

The Negative Impact of Conversion Therapy for LGBTQ+ Individuals

Learning Objectives

According to SAMHSA, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, and those who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity (LGBTQ+) experience significant health and behavioral health disparities. Conversion therapy is the practice of attempting to change an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and is not supported by credible evidence.

This session will provide scientific information about effective and ineffective therapeutic practices regarding sexual orientation and sexual identity of youth.

At the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to:

Evaluate the guiding ethical principles underlying the statements of professional consensus regarding sexual orientation and gender identity and expression

Discuss the implications of key research findings regarding child and adolescent sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression

Cite current state and federal legislative, regulatory and legal efforts that bans sexual orientation and gender identity change programs and encourages positive and appropriate alternatives

Outline the characteristics of appropriate therapeutic approaches for sexual and gender minority youth

Describe ways to promote family and community acceptance and support for LGBTQ+ children and adolescents to end the use of conversion therapy

Reduce discrimination and negative social attitudes towards LGBTQ+ identities and individuals to help facilitate the elimination of conversion therapy

Assist LGBTQ+ individuals who have been harmed by having gone through conversion therapy

Provide resources to clients, families and other professionals