

The background features a rainbow flag with horizontal stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Overlaid on this are various geometric elements: a large black triangle on the left, several concentric circles and arcs in white and light blue, and some faint numerical markings like '150', '160', '170', '180', '200', '210', '220', '230', '240', '250', '260'.

CORONAVIRUS AND THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

KENDRA FRANKE

PHYSICAL HEALTH VULNERABILITIES

- Trump administration going through with changes to Section 1557 of the Affordable Healthcare Act
 - Section provides protections against discrimination from medical personnel
 - Changes would make it so trans people could be refused care
- Higher rates of preexisting conditions with the trans community
 - Diabetes, heart disease, asthma, and HIV
 - 50% more likely to smoke
- Many do not have health insurance
- Worried about being refused care if outed, even before changes to Section 1557
 - LGBTQ+ people avoid going to the doctor because of possibility of discrimination
 - May have undiagnosed conditions, unknown higher risk of severe COVID-19 infection
 - Feel uncomfortable going to the doctor when COVID-19 symptoms occur, leaving them untreated

MENTAL HEALTH VULNERABILITIES

- *The Trevor Project* (suicide hotline for LGBTQ+ youth) has seen a 50% call volume increase
- Having to move back into unaccepting and possibly abusive households
 - Changes to school and work has made it so some have had to move back home
 - Losing the sense of community, especially for college students
 - Many went to clubs and classes without their families knowing
 - Professors and clubs are trying to do as much as they can online to provide support
- Choosing between identity or suddenly having to come out to parents
 - Only 1/4th of LGBTQ+ college students surveyed said they could be themselves at home
 - 50% have been made to feel bad about their identity

RESOURCES

- Outpouring of online resources becoming available
- Despite Pride celebrations around the world being cancelled, plans for a global, online Pride
 - 24-hour livestreamed event on June 27
 - Performances, workshops, speeches
 - Great way to feel as though the community is still accessible
- *The Trans Clippers Project*
 - Provides hair clippers “for transgender, nonbinary, and two-spirit individuals who (1) don’t have their own set of hair clippers and (2) are experiencing dysphoria/misgendering during COVID-19”
 - Resources in 14 states

RESOURCES CONTINUED

- *The Validation Station*
 - Free text service for trans folks
 - Provide your name, pronouns, and phone number
 - They send you a validating text every day
- them.'s list of *20 Ways to Help the Queer Community During Coronavirus*
 - Community programs
 - Crowdsourced fundraising
 - Mutual aid forms