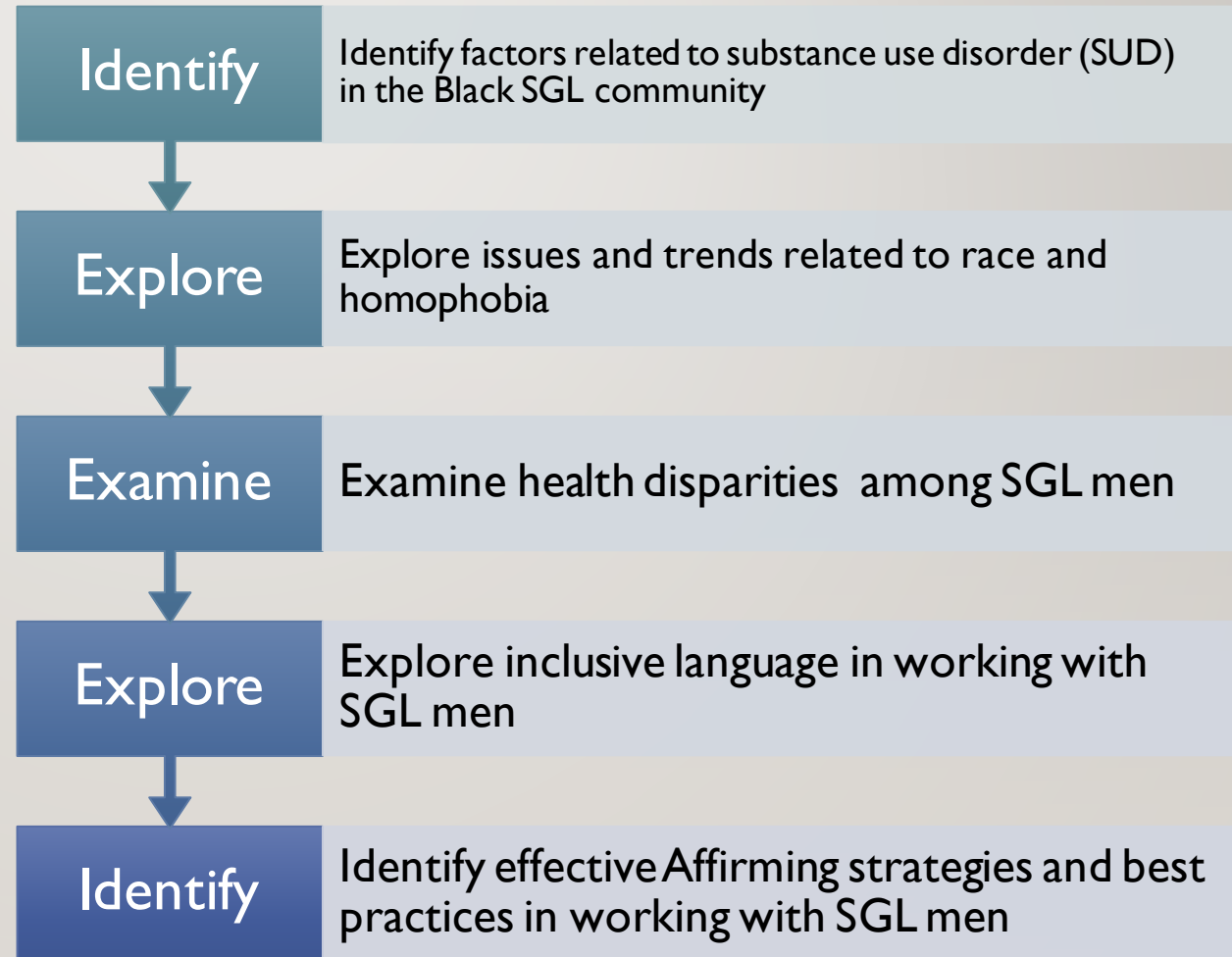


**SUBSTANCE USE
DISORDERS AND
HEALTH DISPARITIES
AMONG BLACK SAME
GENDER LOVING (SGL)
MEN: A CLOSER LOOK
AT ISSUES AND TRENDS**

**Lawrence Bryant, PhD, MPH, BSW, RRT
Kennesaw State University
Kennesaw Georgia**



LEARNING OBJECTIVES



We will Chat!



MY JOURNEY



SAME GENDER LOVING

A term coined by African American Activist Cleo Manago in the early 1990s to describe gay or bisexual relationships in the AA community. Mr Manago felt that other terms such as (**BMSM**), gay, lesbian, and **queer** are not always appropriate in describing AA sexual identity

LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

When compared with the general population, LGBTQ+ people have higher non-medical substance use, compared to the general population. Why? Let's Chat!!





Stimulants



Opioids

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) IN THE BLACK SGL COMMUNITY

Dependence Heroin Detox

Adverse Withdrawl Drugs Fatal Laws

Epidemic Depression Abuse

OPIOID CRISIS

Addiction
esopreneo

Communities Injections Usage

Addiction Treatment

Control Deaths Policing

Antidote Families Health

Drugs Doctors Political

Usage
Political

Control

Addicts

Over
70%

of the nearly 71,000
drug overdose deaths in 2019
involved an **opioid**.

- Nearly 841,000 people have died since 1999 from a drug overdose.
- In 2019, 70,630 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States (CDC, 2020)
- **Among AA, 38% increase in OD deaths between 2018 and 2019 in 4 states (NIH, 2021)**

OVERDOSE DEATHS IN THE U.S.

OPIOIDS

- Oxycodone (OxyContin),
- hydrocodone (Vicodin),
- morphine,
- Methadone,
- Codeine,
- Percocet
- **Fentanyl**
- **Carfentanyl**
- **Heroin**



XYLAZINE



Based on data available for analysis on:

9/5/2021

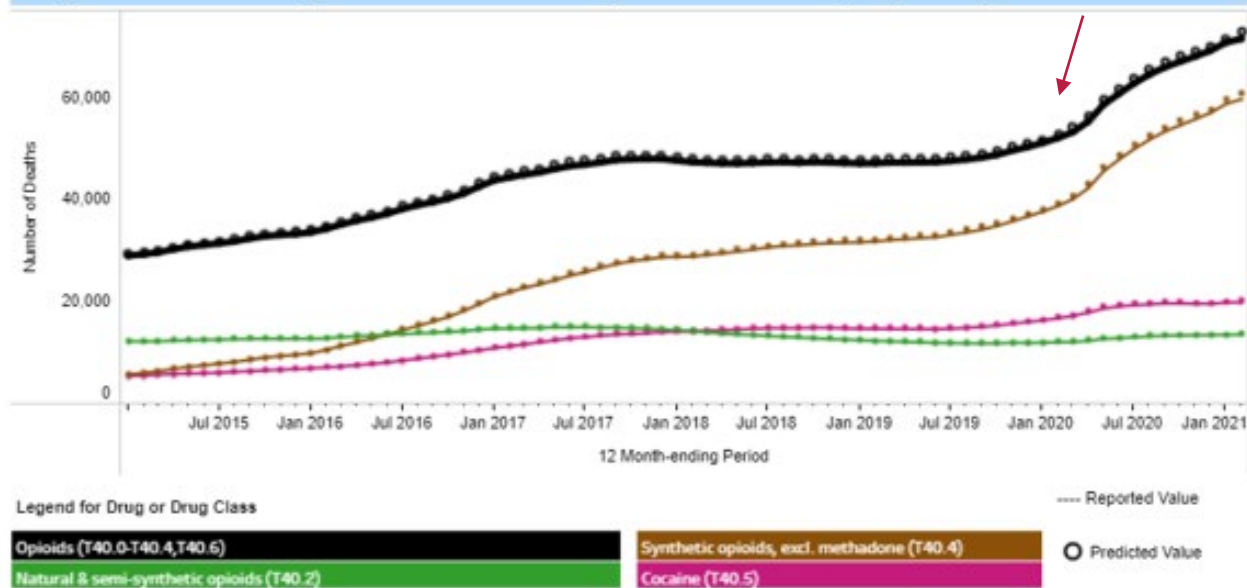
Select Jurisdiction

United States

Select specific drugs or drug classes

(Multiple values)

Figure 2. 12 Month-ending Provisional Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug or Drug Class: United States



CDC, 2021



STIMULANTS

METHAMPHETAMINES

A highly addictive stimulant that affects the CNS

Also called ice, chalk, meth, crystal

Can be **smoked, swallowed, or snorted**

Easily dissolved in water for injection

CRYSTAL METH

Crystal meth is a very strong form of meth

The differences between crystal meth and meth is the strength and appearance of the drugs

Crystal meth is more potent than Meth

Crystal Meth is more addictive (binge and crash)



Photo by [DEA](#)

Crystal methamphetamine

HEALTH RISK



Hypertention

Hepatitis C+ 

Endocarditis

Dental issues (severe)

Neurological damage

HIV/AIDS

Overdose - Death

National Institute of Health (2019). Methamphetamine Drug facts. Retrieved From:

<https://www.drugabuse.gov/download/1076/methamphetamine-drugfacts.pdf?v=04b49969b52aade627329386a3e9d265>



END GAME
(OVERDOSE-DEATH)

EXPLORING INFLUENCES ON METHAMPHETAMINE USE AMONG BLACK GAY, BISEXUAL AND OTHER MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN IN ATLANTA: A FOCUS GROUP STUDY




Participants unanimously agreed that methamphetamine use was increasingly **prevalent among Black GBMSM in Atlanta (December 2019 and March 2020)**

Participants described contributors to increasing methamphetamine use including **use as a sex drug, and the interrelated burdens of stress and mental illness, housing instability, geographic mobility and poverty.**

Participants described how policies prioritizing other concerns (e.g., HIV, opioids) seemed to limit resources available for methamphetamine prevention and treatment programming.

These trends impact health and well-being **and undermine HIV prevention and treatment efforts.**

Hussen, et, al 2021 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8380493/>



TO ACHIEVE HEALTH EQUITY AND
END THE HIV EPIDEMIC, THE NATION
MUST OVERCOME

RACISM,
HOMOPHOBIA,
TRANSPHOBIA,
HIV-RELATED STIGMA,
EXPLOITATION

**THE CRIMINALIZATION OF SUD
AND HIV**

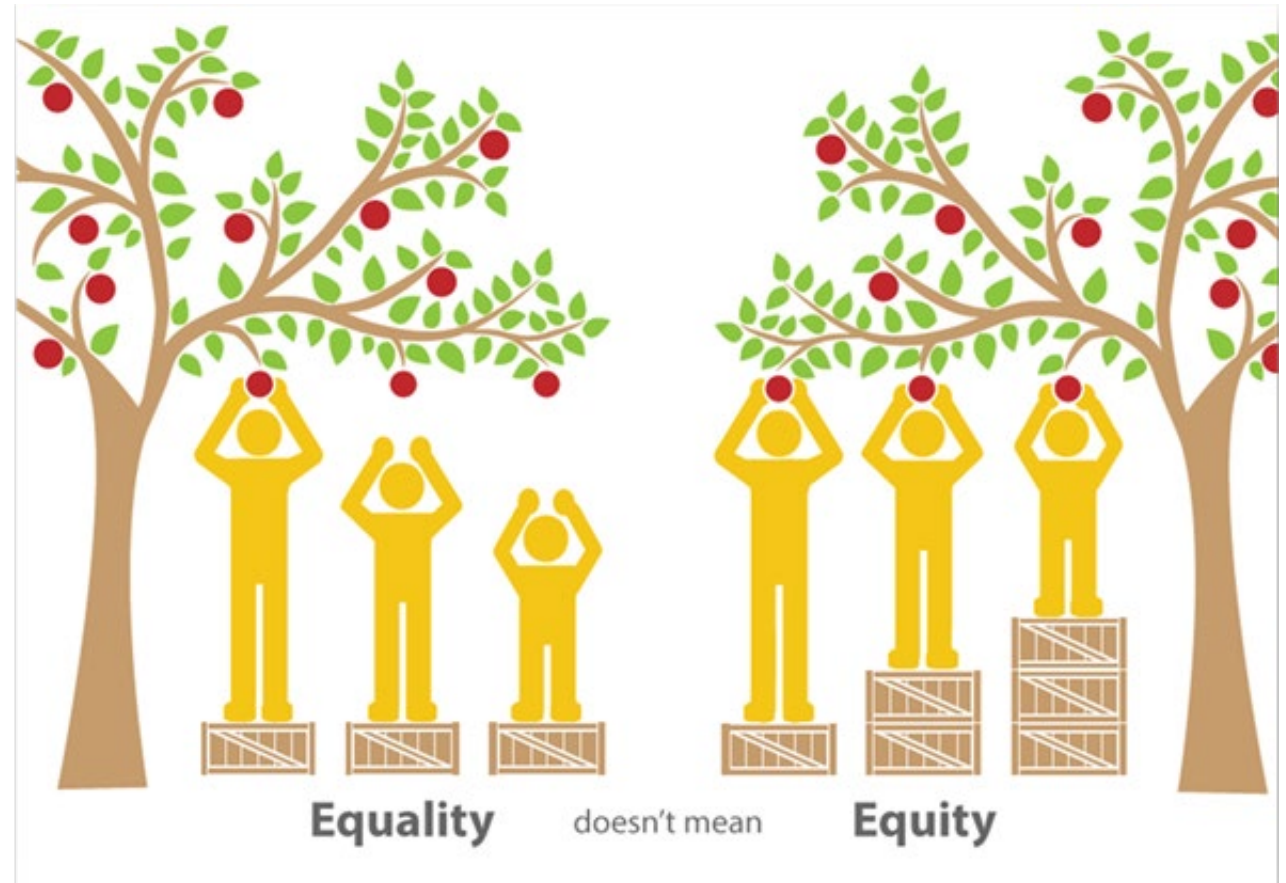
THE WAR ON DRUGS – LET'S CHAT!



HEALTH EQUITY

“Is the state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health”

[\(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; October 2010\)](#)

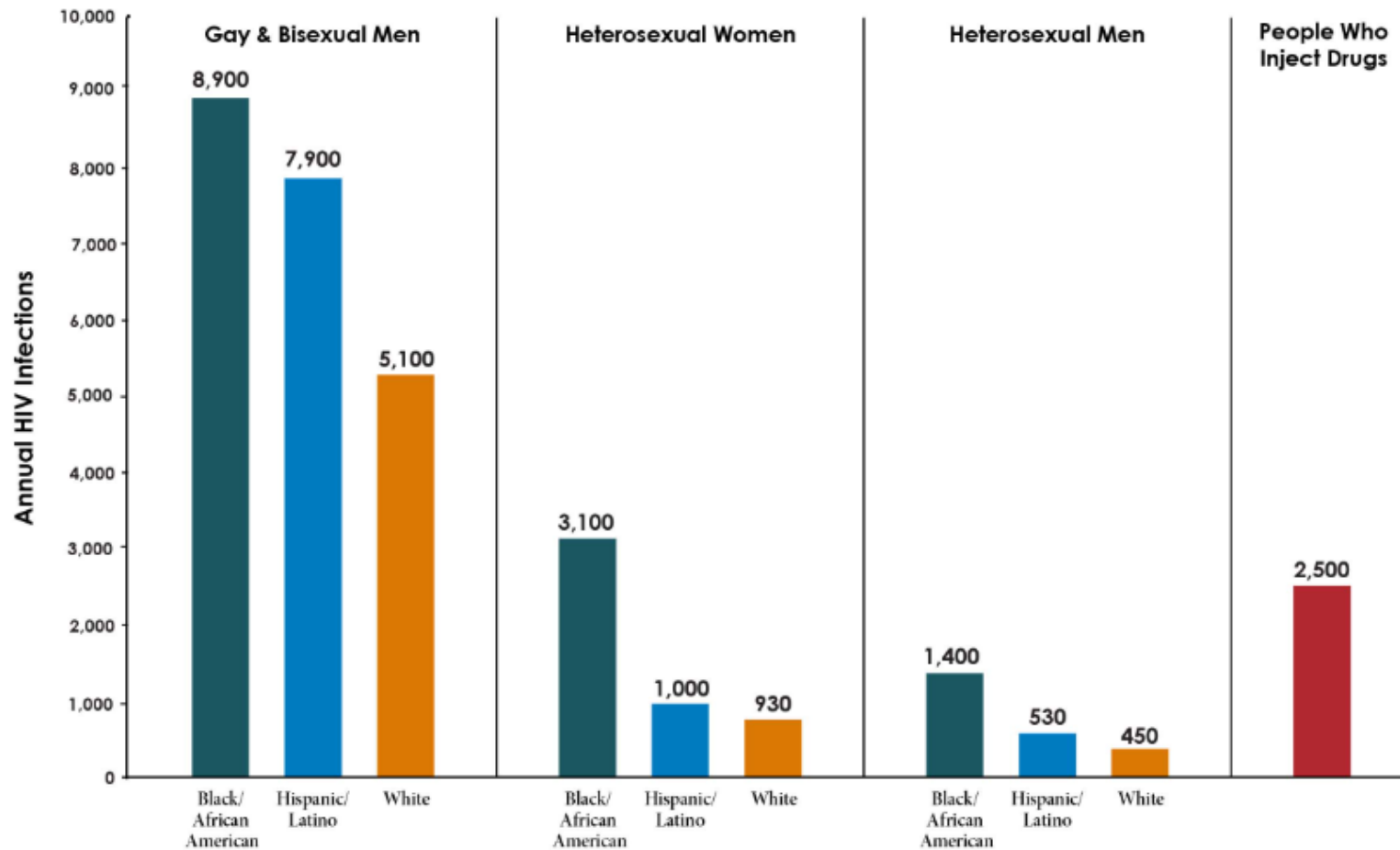


HIV/AIDS IN THE SGL
COMMUNITY AND THE
ASSOCIATED HEALTH
DISPARITIES (SYNDEMIC)

HIV/AIDS and SUD = Syndemic

NEW HIV INFECTIONS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECT BLACK GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN AND BLACK HETEROSEXUAL WOMEN

NEW HIV INFECTIONS BY RACE AND TRANSMISSION GROUP, 2019

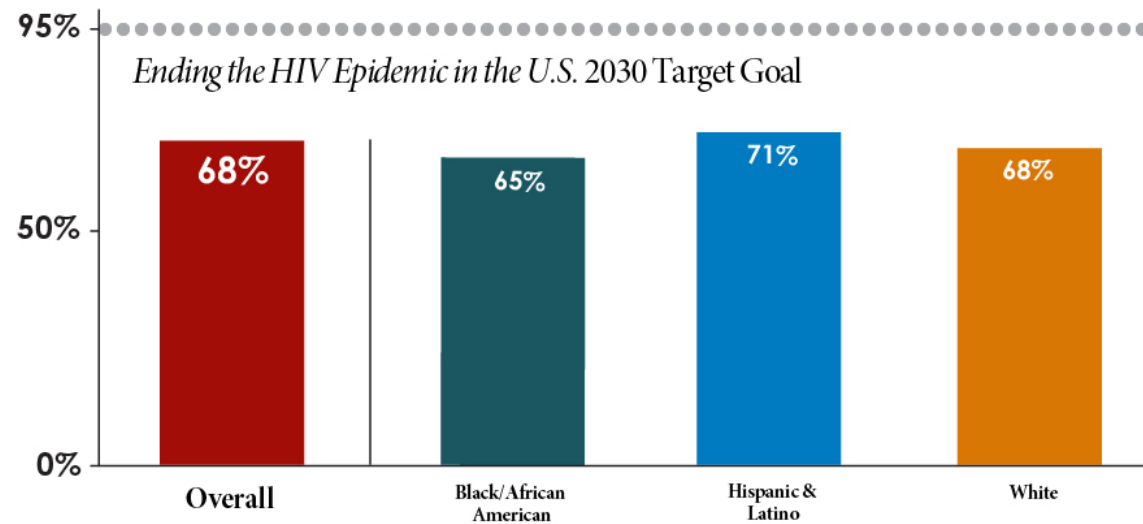


PROJECTION

- According to the CDC (2017), If current HIV diagnosis in the US will be diagnosed with HIV during their lifetime rates continue, about 1 in 2 Black SGL men and 1 in 4 Latino gay men

IN 2020, JUST 65% OF BLACK PEOPLE IN THE U.S. WERE VIRALLY SUPPRESSED WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF DIAGNOSIS

VIRAL SUPPRESSION IN THE U.S. BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2020 (46 JURISDICTIONS)



For more information, visit
[cdc.gov/nchstp/newsroom](https://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/newsroom)



<https://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/newsroom/fact-sheets/hiv/black-african-american-factsheet.html>

STIGMA



- Feeling stigmatized can reduce the willingness of individuals with SUD to seek treatment.



- Stigmatizing views of people with SUD are common; this stereotyping can lead others to feel pity, fear, anger, and a desire for social distance from people with SUD.



- Stigmatizing language can negatively influence healthcare provider's perceptions of people with SUD, which can impact the care they provide



”....THIS IS NO TIME FOR APATHY OR COMPLACENCY. THIS IS A TIME FOR VIGOROUS AND POSITIVE ACTION.”

MLK

Stigma against
sexual
orientation

Unstable
Housing

Incarceration

Homophobia

Intersectionality
SGL men

HIV Status

Racial
Discrimination

Stigma Against
Drug Use

Violence

Language Matters

The logo features the text "Language Matters" in white on a dark blue background. The word "Language" is in a sans-serif font, and "Matters" is in a larger, bold sans-serif font. To the right of the text, there is a cluster of various characters from different alphabets, including Latin, Greek, and Cyrillic, along with small white bird silhouettes flying upwards. On the left side of the blue rectangle, there is a faint, light blue gear-like shape.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE

STIGMATIZED LANGUAGE

- Homosexual
- Sexual preference
- Gay lifestyle
- BMSM
- Special rights
- Tranny

PREFERRED LANGUAGE

- Gay persons
- Sexual orientation
- LGBTQ people and their lives
- Same gender loving
- Equal rights
- Transgender People

TREATMENT AND SUPPORT

Medication Assisted treatment (MAT)

- Buprenorphine
- Naltrexone
- Methadone (SAMSA, 2021)

Behavioral therapies

- **Cognitive Behavioral Therapy**
- Minority Stress Model

12 Step (support)

- **NA, AA, CA**

MINORITY STRESS MODEL

- Offers a framework to understand sexual orientation and gender identity disparities
- Sexual and gender minorities face unique and hostile stressors
- **These stressors have negative effects on their health**



COMMUNITY ASSETS



African American
Behavioral Health

CENTER OF
EXCELLENCE



HERE'S TO LIFE



MUST READS

MUST READ

- **Still Reaching: The Syndemics that Complicate and Characterize How Drugs and HIV Intersect in People's Lives (NIH, 2023)**

<https://nida.nih.gov/about-nida/noras-blog/2023/05/still-reaching-syndemics-complicate-characterize-how-drugs-hiv-intersect-in-peoples-lives>

- **HIV and Black/African American People in the U.S. (CDC, 2022)**

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/fact-sheets/hiv/black-african-american-factsheet.html>

- **Exploring influences on methamphetamine use among Black gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in Atlanta: A focus group study (HHS-2021)**

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8380493/pdf/nihms-1728140.pdf>

- **Recovery Journey of Diverse Populations Using Design Thinking Methods for Practitioners and Policymakers (Bryant, et, al. 2023)**

[Recovery Journey of Diverse Populations-Published.pdf](#)



Never send to know for
whom the bell tolls
(John Dun)n



A portrait of Bishop Carl Beam, a Black man with a beard, wearing a black clerical hat and a purple stole. He is looking slightly to the right. The background shows a church interior with a candle and a banner. The image is partially obscured by a white geometric shape on the left and a pink geometric shape on the right.

**BISHOP CARL BEAM: MINORITY AIDS
PROJECT, UNITY FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH**

“Born This Way,” an eventual LGBTQ anthem that later inspired Lady Gaga to write her own version of the song.

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PT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, HEALTH PROMOTIONS
FOUNDER AND CEO P&P CONSULTING
LBRYAN61@KENNESAW.EDU (404-585-7440)

P&P CONSULTING SERVICES

1. We provide education and training that affirm the dignity and worth of people living with HIV/AIDS
2. We provide training and consulting strategies that support recovery from substance use disorder, in particular, opioids, and stimulants.
3. We provide education and training on diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies that are evidence-based and efficacious for organizations, governmental agencies, and politicians.
4. We provide education and training on the health and wellness needs of Black LGBTQ+ people, including Black same-gender-loving men
5. We provide training and education on behavioral health strategies, especially as it is related to vulnerable populations.
6. We provide training on effective cultural competence/humility strategies.
7. We provide effective strategies for dealing with stigma, as it relates to SUD, behavioral health, and affirming language.
8. We provide lived experiences of people recovering from substance use disorder, mental health issues, and suicide ideation

POPULAR WEBINARS

- HIV/AIDS prevention strategies among Black Gay men
- Exploring Bisexuality
- HIV and Aging in the Black Gay community.
- Issues and Trends Among Aging LGBTQ+
- Homelessness and recovery in the Black gay community
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion, evidence-based strategies
- Addressing racism and homophobia in the Black gay community.
- Crystal meth use among Black gay men

OUR HEROS



The background of the image is a vibrant blue, densely populated with numerous speech bubbles of various colors including red, yellow, pink, white, and dark brown. Each speech bubble contains a large, dark blue question mark. The bubbles are scattered across the frame, creating a sense of active inquiry and communication.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS
