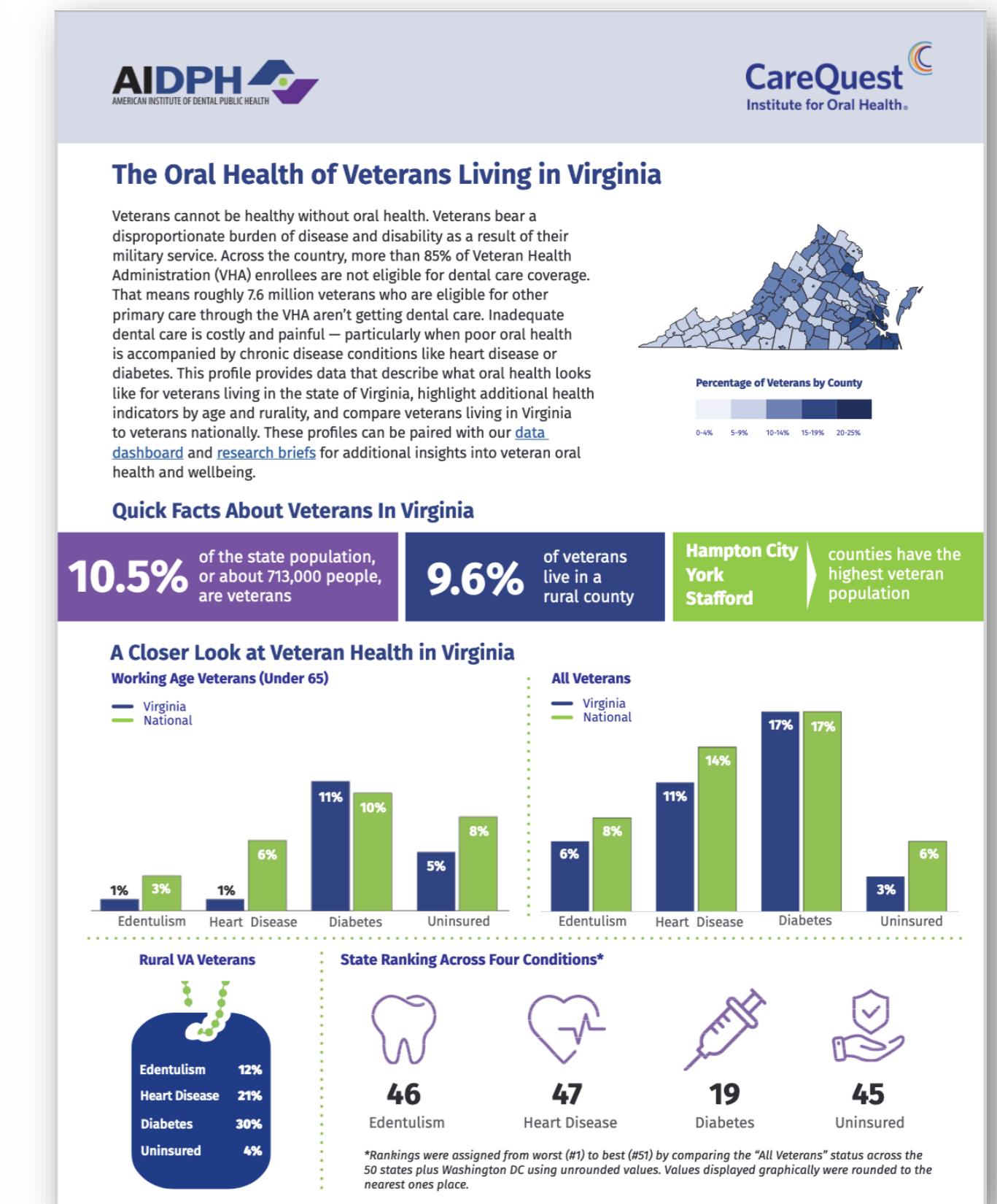


- Veterans disproportionately **experience disease and disability** compared to nonveterans
- Veterans have **higher rates** of heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and mental health conditions
- Veterans self-report **visiting the ED** for a dental condition at a higher rate than non-veterans
- Veterans experience high rates **dental pain** and tooth loss
- Veterans with dental pain have **lower productivity** in the workplace

Community Highlight on Veterans



VetDentalData.org



- **Very little data** exist on the oral health and well-being of queer people
- Preliminary data suggest transgender people **see the dentist less** than cisgender people
- In general, dental providers report being “comfortable” with queer patients yet don’t fully **understand the nuances** of lived experience
- Preliminary data indicate **dental schools** don’t focus on this population

Community Highlight on LGBTQIA+





Pride in Knowledge: Transforming LGBTQIA+ Oral Health Through Education

We're excited to announce LGBTQIA+ Oral Health Week, taking place from October 21-25, 2024! This year's theme, "Pride in Knowledge: Transforming LGBTQIA+ Oral Health Through Education," focuses on the critical role of education in fostering inclusive, affirming care for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Each day will focus on a specific subtheme to help us advance LGBTQIA+ dental public health equity!

- **Monday** – *Laying the Foundation: LGBTQIA+ Inclusivity in Dental Care and Education*
- **Tuesday** – *Advancing Knowledge: Integrating LGBTQIA+ Education in Dental Curricula*
- **Wednesday** – *Building Inclusive Practices: Continuing Education for Dental Professionals*
- **Thursday** – *Empowering Patients: Advocacy for LGBTQIA+ Oral Health*
- **Friday** – *Engaging Communities: Building Partnerships for Equitable Oral Health*

Community Highlight on LGBTQIA+





Tips for Integrating LGBTQIA+ Topics into Dental Curricula and Creating a Safe Learning Environment

The following list is designed to provide ideas and starting points for improving the environment on campus for LGBTQIA+ students and ensuring your curriculum reflects the needs of LGBTQIA+ patients. Although implementing all of the recommendations may not be possible or practical, it's often best to implement multiple strategies.

- Train students to confront implicit biases and avoid assumptions about a patient's gender or sexual orientation, using neutral and [inclusive language](#) unless a patient explicitly identifies their pronouns or orientation.
 Refer to our [Cultural Responsiveness for Oral Health Providers](#) workbook.
- When discussing social and health issues among the LGBTQIA+ community, be careful to avoid language that pathologizes diverse gender identities and sexual orientations.
- Acknowledge the diversity and distinct, often-intersecting identities within the LGBTQIA+ community by avoiding generalizations in language and educational materials.
- Consider adding pronouns to email signatures to model inclusivity, ensuring it is optional to protect the privacy of those not ready or not able to disclose.
- Utilize clinical case studies and patient scenarios that include patients' diverse gender identities, sexual orientations, and accompanying social determinants of health to help students consider the full context of each patient's life and identity.
- Develop modules that address specific oral health needs within the LGBTQIA+ community, such as the impact of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) on oral health.
 Learn more about the [oral health implications of gender-affirming care](#).



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Creating an LGBTQIA+ Inclusive Environment

Creating an inclusive environment in a dental practice (or any healthcare setting) ensures all patients feel welcomed, respected, and understood. Here's a checklist to help guide practices in fostering inclusivity.

Physical Environment

- Signage: Display clear, inclusive signs. Consider signs indicating that your practice is an LGBTQIA+ safe space.
 [Download a sign](#) to place in the front window.
- Gender-neutral restrooms: Establish or label gender-neutral restrooms.
- Inclusive visuals: Ensure that brochures, posters, and other materials represent diverse groups, including the LGBTQIA+ community.

Intake and Administrative Procedures

- Inclusive intake forms: Update forms to include spaces for preferred names, and pronouns.
 [Read this guidance](#) from the National Center.
- Training for front desk staff: Ensure reception staff are trained in using inclusive language and terminology.
- Privacy measures: Implement procedures to protect patients, especially when discussing LGBTQIA+ health concerns.

Staff Training and Awareness

- Ongoing inclusivity training: Offer regular training on LGBTQIA+ inclusivity, cultural competency, and diversity.
- Resource availability: Ensure that staff have access to resources on LGBTQIA+ health concerns, terminology, and support services.
- Open dialogue: Foster an environment where staff can discuss concerns, and share experiences related to LGBTQIA+ health.

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Inclusive Interactions Toolkit



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LGBTQIA+ Cultural Responsiveness for Oral Health Providers

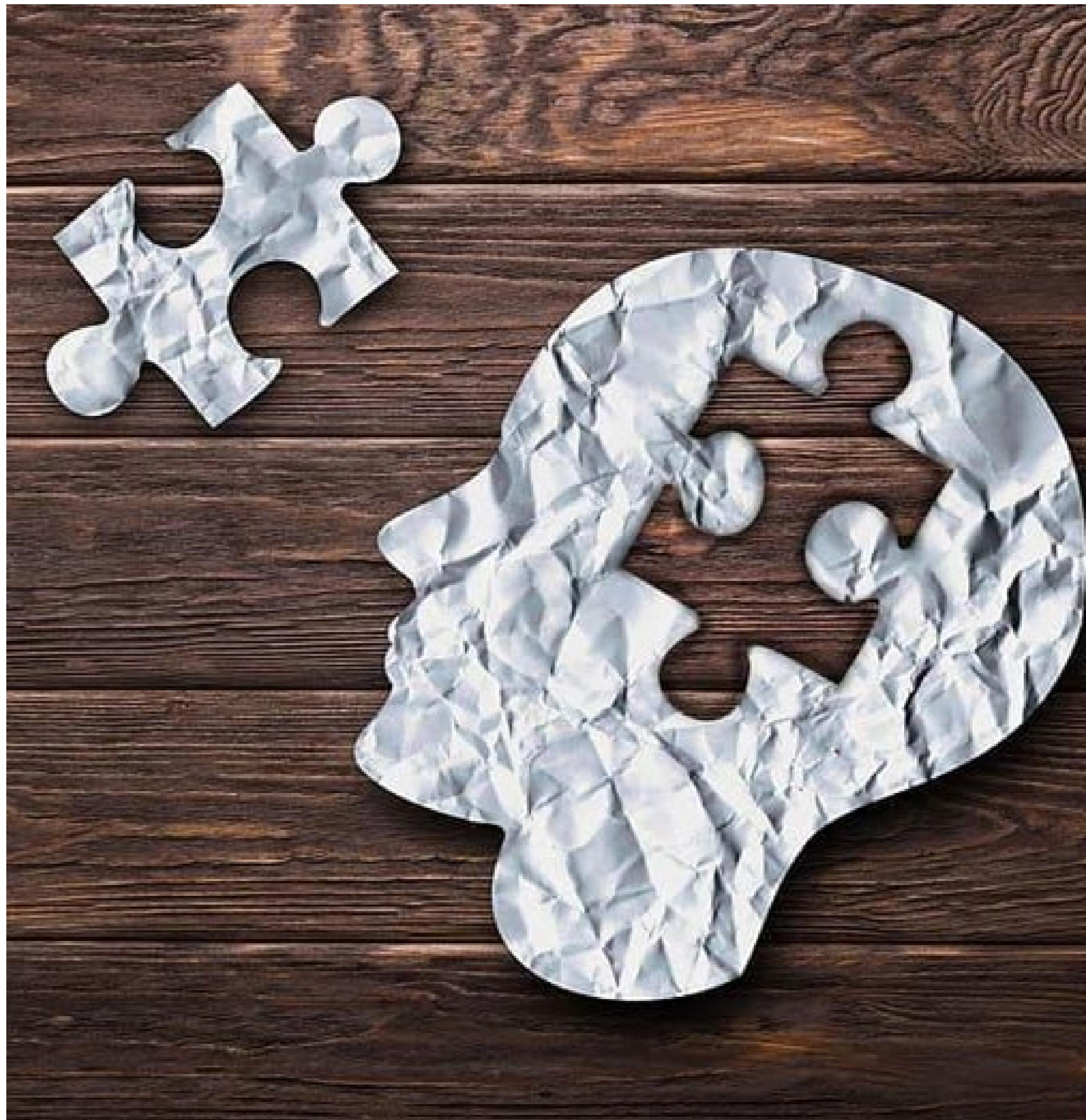


Community Highlight on LGBTQIA+



Gaps in the Evidence Base

1. Minoritized veterans and lack of **available data**
2. Veteran outcomes **by age**
3. Connecting **mental health** and oral health
4. **Clinical outcomes** or differences for queer people
5. Lack of SOGI, veteran, and oral health data collected in **surveillance systems**



Strategic Recommendations

1. **Fund** research, education, and advocacy to address gaps in resources and knowledge
2. **Invest** in trauma-informed approaches and inclusive policies/practices
3. **Be proactive** to protect the current public health infrastructure for both veterans and queer people





Attend & present at the 2025 AIDPH Colloquium!

Join us in Chicago for
Dental Care as a Human Right to
continue the conversation



References from Presentation

- Digital Technology in Community Engagement: Impacts and Implications
- Improving health literacy using the power of digital communications to achieve better health outcomes for patients and practitioners
- Using health information technology to engage communities in health, education, and research
- Community engagement: health research through informing, consultation, involving and empowerment in Ingwavuma community
- The Community-Engaged Research Framework
- Digital Technology in Community Engagement:Impacts and Implications
- Health Data Principles
- The Critical Role of Racial/Ethnic Data Disaggregation for Health Equity
- Engaging Community: What Does It Mean, and How Do We Measure It?



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