



Michael Mancilla LCSW
LGBTQ Health Initiative
Children's National Health System
111 Michigan Avenue, NW, Suite 3600
Washington, DC 20010

202-476-4976
mmancill@childrensnational.org
www.ChildrensNational.org

LGBTQ Health Initiative

Who We Are

Children's National (CN) is the largest provider of pediatric, adolescent and young adult care in the Washington DC metropolitan region. As a non-profit provider, CN has a mission to serve all youth in its service area regardless of ability to pay. Part of the primary care program is the Adolescent Health Center (AHC), providing primary and specialty care to over 10,000 youth annually. Special services within AHC include the Youth Pride Clinic for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and queer (LGBTQ) youth, the Burgess Clinic for HIV infected youth, the Kirby Reproductive Health Center, the Delaney Eating Disorders Clinic, and the newly founded LGBTQ Health Education Program.

Need for Culturally Competent Care for LGBTQ Youth

LGBTQ youth are continually marginalized by the health care system. The inability to get sensitive and respectful care results in increased morbidity and mortality for LGBTQ youth. Social science research continues to show that LGBTQ youth are at greater risk for negative health outcomes including HIV/STD infection, substance abuse, and suicidal ideation. The 2012 DC Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) report the following disparities among public and public charter high school students in DC:

- Lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) youth were twice as likely as heterosexual youth to report being bullied at school; questioning youth were three times as likely to report the same.
- Compared to heterosexual youth, LGB and questioning (LGBQ) youth were 2.3 times more likely to report having made a suicide plan and 2.7 times more likely to report having attempted suicide in the past year.
- LGB youth were more likely than their heterosexual peers to report smoking cigarettes (2.0x), drinking alcohol (2.3x), smoking marijuana (2.3x), and using cocaine (1.7x).

Commented [AB1]: I updated these with the 2012 data, which is still the most recent I believe. I took out the trans statistics because I wasn't sure where they came from.

What We Do

Children's National is committed to addressing these stark disparities with a two-pronged approach: (1) providing primary and specialty care as well as mental health services tailored to meet the needs of LGBTQ youth through the Youth Pride Clinic; and (2) fostering the development of safe treatment spaces for LGBTQ youth throughout the region by delivering training and technical assistance through the LGBTQ Health Education program.

Youth Pride Clinic

The Youth Pride Clinic provides primary and specialty care as well as mental health services to address the unique healthcare needs of LGBTQ youth from throughout the DC metropolitan region. Founded in July 2015, our clinic is currently the only one its kind in the United States. Staffed by physicians, nurses, and social



Children's National™

workers with specialized experience in LGBTQ health issues, we offer youth a safe space to access medical services ranging from individual counseling to gender-confirming services to routine physicals.

On their first appointment, our adolescent patients meet with a team of providers who assess their health and mental health needs and are able to answer questions on topics such as HIV and sexually transmitted disease prevention, hormone replacement therapy, and the “coming out” process. Furthermore, as part of our commitment to serve not only adolescents but also their families, we provide both support and education about LGBTQ issues to parents and guardians when needed. We receive referrals from within the Children’s National system and from community-based providers; many adolescents and their families also seek us out on their own after struggling to find a physician who understands their needs and concerns.

[LGBTQ Health Education Program](#)

Launched in 2014, the LGBTQ Health Education Program delivers health promotion workshops focused on the unique needs of the LGBTQ pediatric population to physicians, nurses, and other practitioners within the Children’s National system and to providers and organizations throughout the DC metropolitan area. We engage the LGBTQ pediatric population and their supporters in the development and implementation of the program by convening an advisory board consisting of LGBTQ youth, LGBTQ supportive professionals, and community-based providers; this group offers oversight and advice throughout the process.

Since this program’s inception, we have facilitated LGBTQ cultural competency workshops to a variety of health care providers. Looking to the future, we will be creating a Safe Space Ally group to identify dedicated allied multidisciplinary team to be leaders in providing culturally appropriate and sensitive care.

[Schedule a Workshop or Make a Referral](#)

Please contact our program for more information regarding LGBTQ training, education and support for your staff, department, or agency. Together, we can make a difference and stand for *all* children. For more information or to find out how to get involved, please contact **Michael Mancilla, LICSW, at 202-476-4976** or mmancill@childrensnational.org.